

More I-5 work — 3A
 City Beat — 5A
 Leash-training humans — 7A



Talking Toureen

Years after a stellar high-school career, Lion's legacy lingers page 1B

Cottage Grove Sentinel

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2015

SOUTH LANE COUNTY'S MOST AWARD-WINNING NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1889

VOLUME 126 • NUMBER 40

Also inside:



Big plans

Armory's designs approved, page 3A



Quiche!

One of everybody's favorites, page 6A



E-cig law also adds to buildings' no-smoking barrier

Smokers must be 25 feet from entrances, exits, windows, air intakes

BY JON STINNETT
 The Cottage Grove Sentinel

A law recently passed by the Cottage Grove City Council puts restrictions on the use and sale of electronic cigarettes within the city limits, but the law includes restrictions that may also affect smokers of old-fashioned tobacco products.

The law, passed by the Council at the end of February, bans the sale of electronic smoking

devices to those under 18 and their use by those under 18; it prohibits the sale of those devices or liquids in a self-service display or the distribution of free samples and requires that retailers check the identification of those believed to be under 18 who wish to purchase them.

The law also subjects e-cigarettes to the same requirements of the Oregon Indoor Clean Air Act that currently govern their tobacco counterparts, in addition to increasing the distance a smoker of any device must maintain from the entrances and exits to a business, an open window or ventilation system intake from 10 to 25 feet.

The Council decided to increase the acceptable smoking distance from exits and entrances during a lengthy discussion on e-cig regulations, though the change of distance itself came about with very little discussion. The new regulation took effect one month after its passage, on March 23, and has already made it difficult for some city staff to find a legal place to smoke outside City Hall.

"You'd have to be 25 feet away from the building in general," said City Manager Richard Meyers, who explained that the open windows and entrances around City Hall make it a tough place to legally smoke near these days. Meyers said smokers will likely have to walk all the way to the sidewalk to light up.

The responsibility for enforcing the new distance limit falls to the Cottage Grove Police Department, whose Chief Mike Grover recently reached out to officials in Corvallis, a city with a similar 25-foot smoking

barrier around its buildings, for advice on enforcement. Grover said Monday that CGPD will enforce the law on a complaint basis; breaking it subjects one to a fine not less than \$100 but not greater than \$500.

Meyers said the City Council may explore an additional ordinance in the future to outline regulations for those local businesses that have built designated smoking porches for their patrons, structures that comply with the state's 10-foot limit but not Cottage Grove's 25-foot limit.

Boating accident claims life of CG man

Thomas Whiting, 56, died when his boat overturned Saturday

BY JON STINNETT
 The Cottage Grove Sentinel

Family and friends mourn the loss this week of a 56-year old Cottage Grove man who perished when the fishing boat he occupied with his nephew capsized at the mouth of the Rogue River.

Laurie Colton said Monday that her son, 36-year old Charlie Johnson, and brother-in-law, Thomas Whiting, made frequent trips to Gold Beach over the years to fish in the ocean beyond the bar. On Saturday morning, she said the pair observed the scene at the bar for a long time before proceeding toward the ocean.

About 300 yards before reaching the bar, Colton said, a wave



courtesy photo

Relatives say Charlie Johnson (left) and his uncle, Tom Whiting, were very close. The two were aboard an 18-foot boat when it capsized near the mouth of the Rogue River Saturday.

grabbed the estimated 18-foot boat and flung both men into the water.

"It was open; there were no waves at that point or they would never have tried it," Colton said.

Sheriff John Ward of the Curry County Sheriff's Office said witnesses to the accident called 911 to report it at 7:38 a.m. Ward said via press release that three sheriff's deputies were nearby at the boat

barn at the Gold Beach airport and responded to the scene.

"The bar was breaking halfway across from the south side, and there were six to 10-foot swells on the north side," Ward wrote, adding that the deputies came into contact with Johnson, who was holding

Please see WHITING, Page 11A

City moving water line to make way for trail undercrossing

County hopes to build bike, pedestrian bypass under Row River Road by end of summer

BY JON STINNETT
 The Cottage Grove Sentinel

The Cottage Grove City Council found itself gathered at an unusual time of day for the recent award of a bid to relocate a city water line.

The Council met at noon on Monday to award the \$39,003 bid to H&J Construction for the relocation of a line that runs under Row River Road from the City's water treatment plant to Schwarz Park. The need to move the line stems from an upcoming project spearheaded by Lane County's planning department to build an undercrossing of the popular Row River Trail that will take the trail under Row River Road. The County partnered with the Bureau of Land Management, which oversees the trail, to seek solutions to the danger at the intersection of the road and trail, the site of two recent cyclist fatalities.

City Manager Richard Meyers said Monday that the water line is buried about four feet deep in the County's right-of-way and would be in the way when the County began construction of the culvert that will eventually house the undercrossing. The water line will be moved around the crossing about 25 feet away and will then be buried at an 18-foot depth, a depth Meyers said is too great for city crews to handle themselves.

Meyers said the City was notified of a short timeline to move its water line due to the timeline of the undercrossing construction. The line must be moved by the end of April, Meyers said, though he added that officials with H&J said the job shouldn't take more than a week. A short closure of the Row River Trail may be necessary, and the Sentinel will work to update readers regarding any potential closure.

The County is hoping to have the undercrossing at Milepost 4.0 of Row River Road constructed by the end of the summer. Its transportation supervisor, Lydia McKinney, said the project has been in the design phases throughout the winter and is very close to going out for a bid.

McKinney said the "stars aligned" to get the undercrossing approved and built on a short timeline and that she's excited for construction to begin.

"We were able to secure federal funding through a partnership with the BLM and were able to partner with the City of Cottage Grove and local citizens to find solutions that everyone seemed to like," she said. The project is expected to cost \$1 million.

McKinney said the County hopes to build the undercrossing at the end of this summer, adding that it aims to keep Row River Road open, though flaggers at the intersection may be necessary. A closure of the trail may also be required.

Cafe Sheilagh closes after 12 years in Cottage Grove

Owner plans to retire, spend more time with family

BY JON STINNETT
 The Cottage Grove Sentinel

A gift from family has become an early retirement present for one longtime Cottage Grove restaurateur.

Sheilagh Earnest has offered cuisine at her restaurant, Café Sheilagh, in two local locations for 12 years, though she planned to retire this June, when the mortgage on her home was due to be paid off.

Earnest said, however, that family members recently finished the payoff for her, and she promptly responded by retiring a little early. Thus, Café Sheilagh has been closed since the first part of

March.

"I had a restaurant in Cottage Grove for 12 years, and I loved it," she said. "Not everyone gets to have a job that they've wanted forever. I was very happy."

Earnest came to Oregon in 1982 and operated a food cart and catering business in Eugene, hosting events at the Hult Center and Cuthbert Amphitheater, among other venues. The first Café Sheilagh in Cottage Grove occupied a building at Sixth and Main Street for five years before giving way to the Fleur de Lis Bakery. Café Sheilagh then moved to its most recent location on Highway 99.

"I'll still be operating a booth at the Country Fair, and I'll still be doing private catering," Earnest said. "I want to thank the people that have supported me; I'm very grateful for your business."

Earnest said she's personally called several of her "regulars" to let them know about her closing.



photo by Jon Stinnett

Sheilagh Earnest closed up her restaurant off Highway 99 at the beginning of March.

Rain Country Realty Inc.

NEW

1908 E. Whiteaker

Log Cabin on nearly an acre of lawns, gardens and flowers. County says it's 4 bedrooms and one bath. Will not last long even with I-5 in the back yard!

\$154,900

UNIQUE

81510 Sears Rd.

29 acres with large manufactured home and 7.13 acres of which is rural industrial. High Visibility property with 3 tax lots.

\$399,900

Principal Brokers

Teresa Abbott221-1735

Frank Brazell.....953-2407

Lane Hillendahl942-6838

Brokers

Ron Schneider.....521-8713

Laurie Phillip.....430-0756

Valerie Nash521-1618

RainCountryRealty.com raincountryrealty@gmail.com 1320 Hwy 99 • 541-942-7246

Licensed in the State of Oregon

CONTACT US

On the Internet www.cgsentinel.com
 By telephone (541) 942-3325
 By fax (541) 942-3328
 By e-mail cgnnews@cgsentinel.com
 By mail P.O. Box 35, Cottage Grove, OR 97424
 In person Corner of Sixth and Whiteaker, Cottage Grove

WEATHER



Thunderstorms

HIGH 54 LOW 33

CONTENTS

Calendar.....9B Obituaries.....2A
 Channel Guide.....3B Opinion.....4A
 Classified ads.....5B Public Safety.....5A
 Sports.....1B



6 18134 42405 2

75 CENTS