

The Sentinel will be closed Sept. 7 for Labor Day. Its Sept. 9 edition will be operating on early deadlines, which are as follows: Thursday, Sept. 3 for classified and display Advertising and editorial submissions.



Cottage Grove Sentinel

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

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Fire Board fast-tracks bond process for new firetrucks, tenders

Proposed 5-1/2 year bond would raise \$2.6 million for equipment

BY JON STINNETT
 The Cottage Grove Sentinel

The South Lane County Fire and Rescue Board of Directors knows that other local agencies have needs that may be filled by the approval of a bond measure by local taxpayers. As such, the Board voted last week to green-light its own plan to place a bond before voters this fall in order not to compete with other potential bond efforts.

"South Lane Fire and Rescue is more than aware that the City and School District also have needs that they could be looking to take to voters, so we're attempting a bond this year so we're not on the ballot with them," said Division Chief Joe Raade.

Last week, the SLFR Board voted to place a bond on the ballot for the Nov. 3, 2015 election, and the District will have until Sept. 3 to file the necessary paperwork to make it happen. The proposed bond would generate \$2.6 million that South Lane Fire hopes to use to purchase a ladder truck, two fire engines and two water tenders. It would tax local ratepayers at a rate of \$.30 per \$1000 of assessed property value.

"Replacing the current, aged-out fleet provides safer, up-to-date apparatus with firefighting capabilities not currently available," according to information released by the District on Monday.

Raade said that, if voters approve the bond, the District will

attempt to purchase the new equipment right away rather than buying a piece at a time.

"The longer we wait, the more expensive it (the equipment) will be," he said. "At the end of the 5 1/2 years, we may be having a conversation about another bond to replace the Creswell fire station."

Raade said that the District is "trying to not ask for things we don't really need."

"We're not after the Cadillac model," he said. "We need working trucks. We now have a station with an engine that's going to be 30 years old, and we definitely need more water, so tenders are a priority."

Raade said that the current ladder truck's ladder also only extends 55 feet, an anomaly in this day and age.

South Lane Chief John Wooten recently said that he spoke recently with South Lane School District Superintendent Krista Parent to ensure that the two districts would not attempt to pass a bond at the same time, and it appears now that the attempts will not take place simultaneously.

The South Lane School Board has yet to decide whether to attempt to pass a bond to replace the aging Harrison School building in May or November of 2016, according to its Communications Coordinator, Garrett Bridgens.

The District has sought to replace the Harrison building for

Please see **BOND**, Page 12A

HAZY DAYS



photo by Jon Stinnett

Smoke from several nearby wildfires blanketed much of Oregon and Washington over the weekend, with smoke appearing to quickly envelop the Cottage Grove area beginning mid-day Saturday. Air quality conditions were listed as very poor, but the smoke began clearing up on Monday.

Taylor Butte Fire burns an acre

BY JON STINNETT
 The Cottage Grove Sentinel

Firefighters with South Lane County Fire and Rescue and the Oregon Department of Forestry mobilized Sunday afternoon to fight a brush fire that flared up in the Quaglia/Pitcher Lane area near Mosby Creek southeast of Cottage Grove.

The blaze that is now being called the Taylor Butte Fire started early Sunday afternoon, according to Jeri Chase, Public Information Officer for ODF. It grew to about one acre in size, Chase said, adding late Monday morning that the fire had been 100 percent lined and contained

and that crews were busy with mop-up operations and patrol.

Division Chief Joe Raade of South Lane County Fire and Rescue said that, while the fire did not cover a lot of acreage, it was a major concern because at one time, it had approached within 10-15 feet of nearby structures.

"When we called ODF, they responded with a lot more resources," Raade said, resources that Chase said included a helicopter owned by a landowner and ODF fire engines.

"They are on the ready," Raade said of ODF. "This time of year, they don't want anything to take off on them."

Quick response times are

the agency's chief strategy to fight fires in extremely dangerous conditions, Chase said. "We're hitting them so dang hard that they don't have a chance," she said. "Our main strategy is an aggressive initial attack — the dollars, effort and resources saved are exponential if you can get there early versus allowing them to become something of any size."

The cause of the fire is under investigation, though Raade said that it occurred on ODF land in an area that is difficult for most people to access and was, in fact, difficult to access for South Lane Fire personnel.

Also inside:



Barn renewal
 Square Dance Barn gets more than a facelift, page 3A



Don't myth it
 Opal Center's newest is epic, page 9A

Daddy-daughter day
 Daytripper brings along a friend, page 10A

Cottage Grove's fourth dispensary opens

'Medication Station' says it offers a holistic approach

BY JON STINNETT
 The Cottage Grove Sentinel

And then there were four. Cottage Grove's newest medical marijuana dispensary has been open for about a week and a half, and business has been good so far at the Medication Station, according to Graciela Moreno, co-founder and president of Med-Cannabis Pharma, Inc., the parent company that also operates dispensaries in Bend and Newport. The Medication Station is located at 1041 Pacific Highway/Highway 99 adjacent to the former site of

Café Sheilagh.

Moreno said that, in addition to providing marijuana flowers, edible products, tinctures, oils and topical treatments, the Medication Station also plans to focus on a more holistic health approach.

Taking the lead on that approach will be Manager Sharon Cohen, who boasts 30 years' experience as a local caregiver and said she was the parent of one of the first children on the Oregon Medical Marijuana Program at the time of its debut in 1999/2000.

Moreno said that Cohen's education as a caregiver and



photo by Jon Stinnett

Sharon Cohen and Graciela Moreno say business has already been good at the Medication Station.

"community connections" make her "a great asset to have here in the store," which features previews of other hemp-based products and offers the

use of a multi-wave oscillator, which radiates waves of energy with the goal of a patient's

Please see **STATION**, Page 12A

Rules for recreational sales at dispensaries released by OHA

BY JON STINNETT
 The Cottage Grove Sentinel

Cottage Grove's fourth medical marijuana dispensary was busy opening for business just as the Oregon Health Authority released a draft of a set of rules that will allow dispensaries to sell marijuana for recreational use beginning this fall.

Dispensaries will be able to sell up to a quarter-ounce of marijuana at a time to recreational customers beginning Oct. 1, a provision set up the state legislature in an attempt to allow already established businesses to supply the new recreational market. Recreational sales at dispensaries

will continue until Dec. 31, 2016; in 2016, the Oregon Liquor Control Commission will begin processing licenses for businesses hoping to sell recreational marijuana.

Cottage Grove's dispensaries appear ready to offer their products to recreational users, and personnel at the Medication Station, the newest dispensary on Highway 99, say they're speaking to many individuals interested in hearing more about the recreational market in advance of the Oct. 1 deadline.

Riley Llamas opened the Holistic Co-op on Main Street

Please see **SALES**, Page 12A

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