



Gold Rush recap, page 1B

Cottage Grove Sentinel

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

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Tragedies on the area's roadways

Lives shattered in multiple accidents

BY JON STINNETT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

Traffic accidents have wrecked automobiles and lives on several local roadways in the Cottage Grove area in the past week and a half.

The third weekend in July has traditionally been a time of high call volume, said South Lane County Fire and Rescue Division Chief Joe Raade, who said he was still surprised at the above-average number of incidents on local roads lately.

"There's not a real common denominator that we can see," Raade said. "It was certainly chaotic there for a while."

It's a phenomenon that apparently reaches past the southern Willamette Valley, as Oregon State Police Sgt. Greg Gilbert said Monday that multiple incidents have also kept first-responders busy in the northern part of the state.

Sunday that the cyclist may have failed to walk his bicycle across an intersection that had been busier than usual due to the Bohemia Mining Days celebration nearby. Branstetter could not be reached by the Sentinel Monday, but Commander Scott Shepherd said the identity of the cyclist was being withheld due to the ongoing investigation into the incident.

"We're continuing to investigate whether the bicyclist or the motorist may have been at fault," Shepherd said, adding that CGPD hopes to interview witnesses to the crash.

Raade said that South Lane Fire also responded to a second accident Sunday at the intersection of Highway 99 South and Treadwell Road involving a motorist striking a juvenile on a skateboard. The involved motorist remained at the scene, but the skateboarder did not, Raade said, and a subsequent search for the juvenile was unsuccessful.

Bicyclist struck in downtown intersection

Raade reported Monday that a man on a recumbent bicycle was struck in the crosswalk at the corner of 10th and Main streets in downtown Cottage Grove Sunday afternoon. The accident occurred at about 1 p.m., and the bicyclist was transported to Sacred Heart Medical Center for possible fractures. Cottage Grove Police Officer Shawn Branstetter told the Eugene Register-Guard

Friday-evening crashes at Gowdyville Road, CG Reservoir Road

A single-vehicle accident on Cottage Grove Reservoir Road late Friday evening drew South Lane first responders to the area near the Pine

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photos by Jon Stinnett



At left: Michelle Crocker (far left) and Jordan Beswick perform the 'Toy Symphony' with the Eugene Symphony's Randy Larson and Ron Bertucci.

Above: Old Glory is raised above the park by members of the VFW, American Legion and National Guard.

Symphony's sweet for large park crowd

BY JON STINNETT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

Guests young and old packed the grass and bleachers — installed just for the occasion — at Bohemia Park on a beautiful Monday evening, and the Eugene Symphony, in town for the first time ever and kicking off its 50th anniversary season, gave the large gathered crowd a little bit of everything.

The program, which also included the raising of the flag on its new 60-foot pole, was a greatest-hits compilation of sorts, featuring familiar movie themes and the unforgettable majesty of Tchaikovsky's "1812 Overture."

The orchestra, some 70 musicians strong, would include Cottage Grove's Mayor, Tom Munroe, among a host of guests to perform the "Toy Symphony," and Conductor Danail Rachev, striking a relaxed tone in a white

polo shirt, even joined in the wackiness, donning a camouflage hat and performing on a duck call. Rachev kept up a warm rapport with the audience throughout the hour-plus show, a free event purchased by the Faye and Lucille Foundation and the City of Cottage Grove. Afterward, Rachev praised the Bohemia Park venue and said he'd be happy to return to Cottage Grove for a future performance.

Becoming prepared:

As talk of 'The Really Big One' heats up, City sets August date for Emergency Fair

BY JON STINNETT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

Cottage Grove City Planner Amanda Ferguson insists that the city's planning department was working to host an Emergency Fair before emergency preparedness became

the hottest topic in the Pacific Northwest.

The combination of a magnitude 4.2 earthquake that shook local residents awake on July 4 and the publication of a "New Yorker" article entitled "The Really Big One" — an article detailing the destruction that

will most likely follow a large-magnitude quake along the Cascadia Subduction Zone in the ocean off the Pacific Coast — has many considering disastrous scenarios. On Saturday, Aug. 15 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m., the City will co-host an Emergency Preparedness Fair at the Cottage Grove Community Medical Center helipad at 1515 Village Drive, an event that is open to the public. The City says the Fair will present residents with an opportunity to meet the first responders and state, county and local groups dedicated to the community's preparedness and safety.

"We've been developing this event before the recent events," Ferguson said. "I've been planning this ever since I knew we were going to have four interns in our department, and everybody's very excited. It's a topic we've been talking about here at the City for a long time. Most people don't think a high-magnitude earthquake will hit us anytime soon, so a little publicity is a good thing."

Ferguson said a lot of residents have asked about emergency preparedness lately, and several are asking their city

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Festival hailed as success despite temperatures, controversy

BY JON STINNETT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

A little heat, a little controversy and a lot of action — such was the scene at the 56th annual celebration of Bohemia Mining Days, a cultural festival aimed at recognizing the Cottage Grove area's mining heritage, which took over the town's Coiner and Bohemia parks and brought scores of visitors to town over the weekend.

Temperatures found the triple digits for the festival's climax on Saturday, but organizers say the heat didn't cause any major incidents and didn't seem to discourage decent crowds from attending the event. Controversy surrounded one festival vendor's wares, which consisted mainly of the Confederate flag and varying versions thereof (see a more in-depth story surrounding the flag controversy on page 8A), but aside from that incident and a few small glitches, the festival went well, according to BMD Board President Eric Johnson.

Johnson said the Festival's vendors seemed "happier than usual" (there



photo by Jon Stinnett

Cottage Grove's Maeve Dahlen has her likeness rendered by an artist at the 56th Bohemia Mining Days Friday afternoon.

were 69 vendors at the festival, which has housed up to 80 vendors in past years) and added that patrons seemed mostly content as well, with no major "brawls or unseemly behavior" to report. He added that 2015 was

the first year in a while that Bohemia Mining Days has entered the festival season "in the black" with regard to its finances, which Johnson and others hope indicates that the festival has weathered the financial difficulties

that have clouded its planning efforts for the past few years.

Cindy Weeldreyer, publicity coordinator for BMD, said that based on feedback she received at the festival's information booth, a new cultural stage and Kids' Zone, in addition to the Bohemia Saloon — an attraction aimed at patrons under age 21 — were welcome aspects of the festival. The Passport to History program and the Bohemia Express train, which shuttled guests to various attractions at the festival, were also hailed as successes, Weeldreyer said.

With regard to "The Feud" — the continuation of the historic feud between members of the Slabtown and Lemati communities — contest organizer Jake Boone said a "very close contest" was only decided in the late hours by donations on Saturday evening, donations that gave Slabtown (the west side of Cottage Grove) a narrow 209-201 victory.

"Whatever else happened, I consider this weekend a success," Boone, a noted Slabtowner, quipped at Sunday's closing ceremony.

Much more from BMD inside:

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In-depth analyses of BMD highlights, page 8A

Games, contests
See who competed and who prevailed, page 10A

Parade pix
Cottage Grove on parade, BMD style, page 11A

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WEATHER



Sunny

HIGH

79

LOW

51

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