

Wild pursuit ends in pasture

The pursuit by Lane County Sheriff's Deputies and state troopers of a man allegedly trespassing on property near Sears Road came to a wild end in a nearby cow pasture Friday afternoon.

The Lane County Sheriff's Office states that, at about 11:35 a.m. Friday, it received a call from a homeowner on Sears Road advising that an unknown subject came through her gate and was driving his red pickup around inside the perimeter of her property. The male subject got in and out of his vehicle several times and continued to drive around the property, including through pastures and behind barns.

The first Deputy Sheriff arrived soon after and reportedly confronted the subject, who initially complied but soon rose to flee.

The deputy deployed his Taser; however, the subject broke contact and fled to his vehicle. The subject then continued to flee from the deputy in his vehicle, driving north across the rural farm property.

Eventually the subject parked his vehicle on the back of the property and fled on foot, jumping into the Coast Fork of the Willamette River, the western



courtesy photo

State Police and South Lane Fire and Rescue helped Sheriff's Deputies apprehend Kevin Crook in a cow pasture Friday afternoon.

boundary of the victim's property.

Additional deputies responded along with troopers from the Oregon State Police to attempt to locate the subject on the west side of the river.

At 12:38 p.m. police say the subject, later identified as 55-year old Kevin D. Crook, was confronted by Sheriff's Deputies as he attempted to run westbound across a cow pasture at 81275 Davisson Road. They say the subject was again non-compliant and fought with deputies, kicking one in the

chest several times. Crook was eventually able to be subdued with assistance from additional deputies and troopers. He was taken into custody, checked by medics on scene, and transported to be lodged on charges of trespassing, methamphetamine possession, eluding police and resisting arrest.

On Monday, LCSO spokesperson Carrie Carver said Crook insistently told troopers he believed he was driving on his own property, which Carver added is not near the Sears Road property.

Oil leak causes sheen on Coast Fork downtown

BY JON STINNETT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

An unnatural shine on the surface of the Coast Fork of the Willamette River in downtown Cottage Grove alarmed several passersby last weekend and eventually drew a response from city crews and Oregon's Department of Environmental Quality. The oily sheen was first noticed on Sunday evening, April 5, and Cottage Grove Police contacted city staff about the oil slick. Crews with Public Works spent the next day following the sheen upriver, removing

manholes to trace its path through the City's stormwater system, according to Mike O'Reilly of the City's maintenance department.

"We could smell the oil when we got to a catch basin at Sixth and Madison, where we noticed an old oil container leaking all over the parking lot," O'Reilly said.

Eventually, they arrived at the former location of Oletsgo Automotive, where an oil tank apparently used to hold waste oil had failed and begun to leak oil onto the nearby parking lot and, eventually, into a nearby storm drain.

Oregon DEQ was called in response to the incident, and State On-Scene Coordinator Geoff Brown said that about half of the tank's 60-70 gallon capacity may have leaked over time.

"We had the owner spread out absorbents on the parking lot, and we put out absorbent booms to catch more of the oil," Brown said. He added that the catch basin nearby was also pumped clean. Brown said that, in this particular case, there weren't many cleanup options available.

"Typically, cleanup involves some sort of soil removal, but because this oil was released to asphalt, there

wasn't any more we could do," he said. "We lost a lot of it to rain that carried it through the stormwater system."

Brown said there was "not a lot of risk" posed by the relatively small amount of oil released to the river.

"It takes very little oil to create a large sheen," he said, "and it's not uncommon to see a sheen without any major spill. You're going to find some petroleum in any urban setting; it's the world we live in. There's no extreme risk, but it's the responsibility of the property owner to do what can be done to minimize that risk."

Event planners band together to seek equipment funding

Board members and coordinators for four local summer events gathered last Wednesday evening, April 8 at the Cottage Grove Community Center with a grant writer seeking funds for equipment they plan to share. Grant writer Rose Miller worked with leaders of Bohemia Mining Days, Oregon Covered Bridge Festival, Rotary's Cycle The Lakes and the WOE Heritage Fair to agree on what items are needed by all the groups. After introductions and discussion the participating organizations determined their highest shared equipment needs were tables, chairs, shade sails and storage for the items.



Photo by Claire Sylvain

Leaders of local summer events at recent summit meeting included: [clockwise] Marie Longfellow, OCBF Board and Quilt Show Coordinator; Don Strahan, Rotary Cycle The Lakes Coordinator; Cindy Weeldreyer, BMD Board; Kerri Warren, BMD Board; Jim Gilroy, former CG Mayor and local events supporter; Jimmy Schaper, BMD Board; Lorraine Eriksen, OCBF Board; Dena Twite, Carolin Pettit and Judy Cash, WOE Board; Nancy Glines, BMD Festival Coordinator; Cathy Simmons, BMD Board and grant writer Rose Miller.

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Sunday, April 19th 11:30 – 2:30

First Presbyterian Church
(Corner of Adams & 3rd Streets)

Sponsored by the Earth and Social Justice Commission of the Presbyterian Church and cgFEAST

- Free Samples • Produce • Plant Starts
- Poultry & Meat • Many Vendors

A lunch of African stew from InStove and homemade tortillas will be offered.

Presentations include:

- CG High School Community Garden •Local CSAs
- Bees and Beekeeping •Our Local Food Movement •Compost Tea

Take time to learn about our area farmers and other community supported agricultural opportunities.

All Are Welcome!