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Cottage Grove Sentinel

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Oregon's mayors converge on Cottage Grove

Conference draws about 70 municipal leaders and their guests

BY JON STINNETT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

The chances of encountering visitors with prominent roles in other Oregon communities were quite good over the weekend, as mayors of about 70 municipalities gathered en masse in Cottage Grove for the Oregon Mayors Association's annual conference.

Mayors from communities large and small, from Eugene to Myrtle Creek and many in between, gathered with their guests

for an action-packed weekend that included many of the sights, sounds and distinctive attractions of Cottage Grove, in addition to the OMA's regular business meetings.

The weekend for many of the mayors and their guests began Thursday with three types of golf at Cottage Grove's disc golf course and Middlefield Golf Course. Tours of the Dorena Dam hydroelectric project and Pacific Yurts occupied much of Thursday afternoon. Friday morning brought the official

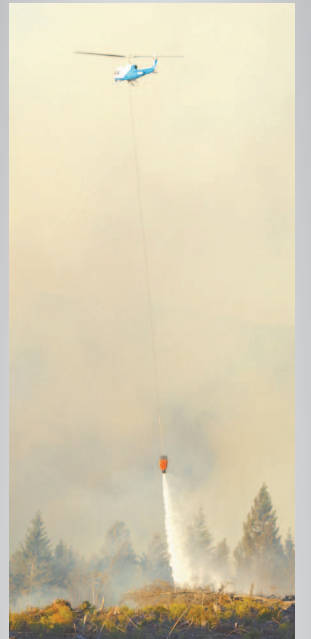
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photo by Jon Stinnett

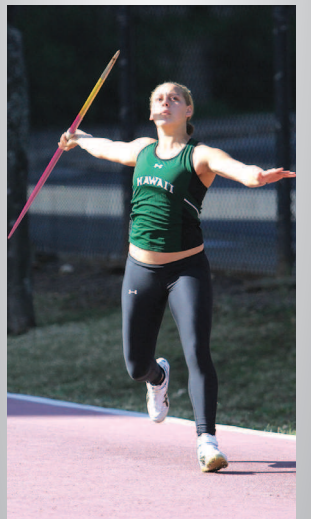
Springfield Mayor Christine Lundberg and Creswell Mayor Dave Stram work together to determine when the Bookmine was built for a scavenger hunt held as part of Friday's Super Art Walk.

Also inside:



Fire!

Douglas County battles blazes, page 6A



Will to win

Dawson's focused in the tropics, page 1B

Fire restrictions to remain in place, at least for now

BY JON STINNETT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

Cooler weather following a period of stifling heat won't change the recent fire restrictions put in place by South Lane Fire and Rescue Chief John Wooten, a South Lane employee said Monday.

On Thursday, Wooten responded to a closedown order from the Oregon Department of Forestry that invoked a fire precaution Level 4, which states that "no activities are permitted at any time on all lands" protected by ODF's Western Lane Forest Protection District.

Wooten explained via press release that, due to current weather conditions and in an attempt to bring the entire South Lane District into a similar level of fire protection, he had issued restrictions in the District effective from 1 p.m. Thursday until conditions change substantially for the better.

"There is to be no fire at this time," Division Chief Justin Baird said of the restrictions on Monday. "You can't have a fire in a campground. You can use a gas barbecue grill as long as it's sitting on a concrete surface, and yards that have been irrigated and are still green can be mowed."

Yards that have gone dead and dried out, however, are not to be mowed, Baird said. The restrictions in full read:

1. No open flames are allowed out of doors, including no campfires, warming fires, cooking fires or ceremonial fires. Fires are prohibited at all campgrounds and other sites with developed fire pits. Gas powered barbecues are allowed, but are restricted to use on hard, non-flammable surfaces such as patios and driveways or green irrigated lawns.

2. No power equipment such as mowers, chain saws, stump grinders, etc. may be operated on or near dry grass, brush, or trees at any time, EXCEPT that mowing of green, irrigated lawns is allowed.

3. No smoking outside of buildings or vehicles in any area with dry grass, brush or trees.

4. No operation of welding or metal cutting equipment out of doors in any area with dry grass, brush or trees.

5. All logging operations, including power saws, cable yarders, and tractor/skidder, feller-buncher, forwarder or shovel logging operations are prohibited.

6. All construction operations involving dozers or graders are restricted to streets or roads, developed building sites or other areas of non-flammable surfaces.

7. Any other spark-emitting operation not specifically mentioned is prohibited out of doors."

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Super Art Walk



photo by Matt Hollander

Cheyenne Jensen admires an oil painting by local artist Steve Cooley during Friday's Art Walk. With expanded hours and several additional displays and activities for the Oregon Mayor Association's conference, the monthly event was billed as a 'Super' Art Walk by city leaders.

Wanted Cottage Grove man remains at large

Police say Sebastian Bivens eluded them on two separate occasions over the weekend

BY JON STINNETT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

A search for a subject with an outstanding warrant issued by Cottage Grove Police brought troopers with Oregon State Police to the London Road area south of town twice over the weekend.

Cottage Grove Police have had numerous contacts with 25-year old Sebastian Bivens of Cottage Grove, according to Officer Jarrod Butler. Butler said that Bivens was captured with considerable effort in January, and police have been trying to bring him in since a warrant for his arrest for possession of methamphetamine was issued earlier this summer.

On Friday and Saturday evenings,

Butler said CGPD was contacted by Oregon State Police to assist in a pursuit of Bivens on London Road. (Bill Fugate, OSP's Public Information Officer, did not respond to numerous calls requesting information for this article.)

Butler said that OSP's recent attempts to arrest Bivens have begun with a traffic stop and continued with a pursuit. Bivens was reportedly alone in a vehicle that was pursued by police on Friday evening, a chase that ended when the suspect stopped (or crashed) the car and disappeared into a wooded area nearby. A similar chase on Saturday reportedly also involved a female passenger, Butler said, but ended with the same result.

"He drives to a spot where he thinks he can ditch the car and puts it into a tree or something else," Butler said before adding that he's unsure why Bivens would head toward London.

"It's common that he has a cell phone with him that he then uses to call friends and see where police are set up to try and get him," Butler said.

Butler described Bivens as "not a fun individual" and said that CGPD's 41 contacts with him since 2006 have involved assault, strangulation and other charges. He said it has taken three officers to bring in the six-foot, three-inch tall Bivens on previous occasions, when pepper spray and tazers have also been put to use. He said Bivens also "runs like a gazelle."

In addition to the outstanding warrant for methamphetamine pos-



Sebastian Bivens

session, Corporal Conrad Gagner said Bivens will also face felony escape and eluding an officer charges if he's brought to justice.

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WEATHER



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