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Cottage Grove Sentinel

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2015 SOUTH LANE COUNTY'S MOST AWARD-WINNING NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1889 VOLUME 127 • NUMBER 10

Four apply for Ward IV City Council seat

Council expected to discuss appointment before its Sept. 14 meeting

BY JON STINNETT
 The Cottage Grove Sentinel

The application deadline for those interested in becoming Cottage Grove's next city councilor passed Friday, and it looks like there will be four

potential candidates for the position. Councilor Kate Price resigned from the Council's Ward IV seat at the beginning of July, citing a move out of the ward, which takes in residents living south of Madison Ave. and east of Highway 99. The deadline for those applying for appointment to the position came and went Friday afternoon.

City Recorder Trudy Borrevik said there are four potential candidates, who must be registered voters in the ward. An application has been received from

IT consultant Greg Ervin, who currently serves on the City's Budget Committee, Borrevik said. Also applying was Amy Slay, an 11-year veteran of Weyerhaeuser who describes herself as a single mother on her application. Emily Robinson, a Grants Hearing employee who is active with the Pay it Forward Cottage Grove Facebook group, and Chloe Beckes, owner/operator of Jack Sprats restaurant on Main Street, have also applied.

Borrevik said the applications will be forwarded to members of the Council,

who may choose to have a special meeting to conduct interviews, likely next week. Depending on scheduling, the Council will likely discuss the possible appointment of one of the candidates at its Sept. 14 or 28 meeting.

Councilor Jeff Gowing was the last to be appointed to a seat on the Council following the retirement of Lynn Miller in 2009; Gowing was subsequently reelected to a full term.

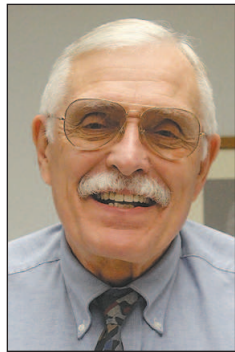
Police Chief announces retirement

Commander Scott Shepherd will serve as interim

BY JON STINNETT
 The Cottage Grove Sentinel

The Cottage Grove Police Department will have a new boss starting next week. Police Chief Mike Grover announced his retirement from the City of Cottage Grove on Friday, a move that was announced via the City's Friday Update and is effective beginning Saturday, Sept. 5.

A 46-year veteran of law enforcement, Grover has been with the Police Department since April of 1983. He was made its interim chief in November of 1991 and became Chief the following October. In addition to his 32 years of service in Cottage Grove he served with Lane County and Lakewood, Colorado.



Police Chief Mike Grover

"His expertise and integrity will be missed," the update read. City Manager Richard Meyers announced that he has appointed Commander Scott Shepherd as Interim Police Chief. Shepherd has been with the department since July of 1994.

Meyers said Shepherd will serve as interim chief for a term of at least six months, after which a formal recruitment process will take place.

"You want to look around and get the best person possible, but you also want to give an opportunity for someone that is qualified," Meyers said, adding that Shepherd has already begun training for the position.

GOING TO THE DOGS



photo by Jon Stinnett

Mary and Stephen Nisewander and their dog, Thor, are excited about their plans for a dog park behind their car wash on Main Street.

Dog park planned on Main Street

BY JON STINNETT
 The Cottage Grove Sentinel

When Steve Nisewander comes into Cottage Grove to check on his family's car wash on Main Street, he often brings his four-year old Malamute, Thor,

for a romp in the empty lot behind the business. Now, it appears that should Nisewander's plans come to pass, Thor will soon have a lot more company.

On Sept. 16, plans for a dog park in the 120x250-foot tract of land between Lulu's Car Wash on Main

and the Row River Trail are scheduled to be reviewed by the Cottage Grove Planning Commission. Approval by the Commission and, later, the City Council, should bring the dog park — a feature sought by

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Also inside:



Paying it Forward
 Fundraiser aids online group, page 3A



Better buses
 Grant helps Creswell upgrade, page 6A



CYAN MAGENTA YELLOW BLACK

Rainfall, cooler temps prompt lower fire-restriction level

BY JON STINNETT
 The Cottage Grove Sentinel

A bit of much-anticipated rainfall graced the Willamette Valley over the weekend, in the process easing concerns and restrictions regarding the danger of fires in the area.

The website Weather Underground, located at wunderground.com, listed rainfall amounts of just over a tenth of an inch on both Saturday and Sunday at a weather station southeast of Cottage Grove, with about a quarter-inch reported in the month of August. The rain "has helped tremendously with the fire danger," according to South Lane County Fire and Rescue, which in response lowered the fire danger level in the District to Level 2 beginning Monday. This level allows

for the use of power equipment each day after 8 p.m. and before 1 p.m., according to a Facebook post from the District. A chorus of lawnmowers could be heard in Cottage Grove early Monday in response to the news.

The Oregon Department of Forestry also eased its own fire restrictions for lands under the control of the agency on Monday.

"While the cooler temperatures and rain showers over the weekend were not enough to end fire season, it did bring much needed relief to the area. These mild conditions allowed the Douglas Forest Protective Association to drop the fire danger to 'moderate' and to make adjustments to both the public and industrial fire restrictions," according to a news release from ODF Fire Prevention Spe-

cialist Kyle Reed of the Douglas Forest Protective Association.

"After we received the first round of rain early Saturday morning, we were able to review and update the Public Use Restrictions" said Reed. "The major changes to the Public Use Restrictions now allow the mowing of dry grass with power equipment before 10 a.m. or after 8 p.m. and allows campfires within DFPA's designated campgrounds again. All other Public Use Restrictions remained the same."

Reed added that, thanks to the moderate conditions, DFPA was also able to lower the Industrial Fire Precaution Level to IFPL 2 of all DFPA protected land, a change that went into effect Monday at 8 a.m. During IFPL 2, the following industrial activities are prohibited between 1

p.m. and 8 p.m.:

Power saws, except power saws at loading sites; cable yarding; blasting; welding or cutting of metal.

A two-hour fire watch is also required when an industrial operation has finished working for the day during IFPL 2.

Reed reminds that while changes have been made to both the industrial and public fire restrictions, fire season remains in effect and everyone still needs to be aware of the threat of new fires. In a fire update dated Monday, ODF also added that "fire-fighting resources are scarce due to the large fires burning in Oregon and Washington, and any new fires would strain the fire protection system."

"Generally in Southern Oregon, fire season runs into October," said Reed. "As condi-

tions change between now and the end of fire season, the Public Use Restrictions and IFPL will be adjusted accordingly. It is important that both the public and industrial operators stay updated on the current fire restrictions by visiting www.dfpa.net or by calling DFPA's 24 hour information line at 541-672-0379 for the latest fire restrictions."

Lane County also eased certain fire restrictions in response to the change in the weather. On Monday, the County announced that it is "lifting its campfire ban for Lane County parks and its partial closure of the Howard Buford Recreation Area at Mt. Pisgah in response to the Department of Forestry's reduction of fire precaution levels in the area.

"Campfires are now allowed in designated Lane County

park fire pits, and all trails at the Howard Buford Recreation Area (Mt. Pisgah) are open to the public," said a Monday news release.

"We are glad to be able to reopen Mt. Pisgah trails and allow fires in designated fire pits," said Lane County Parks Supervisor Mike Russell. "Our parks are wonderful places for residents and visitors, and we want people out on our trails and in our campgrounds enjoying themselves and celebrating the last few weeks of summer."

Lane County Parks encourages visitors to remain cautious and aware of the potential for wildfire and take necessary steps to help protect parks and open spaces.

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Principal Brokers

Teresa Abbott221-1735
 Frank Brazell.....953-2407
 Lane Hillendahl942-6838

Brokers

Laurie Phillip430-0756
 Valerie Nash521-1618

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