

Haze disrupts football camp, youth league expands

Smoke from southern fires causes football camps to move practice inside on Thursday morning and cancel practice that evening

BY SAM WRIGHT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

Monday kicked off the youth and high school football camps this week as young football players geared up in preparation for another football season. While the first three days seemed to go smoothly, the fourth and final day would be faced with environmental disruptions.

By the early afternoon on Monday Aug. 10, the sunny skies over Cottage Grove were dimmed by thick smoke. However, there were no reports of



Coach Bill Thompson (right) had to run drills inside the high school gym due to the concerning haze.

fires near the area, and KVAL's meteorologist suggested that the smoke came from the Stouts fire east of Canyonville, the Collier Butte fire west of Grants Pass, or even fires as far south as California.

The football camps took place too early on Monday to be affected by the haze, and on Tuesday and Wednesday slower winds may have reduced the levels of smoke in the area. However, Thursday's practice had to be adjusted as health concerns for young athletes had arisen.

The younger sixth through eighth graders moved their practice to the basketball gym, while the high school camp spent the majority of their time in the weight room. While Thursday's haze didn't initially appear as harsh as on Monday, it could definitely be felt on the field. In fact, high school head coach Gary Roberts decided to cancel the evening practice on Thursday.

"I spoke with our pediatrician, who recommended that we don't have our evening camp, so

we may have to cancel," Roberts said. By the end of Thursday's morning practice, it was confirmed that the evening session was indeed canceled. Bill Thompson, who coaches for middle school students, agreed with the decision.

"We don't want to put any of the kids at risk," Thompson said, "the heat can get bad enough."

Thompson is one of the coaches for the youth league, and encourages those already signed up to invite friends to join. This is because it is the first

year where all three grades of sixth, seventh and eighth grade will be playing full contact, 11 player football.

"This is the first time we've ever done all three grades, and we've even decreased the price to \$50, that's about a \$75 decrease," he said.

The middle-school football games will start weekly on Sept. eighth, and the first high school game is Sept. fourth against Marshfield.



Youth volleyball sees slight drop in turnout, rise in skill level

Lower numbers aren't necessarily seen as a negative

BY SAM WRIGHT
The cottage grove sentinel

The South Valley Athletics youth volleyball camp began this week, and the gym at Lincoln seemed a little emptier than usual.

The camp saw a slight decrease in attendance this year; however coach Jennifer Radcliffe says that the skill level is inversely correlated to the attendance trend.

"Attendance is lower than previous years, but we're seeing a big increase in skill for the age group," Radcliffe, who's on her third year of coaching the SVA camp, said.

Lower attendance with a higher skill level could indicate the sport's growing popularity among youth in the area. While not as many people are attending, those who do are taking the sport more seriously and truly engaging in the learning process.

Beer, bark, banter at WOE's Lumberjack Show

Axes fly, chainsaws growl, cold-start competitors struggle at WOE's annual Lumberjack Show

BY SAM WRIGHT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

The Western Oregon Exposition fair saw lots of excitement over the weekend, and nothing drew a bigger crowd than the annual lumberjack show. This year's events took place Friday evening and Saturday afternoon with the big log stock saw, hot saw, women's stock saw, modified power saw, youth axe throw and open axe throw on Friday. Saturday's events were men's double buck, women's stock saw, hot saw, axe throw, modified chain saw, five-cube saw, six cube saw, three-cut hot saw and several kids events in the early afternoon.

More often than not, contestants dealt with equipment issues during the saw events that required a cold start. Starting up the chainsaws took multiple attempts by the majority of the contestants, increasing their times and hindering their efficiency.

The axe throw saw a lot of spilled beer, as a can was placed



The axe throw even brought a lot of excitement with the occasional beer spraying out from the target.

at the bull's eye of the target. Drawing beer from the can was the indicator for the six-point reward for hitting the bull's eye, but it wasn't always a guarantee.

Erin Cramsey managed to nick the can, drawing a good

amount of beer out, but the axe stuck right to the left, awarding Cramsey with only three points for that throw.

The events were open to anyone willing to sign up, but all contestants had to bring their own equipment. One hopeful

axe-thrower, Willie Gonja, was met with disappointment when he came ill-prepared.

"I'm just visiting a friend from out of town, and I've always loved watching these lumberjack shows on TV so I thought I'd try it," Gonja said "unfortu-

nately I don't have my own axe, so my dreams were shattered," he said laughing.

The competition's results will be released sometime next week.

Miller, Waage, Towns, Sine, and Maricle Historical Night Winners

Due to the WOE fair, the Speedway was dormant this weekend, but the emotions from Aug 8's historical night still remain a week later

BY BEN DEATHERAGE
For the Sentinel

Saturday Aug. 8 marked the annual Historical Night at Cottage Grove Speedway. Congratulations go out to the 2015 Class of the CGS Hall of Fame and also a special thanks to Dot's Trophy Shop for providing the plaques for the inductees. Divisions that were racing included the 360 Sprints, IMCA Modifieds, Late Models, Street Stocks and Quality RV Repair Hornets.

In the 360 Sprint feature, Patrick Dills set the pace in

the opening laps. The Cottage Grove native, piloting his Jacob Daniels Attorney at Law/Oregon State Representative Cedric Ross Hayden/M.D. Yearold Logging #5D KPC, would hold the coveted position until lap eleven. Taking over the lead would be the Moxie Vinyl Graphics/Grant Springer Racing Engines #10 XXX of Kyle Miller from Eugene.

Miller would set a rapid pace, but once he got into some lapped traffic he would briefly be challenged by Enumclaw, Washington's Henry Van Dam. Van Dam, in his Kovash Logging/Johansen Excavating/Big

Al Kids & Motorsports Foundation/Factory Kahne Shocks #33V A.R.T., would unfortunately pull off the track under caution on lap 23. Miller had the luxury of several lapped cars in between himself and second place. Miller would cruise the remainder of the distance to earn an emotional victory in honor of his longtime motor builder Grant Springer, who passed away a few weeks ago.

Rob Lindsey from Sherwood was an impressive second in his Maxline Custom Cases/Summerville Golf & Country Club/Speedmart Inc./Triple X Race Co. #23 XXX, followed by the



#10 Kyle Miller cruised to victory with a commanding lead on Historical Night.

DES Inc./LaChance Kofoid Enterprises/Red Line Oil/Dr. Ramos Dentistry #11K Maxfield of Penn Grove, California's Michael Kofoid, in third. The Napa Auto Parts/Lucas Oil

Products/Awesome Race Wear/Rodgers Racing Engines #5N KPC of Seth Nunes, from Medford, was fourth, followed by Dills in fifth.

Please see **SPEEDWAY** Page 2B



Athlete of the Week

Kyle Miller earns emotional victory at Historical Night

Kyle Miller, driving his Moxie Vinyl Graphics/Grant Springer Racing Engines #10 XXX (left), took the lead in the 11th lap of the 360 Spring feature, taking a commanding lead.

Miller would be challenged by Henry Van Dam, who later pulled off the track, allowing Miller to finish in first place with ease. His victory was an emotional one, as his victory was to honor his late motor builder Grant Springer who recently passed away.



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