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Sentinel

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Wildwood warning



County hopes signage can make popular site safer after recent fatalities

BY JON STINNETT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

Visitors from locales throughout Oregon and beyond gathered at Wildwood Falls southeast of Cottage Grove over the long Independence Day weekend, and many took the opportunity to plunge 15 or so feet into the waters of the Row River from the basalt cliffs that form several segments of the falls themselves. The Row is relatively placid at Wildwood this year following a dry winter and the early start of summer, and of the few I asked, not one of the visitors from out of town claimed to know anything about the loss of life that has occurred there recently. But if officials with Lane County have their way, the lack of knowledge about the danger there will end soon.

On Sunday, May 31, Sidney Anthony Nelson III, a 19-year old student at the University of Oregon, became the most recent fatality at Wildwood Falls after he jumped from the cliffs and failed to surface. Nelson was the second swimmer to perish there in less than a year; on July 1, 2014, 16-year old Scott Alexander Smith of Aloha did not emerge from the waters beneath the falls after

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photo by Jon Stinnett

Above: A Wildwood Falls visitor jumps from its cliffs into the Row River. The visitor and many others said they didn't know the falls had been the site of recent drownings.

Arby's moving to new Row River Road location

BY JON STINNETT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

The site of recent construction off Row River Road across from Cottage Grove's Walmart store is set to become the new location of the local Arby's restaurant, the franchise's owner confirmed last week.

Eugene-based businessman Doug Mortimore of The Howling Coyote, Inc., said the current Arby's will be moved to the new lot and will be one of the first restaurants in the U.S. to feature the brand-new Arby's "inspire" building prototype.

"We are planning to begin construction in September and hope to be open in January, 2016," Mortimore wrote via email.

Mortimore built the structure in the Bi-Mart shopping center that currently houses Arby's in 1989, the year he founded Howling Coyote, though the building originally hosted a Taco Time franchise. Arby's opened there in 2000; currently Howling Coyote operates five Taco Time restaurants and three Arby's restaurants in the Eugene/Springfield area.

City Planner Amanda Ferguson said the City has taken part in pre-application meetings with Mortimore and expects building permit applications for the new Arby's in the near future. Construction crews are currently working on water lines and other underground amenities there, she said. Ferguson added that the City also expects permits for another restaurant at the old Arby's location in the near future, but Mortimore wrote that it was "premature to comment" on potential plans for that site.

Garbage Service discontinues rural recycling

'Simple economics' cited after disposal costs jump

BY JON STINNETT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

Rural residents living near Cottage Grove received a notice last week from Cottage Grove Garbage Service indicating that this will be the last week the company will be picking up recyclables at their homes.

The reason, according to manager Tim Alverson, is one of "simple economics." Alverson said that, in the "not too distant past," the Garbage Service was being paid \$42.50 a ton for "commingle," the mixture of paper products such as telephone books, magazines, tin, plastic and other materials picked up in 14-gallon tubs at homes in the Cottage Grove area. Within the last six months, he said, the formula changed, and Alverson said the Garbage Service is now paying \$35 per ton to Eugene-based Ecosort — a smaller subsidiary of Sanipac, which is in turn owned by Waste Connections, a globally traded company — to take the recyclables.

"It's basically cheaper to haul the stuff as garbage than it is to take it to the processor," Alverson said. "Nobody wants it, and I asked a lot of questions without getting a good answer as to why."

Alverson said the dramatic reversal took place in less than a year, and a recent announcement that the price per ton went from \$25 to \$35 per ton made the discontinuation of recycling service for rural customers immediately necessary.

"We're mandated by state law to provide recycling service to the municipality of Cottage Grove, but we're not compelled by statutes to provide the

Please see **RECYCLING**, Page 11A

Band director Larsen leaving Cottage Grove High

BY MATT HOLLANDER
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

After 10 years of leading award-winning music programs at Cottage Grove High School, David Larsen is leaving to become the Director of Instrumental Studies at Spokane Falls Community College.

"It has always been a career goal of mine to transition to the college level," he said. "It won't be vastly different — I'll still be directing bands, but it still feels like a major change."

Larsen began teaching at Cottage Grove in 2006 while he was finishing up a masters program in jazz composition at the University of Oregon. Not a stranger to the community, Larsen had already become acquainted with several Cottage Grove students through private lessons. He had also worked in the Cottage Theatre.

Prior to Larsen's arrival, there had



photo by Kim Larsen

Cottage Grove High School music director David Larsen (saxophone) plays along with students Matthew Goes (keyboards), Alistair Gardner (drums), Jacob Marsh (bass) and Liam Onatis (guitar). After 10 years at Cottage Grove, Larsen is leaving to pursue an opportunity at Spokane Falls Community College.

been a bit of turnover at the music director position. George Hutto was in the middle of his second year at Cottage Grove when he developed

an illness and could not continue teaching. Thankfully he knew of Larsen and recommended him for the position. The school granted

Larsen an emergency teaching credential.

"We were very fortunate that David was available to begin teaching," said CGHS theatre director Janet Rust, who has worked with Larsen during his entire tenure at the high school. "In addition to the music department, he's been invaluable to the theater, and he's helped with music and sound at many events. He will be missed."

At first, Larsen, who was then 25, came on as a long-term substitute teacher, but by the end of that first year he had decided that Cottage Grove was where he wanted to be.

"I was very content with what I was doing," he recalled. "I was proud of what I was doing, and thankful for the opportunity to work hard. I knew that it would be a great training ground for my future career."

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WEATHER

Sunny

HIGH 91 LOW 55

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