



Low lake levels, page 3A



# Cottage Grove Sentinel

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29, 2015

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

VOLUME 127 • NUMBER 5

## 'Super' Art Walk happens Friday

A congregation of Oregon's mayors has prompted the planning of a Downtown Art Walk of enormous scope.

Organizers expect the Art Walk scheduled this Friday, July 31, to be big. Really big.

The last Friday of each month in Cottage Grove's Historic District is generally earmarked for Art Walk, in which businesses extend their hours and play host to local artists who want to show off their work. But organizers say that this month's "Super Art Walk" will be taken to an entirely new level due to the Oregon Mayors Association's 2015 Summer Conference being held in Cottage Grove.

Approximately 70 mayors from cities across Oregon will converge in Cottage Grove this Thursday through Saturday for training, sharing best practices and networking with other mayors.

"The timing is really fortunate for us as the host city this year," said Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Travis Palmer. "We already have some great things going on for the mayors to experience around town. Our job now is to make sure that they have such a great time here that they can't wait to come back again and tell their friends. These visitors are the spokespeople for their communities and they talk to a lot of folks. If they see even a fraction of all the great reasons to visit Cottage Grove, we'll generate some great word of mouth advertising for our little community."

On top of the usual Art Walk activities, Friday's hours have been expanded to 4-9 p.m., and several additional displays and activities are planned for the mayors and public. Visitors can try their hand at panning for gold, chat with historians who will be dressed in period costume and see local Hollywood film history displays, which may include a photo booth at the famous Deathmobile from "National Lampoon's Animal House." Live Music, a toga party, movie showings and other activities are also planned for the evening.

"It will be impossible to see it all," said Shawna Neigh, Coordinator of Cottage Grove's Main Street Program and one of the event organizers. "We want to provide an opportunity for people to see how diverse, eclectic, and fun our town's history is and entice them to come back and see more."

### Friday's artist listing:

- Apple Pie Antiques: Chris Doyle - Beautiful unique necklace and earring set; Sally Schwader - Landscape oil paintings
- Set up on Main Street: Portrait artist James Hodson
- In Front of Bohemia Rose/Buster's: Mike McIntosh/ Extreme Metal Werx
- Big Stuff: Open for dinner
- Axe & Fiddle: Open for dinner, live music
- Kalapuya Books: Candee Brennan - Ceramics and paintings
- Coast Fork Feed and Brewstation: Live music
- Analog Barbershop: Open
- Imagine It Framed: Danielle Brown Photography
- Timeless Treasures: Open
- The Crafty Mercantile: Fyona Rose - Whimsical jewelry; Noelle Ervin - Vintage buttons and feathers made into earrings and hair pieces
- Opal Center for Arts and Education: Movie, "Animal House"
- Victoriana's: Live music by Corwin Bolt & The Wingnuts
- Stacy's Covered Bridge: Open for dinner
- Bookmine: Basket cases, pine needle baskets; Eve Pierce, author; Kathy Kingsbury, Author; Tao Orion, author.
- In Front of Pandora's Box: Marilyn Wilber - Antt Farm Textiles

## THE CROWD DOWNTOWN



photo by Matt Hollander  
 The combination Chili Cook-off/Car Cruise filled Main Street Saturday.

## Classic Cars and Chili: A winning recipe

BY MATT HOLLANDER  
 The Cottage Grove Sentinel

With still hours left to go in the annual Main Street Chili Cook-off on Saturday, the Cottage Grove Area Chamber of Commerce had already sold out of the 1,000 taste kits organizers had packaged prior to

the event.

"We're selling them as fast as we can put them together," said Chamber Executive Director Travis Palmer.

In all, Palmer and his team sold 1,300 taste kits — 300 more than at last year's Chili-cook off.

"It was a really good event," he said. "The weather wasn't blazing hot, so

we think that encouraged more people to come downtown. We were also very pleased to accommodate every contestant on Main Street. In the past we've had to put some folks on 7th Street, but it seemed like this year's lay out made for better flow."

Please see **CHILI**, Page 12A

## City Council stands pat on marijuana

Ban on early recreational sale at dispensaries not pursued

BY MATT HOLLANDER  
 The Cottage Grove Sentinel

Beginning in October, it appears that medicinal and recreational marijuana will be available in Cottage Grove as a one-stop shop.

On Monday the City Council agreed not to pursue an ordinance that would prohibit the early sale of commercial marijuana by currently established

medical marijuana dispensaries.

"I don't see any value in pursuing an ordinance against the early sale because that's not what the voters wanted," said Councilor Mike Fleck.

While recreational marijuana use became legal on July 1, 2015, it will be some time, perhaps not until late 2016, before a legal retail market can be established by the Oregon Liquor Control Commission (OLCC).

The Oregon Legislature would appear to be addressing this gap through Senate Bill 460; Starting Oct. 1, 2015, through Dec. 31, 2016, medical marijuana dispensaries may sell commercial marijuana to adults age 21 and older, while not being subject to a 25 percent sales tax. However, the legislation adopted by the Legislature also created options that are available for local governments.

In the coming months, the Cottage Grove City Council will have the opportunity to consider other regulations on local marijuana retail.

Please see **COUNCIL**, Page 10A

## Driver sentenced for 2013 crosswalk hit-and-run

BY JON STINNETT  
 The Cottage Grove Sentinel

Cottage Grove's Laurie Colton said she's spent the last year and a half monitoring the progress of the case against a woman who was sentenced for her role in the October, 2013 crash that claimed the life of Colton's mother, Claudia Kimery.

Kimery, 74, was attempting to cross Highway 99 in Cottage Grove that Saturday afternoon, Oct. 19, with the aid of a walker when police say she was clipped by a passing motorist, then hit again by a second driver when she fell to the ground. Kimery was pronounced deceased at the scene.

Last Tuesday, July 21, 24-year old Brittney Fletcher, the driver of the first vehicle, received jail time and probation for failing to perform the

duties of a driver to an injured person. Police say Fletcher fled the scene of the accident and returned a short time later. She will serve 30 days in jail and three years' probation for her role in the accident. The second driver, Wendy Jo Beard of Cottage Grove, is scheduled to stand trial for the same charge in August.

Since the accident, Colton said she's been working on behalf of her family to stay up-to-date on the case, including contact with victims' services at the District Attorney's office. Colton acknowledged that the cases against the two drivers were "very complicated," adding that as such the family was willing to accept a lesser sentence for Fletcher. (Neither Fletcher nor her attorney, Greg Gill, could be contacted by the Sentinel for this story.)

Please see **FLETCHER**, Page 10A



Sentinel file photo

A memorial to Claudia Kimery was erected at the site of her 2013 death at a Cottage Grove crosswalk.

Also inside:



Nice Tri  
 Couple dominates at CG Lake, page 1B



On Mongolia  
 CG man undertakes odyssey, page 11A



Today's special  
 Betty shows us how to use that zucchini, page 6A

### Rain Country Realty Inc.

**REDUCED**

81510 Sears Rd  
 Well situated for commercial industrial use as it has a view of the freeway but it also has the river and a comfortable 3 bedroom home on 29 acres. Fish and camp in your own back yard  
**\$385,000**

**REDUCED**

0 Curtin Hill Rd.  
 2 Five acre view lots. Steep but with views. Build, graze or grow. Owner has seriously dropped the price to  
**\$39,900 ea**

Principal Brokers  
 Teresa Abbott .....221-1735  
 Frank Brazell.....953-2407  
 Lane Hillendahl .....942-6838  
 Brokers  
 Laurie Phillip .....430-0756  
 Valerie Nash .....521-1618

Licensed in the State of Oregon

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