

NOTICE: EARLY DEADLINES
 The Sentinel will have Early Deadlines for the May 27 edition, as its office will be closed for Memorial Day. All deadlines will be 5 p.m. Thursday, May 21 for the May 27 edition.



Barbershop goes 'old school,' page 6A

Cottage Grove Sentinel

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2015

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

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Also inside:



Sanctuary
 Oakland-based effort saves horses, page 8a



It's Magic
 Delight tournament hosts card hopefuls, page 3A

More suspects likely in child's disappearance

Police say Kaitlyne Wirth may not have taken her child herself

BY JON STINNETT
 The Cottage Grove Sentinel

Police continue to unravel details following the recovery of a child reportedly taken by her non-custodial parent who was recovered in Cottage Grove last week, and they say criminal charges will likely be issued to more people involved in the case than just the little girl's mother.

Oregon State Police, in conjunction with the Tillamook Police Department, issued an Amber Alert on Thursday at 6:25 p.m. for three-year old Jocelyn Wirth, whose mother, Kaitlyne Wirth, 19, was suspected of taking the child in violation of a court order. By 6:43 p.m., a Cottage Grove resident had reportedly heard the Amber Alert on the radio, then spotted and recognized the 1999 Chevy Cavalier sought in conjunction with the incident. (The Amber Alert also rang out from cell

Please see **WIRTH**, Page 10A



courtesy photo

Kaitlyne Wirth, 19, was believed to have taken her child in violation of a court order Thursday, and police are now saying more people may have been involved in the incident. The three-year old was recovered shortly after an Amber Alert was issued.

Eugene Symphony coming to play at Bohemia Park

Free concert scheduled for Monday, July 20

BY JON STINNETT
 The Cottage Grove Sentinel

The Eugene Symphony is coming to Cottage Grove.

City Manager Richard Meyers stated as much to the City Council at its May 11 meeting, and on Monday Meyers confirmed that the Symphony has booked a Monday, July 20 engagement to perform at Bohemia Park.

The Symphony first expressed interest in performing at the park last summer, Meyers said, when the Bohemia Foundation — in conjunction with the Cottage Grove Chamber of Commerce — installed a new stage cover at the park's amphitheater.

"They came and looked at our space, and they loved it," he said.

The Symphony travels to shows in communities like Roseburg each year, and Meyers said he's hoping they'll also consider making Cottage Grove an annual stop.

But as it's easy to imagine, a symphony doesn't come cheap, and it's going to take \$30,000 to bring the ensemble to town. The Faye and Lucille Stewart Foundation has pledged \$20,000 of the cost, and Meyers said he's prepared to use \$10,000 in city funds marked for tourism efforts to make up the difference.

"We'd like to get started this year so that hopefully we can get the funding squared away and it can be an annual thing," he said. Groups like the Chamber of Commerce are also expected to begin fundraising to cover the cost so that less City funding must be spent.

The concert is expected to be presented to the public free of charge and should showcase many of the popular tunes often on display when the Symphony travels. With regard to the use of City funds to bring the group to town, Meyers said tourism dollars are used to promote Cottage Grove, adding that the event should bring visitors to town and promote spending at local businesses.

"If we show how the venue could be used, maybe someone will take the initiative to do a big ticketed event," he said.

Faye Stewart said Monday that his Foundation felt that helping bankroll a symphony visit was a good way to celebrate Bohemia Park.

"We're at a great place with the park to be able to thank our donors and the community for their support," he said.

Referendum signatures turned in, to be counted

BY JON STINNETT
 The Cottage Grove Sentinel

The signatures have been turned in, and all that's left now is the waiting.

Petitioners hoping to gather enough signatures to refer Cottage Grove's Main Street Refinement Plan to voters in a September election were confident they would be able to turn in the required number by the Wednesday, May

13 deadline. A preliminary count based on the number of signature sheets turned in to Lane County's elections department the next day showed that the final tally could be quite close to the required number, according to Cottage Grove City Manager Richard Meyers, who said he turned the signatures in himself on Thursday.

The Cottage Grove City Council approved the Main Street Refinement Plan — a comprehensive plan for re-

modeling downtown Cottage Grove between its historic buildings — in April following hours of public testimony and approval by the Planning Commission. Not long after its passage, chief petitioners Mary McNamara and Michele Rose filed paperwork to begin gathering signatures to refer the plan to the ballot. McNamara objected to the plan's outline to widen sidewalks and

Please see **REFERENDUM**, Page 10A

POETRY IN MOTION



photo by Jon Stinnett

Instructor Pamela Lehan-Seigel's Ballet 3/4 class performs at Saturday's recital hosted by South Lane Ballet Academy at Cottage Grove High School, an event that drew a large crowd of supporters and raised funds for the school. Pictured from left to right are: Maia Andrews, Mazie Halvorson, Ireland Ellis, Destin Halvorson and Hannah Mathis. They are dancing to "Songs without Words Op. 62," composed by John Mendelssohn.

Pursuit of felon ends in family fracas

Cottage Grove Police say their attempts to apprehend a man wanted on charges of being a felon in possession of a firearm led to an altercation with several of the man's family members in a home off South 10th St. last Tuesday.

Chief Mike Grover said officer Taylor Smith encountered 27-year old Ace Mathews on a bicycle on Tuesday, May 12 a little before noon, and when Smith pursued Mathews, he entered the home of his

grandparents, Barbara and David Williams, at the corner of 10th and Taylor streets. Grover said this led to a scuffle, first between Smith and Barbara Williams, 79, who allegedly inflicted a bite wound to the officer, and then David Williams, 84, who threatened to shoot the officer. Mathews' mother, Monica Mathews, 55, arrived on scene next.

"He had to fight her too, and we eventually arrested all of them," Grover said.

Mathews was taken into custody for the outstanding warrant and for possession of methamphetamine. Barbara Williams was charged with assaulting an officer, resisting arrest and interfering with a police officer; David Williams was charged with resisting arrest and interfering with an officer, and Monica Mathews was charged with interfering with a police officer. All were cited into Lane County Circuit Court.



courtesy photos

From left, Ace Mathews, Barbara Williams and Monica Mathews were arrested following an altercation with police at Williams' home on May 12. David Williams was also arrested but not photographed.

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WEATHER

Cloudy

HIGH 71
 LOW 53

CONTENTS

Calendar.....	11B	Obituaries.....	2A
Channel Guide.....	6B	Opinion.....	4A
Classified ads.....	8B	Public Safety.....	5A
		Sports.....	1B



6 18134 42405 2

75 CENTS