

CHIEF

Continued from page 1A

have had him as our chief for this long,” Meyers said. “Twenty four years as a chief is quite an accomplishment when the average stay on the job is between three and five years.”

Fighting back emotion, Meyers praised Grover as “one of the most noble police chiefs he has ever worked with.”

Longtime Cottage Grove resident and businessman Bill Whiteman came back to town for the evening, and Whiteman took it upon himself to educate the crowd on the antics of “Mike Grover the Teenager.” Whiteman spoke of Grover’s time working in his flower shop and of the time he found Grover and a group of friends making corsages for their mothers there late at night.

“My family and I have watched Mike Grover since 1965, and you won’t meet anybody who is more proud and honored to know him,” Whiteman said. “Mike Grover is nobody else but Mike Grover.”

Law enforcement personnel from Lane County, Junction City and the Oregon Police Chiefs Association were on hand to wish Grover well, and a plaque detailing his law-enforcement career was presented by CGPD’s Shawn Branstetter. Grover was also presented the refunded cost of his service weapon, in addition to a new golf cart featuring police lights and a mounted shotgun that Meyers explained was meant to help the outgoing chief harrass the nutria at Middlefield Golf Course. City staff also presented Grover with a gift certificate to Harrison Hot Springs in British Columbia.

When his turn to speak finally came, Grover saluted those he’s worked with over the years.

“The success didn’t come from me,” he said. “I learned a long time ago to hire good people and get the hell out of the way.”

He saluted Administrative Aide Bev Kelly for keeping him “on the straight and narrow” and his wife, Patti, for her many contributions.

After the ceremony, Grover said that the accolades heaped on him the previous evening “felt like a lot of



photo by Jon Stinnett

Officer Shawn Branstetter presents a plaque to Chief Grover that outlines his career.

bull#\$%^.”

“We’re far from perfect,” he said. “We have our problems here like anybody else.”

Grover said he’s “rubbed a lot of people the wrong way” in his tenure, mostly because people don’t like to be told what to do.

“I got into this because I wanted to put bad guys in jail,” he said. “You see the seedy side of life, for sure, but you have to take it with a grain of salt.”

Commander Scott Shepherd has been promoted to interim chief, and Meyers said Shepherd will be considered for a permanent position if he’s interested. On Friday, Shepherd said he’s honored to be the intern and would love to stick around.

“I have it pretty good as far as taking over and not having a whole lot that needs to be changed,” he said. “I have a little different management style that may be a bit more intense, but if I see something that needs adjusted, I’m going to say something about it. Still, I don’t see a lot of changes in the near future.”

A few scorpions could liven up some boring spectator sports

BY NED HICKSON
News Media Corporation

Like millions of other red-blooded, unathletic men across America, I will be spending a good portion of my Saturdays sitting on the couch, eating handfuls of assorted snack foods and whining every time a player from my team makes even the teeniest mistake. It doesn’t matter that these men are performing feats of athletic skill I can only achieve in my dreams (after which I usually wake up with a pulled groin muscle.)

And it doesn’t matter that each of these men possesses more muscle mass than my entire body weight plus a mid-sized SUV. The reason these things don’t matter to us men is because we know THOSE men can’t actually hear us. If they could, football parties as we know them would cease to exist:

“Did you guys see number 42?! That IDIOT completely missed the tackle!”

“Hey, Bill — I think he’s looking at you.”

“What...?”

“Try moving over by the cheese dip. Oh yeah, he’s definitely looking right at you, Bill.”

“What’s he holding up?”

“I think it’s some kind of fancy GPS device.”

“Why’s he smiling and pointing at us like that?”

“Quick, Bill! Change the channel!”

This exaggeration was done to make a point, which is that, aside from leaving for work one morning and being tackled through the screen door by a 310-pound linebacker, nothing can keep a us from shouting at the TV during a sporting event. In fact, I have a friend who owns a giant flat-screen TV with picture-in-picture viewing who has taken this to a new level by learning to yell at four different games at once. While this is certainly an impressive display of multi-tasking, watching a game with him is like watching a game with a sports fanatic suffering from Multiple Personality Disorder.

I should clarify that not all sporting events fuel a our primal need to yell at the TV. One example is bowling. The reason is simple:

There’s no element of physical danger involved.

True, there’s always the underlying risk of someone’s fingers getting pinched between two bowling balls, but it just doesn’t evoke

the same level of danger as it would if bowlers — like basketball players — had to actually compete for the ball in a tip-off before each frame:

“...The ball goes UP-and-now-down, off the head of Czechoslovakia’s Sirius Kunkussion and onto the foot of Floppy Sesamoid, who is now gasping for air from the hand blower...”

It’s pretty much the same thing for golf and tennis; no real danger involved. And even though golf does use exciting terms like Water Hazard! Sand Trap! and Sudden Death!, we all know the only real danger is Peter Jacobsen forgetting to pack a sweater for the senior tour.

However, in both sports, a few well-placed scorpions could make all the difference:

“What a beautiful shot by Rory, eh Tom?”

“Yes it was, Frank, but he seems a little hesitant to get his ball.”

“Well, Rory’s a smart golfer. He knows there’s a good chance that one of the three remaining scorpion hazards is probably in that cup.”

“That’s a good point. But remember: He does still have one last caddy-option left. The question, of course, is whether to use him here, or save him for the sand trap.”

Or tennis:

“In case you’re just tuning in, it’s advantage Williams, which means Sharapova must win this next point if she wants to stay alive — no easy feat, I must say.”

“That’s right, Tom. As you can see, they have just released the scorpions on Serena’s side of the court. One wrong step, and she could — WHOA! I think we’ve just lost another ball boy...”

Now, before we get a bunch of angry comments from bowlers, tennis players, golfers and scorpions, I have nothing but the utmost respect for those sports (and for scorpions in general.) In fact, the last thing I want is to offend anyone with a racket, golf club or good enough aim to drop a 7-10 split.

Especially since I just had the screen door fixed.

(Ned is a syndicated columnist with News Media Corporation. His book, *Humor at the Speed of Life*, is available online at *Port Hole Publications*, *Amazon Books* and *Barnes & Noble*. Write to him at ned-hickson@icloud.com)

BINGO COUPON

COTTAGE GROVE ELKS LODGE

755 North River Road

Information 942-3554

PUBLIC WELCOME

Every Wednesday (except Holidays)

Warm Ups 6:30pm Regular Games 7:00pm

Frequent Smoke Breaks, Exciting New Game Program

“Bingo Burger Menu” Available

2 PROGRESSIVE JACKPOTS

Bring this coupon and receive a 2nd Warm-up Pack FREE

CG

Cottage Grove Sentinel

Our Community Newspaper

since 1889

Subscribe and \$AVE

shoppe

MyTown, USA

Find Looking For

automotive

community

food & dining

healthcare

home & farm

travel

service

NOW YOU CAN GET WEEKLY DEALS

Shoppelocal.biz will now be featuring exclusive deals and offers from local businesses in a new section called WEEKLY DEALS. Visit shoppelocal.biz from your smartphone or tablet and show the offer at checkout to receive the discount. It's that easy!

NEW OFFERS added each week!

shoppelocal.biz

OREGON DUCKS

TAILGATING

PARTIES

★ Oregon Ducks ★

TAILGATING PARTIES

At THE VILLAGE GREEN

every Duck football game

Watch the game outdoors on a giant, inflatable movie screen by the warmth of a fire pit

Day games will be shown in the Map Room Theater

★ villagegreenresortandgardens.com/things-to-do ★

We'll bring the

KEGS AND BBQ

Doors open 1 hour prior to kick-off

No admission fee, drinks and food available for purchase.

Village Green Resort

725 Row River Rd., Cottage Grove

541-942-2491

Keep Your Feet Healthy

Sometimes, pampering is not enough to keep your feet healthy. If you are a senior or have feet that require special care, you're not alone. Our services are specially designed for those who have these and other medical conditions:

arthritis ▪ mobility limitations ▪ diabetes ▪ limited vision

Our certified Registered Nurse assesses and cares for your feet:

Nail trimming

Debridement or buffing of corns and calluses

Education regarding diabetic foot care

Education for preventative care

Home treatment for athlete's foot and tinea pedis

To schedule an appointment, call 541-767-5400.

1515 Village Drive, Cottage Grove, OR 97424

PeaceHealth
Cottage Grove Community Medical Center

www.peacehealth.org/cgch

LABOR DAY

SAVINGS SPECTACULAR

SAVE

40% OFF

OR MORE ON APPLIANCE DOORBUSTERS

UP TO

30% OFF

ALL APPLIANCES

Extra 5% OR

24 months special financing over \$999 w/Sears Card

OR Free Delivery over \$499 w/Sears Card

Sears

Appliances • Lawn & Garden

118 Gateway Blvd.
Cottage Grove
541-942-7377
Open 7 Days a week

Hurry in for the best Selection

RED TAG

END OF SUMMER BLOWOUT!

Reduced pricing on end of season lawn & garden items

Limited to store stock items only.

See store for details

NOW THRU Sept. 12th

South Lane

Wheels

Everyone Can Ride to Local and Metro Destinations

Providing Public, Accessible Transportation to the Region

541.942.0456
Cottage Grove, OR 97424
www.southlanewheels.org