



photo by Sam Wright
Idyllic late-summer weather greeted tour guests Saturday for the Oregon Covered Bridge Festival. About 60 people toured the area's bridges by bus, including the Stewart Bridge at left, which was built in 1930 and restored in 1996.

Tours highlight Covered Bridge Festival

BY SAM WRIGHT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

The Cottage Grove Covered Bridge Festival took place this weekend, featuring a tour around Cottage Grove and surrounding areas to see the historic covered bridges. The festival has been going on locally since 2007, according to organizer Judd Van Gorder, who spearheads the event along with his wife, Sharon. The Festival is hosted by the Chamber of Commerce.

This year the tours saw an attendance of about 60 people, raising enough money to keep the festival afloat according to Van Gorder.

"We're trying to see if we can get a grant in order to hire a few part-time executive directors," Van Gorder said. "That way we [the festival] can start making some more money."

The money made from the festival would then go to the upkeep of some

of the historic bridges in the area. For instance, on a few bridges, plaques were placed on the bridges in order to provide historical information and keep vandals from damaging the wood.

The bridges themselves are deeply embedded in the history of Oregon. With such easy access to high quality timber, builders mostly used wood to build the bridges, forcing them to build a cover over the bridge in order to stop the wood from rotting in the damp northwestern climate.

The oldest of these bridges on the tour is the Mosby Creek Bridge. It was constructed in 1920 and restored 70 years later. It's the oldest bridge in Lane County and is still open to traffic, a rarity amongst a lot of these bridges.

The Chambers Railroad Bridge, which sits just north of Cottage Grove High School, is just five years younger than the Mosby Creek Bridge and was built to bring a railroad line across the

Coast Fork of the Willamette. It is the only remaining covered railroad bridge West of the Mississippi River. The Chambers Bridge was completely restored in 2011 and is open to pedestrian and bicycle traffic.

Although most of the bridges are closed to traffic, they definitely don't go unused. Tour guide Sharon Van Gorder explained that bridges such as the Dorena Bridge are often used for functions such as weddings, community dinners and even meetings for motorcycle clubs.

At one point early in the 20th century, Oregon had an estimated number of 450 covered bridges, but over the years that number has rapidly decreased. Lane County possesses the most covered bridges this side of the Mississippi with 20. Cottage Grove holds the most out of any town in Lane County, making the festival truly historic and iconic for the area.

South Lane TV adds four new channels

South Lane Television and Luken Communications announce a multi-network affiliation agreement between SLTV and Luken Communications, LLC. Beginning Sept. 1, SLTV began broadcasting four new Luken networks: The Family Channel, Heartland, Rev'n and PBJ. Viewers will find the new channels on SLTV's over-the-air system on channels 44.4, 44.5, 44.6 and 44.7, respectively.

"The SLTV board is excited and proud to bring Luken's programming to our community," said Lloyd Williams, President of South Lane Television.

The Family Channel aims to offer a safe, wholesome space for television viewing, and is dedicated to great educational, entertaining and some faith-based programming, with a fresh look and new shows like The Balancing Act, Real Green, Designing Spaces, The Hollywood News Report and Emmy-winning The Folklorist.

Heartland debuted in 2013 with programming comprised of syndicated and first-run shows along with digitally restored content pulled from the vaults of Music Row, creating a coun-

try music and lifestyle experience.

Rev'n is a network geared towards the performance enthusiast. Rev'n is dedicated to all things revving including cars, trucks, motorcycles, boats, ATVs, snowmobiles, events, auctions and more.

"The addition of these channels brings our channel count to over 30, and Newsmax, a news and feature channel, will be coming very soon," said Williams. SLTV is a self-supported non-profit organization managed by its board of directors. SLTV pays the costs of expansion and general operation of their system by leasing ground and tower space to cell phone operators and various smaller communication entities that utilize South Lane Television's infrastructure on Hansen Butte a mile southeast of Cottage Grove. Williams notes that "this financial arrangement allows SLTV to bring free television to the Cottage Grove area."

Coverage from Cottage Grove extends north beyond Creswell to Goshen and the south hills of Eugene and east to areas of Pleasant Hill and Springfield.

CGPD: Traffic ticket increase doesn't signal a policy change

BY JON STINNETT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

An increase in traffic ticketing by Cottage Grove Police Officers in the last week or so has not gone unnoticed by local drivers, but the incoming interim police chief said the increase is not due to a change in policy or approach as the department transitions to new leadership.

Drivers who say they were ticketed or observed others receiving tickets for traffic violations such as not having two license plates on their vehicles or seat belt infractions sounded off on social media beginning last week. Many joined the conversation on local Facebook groups in support of police action to target speeders and other violators, while others noted other local problem offenders that the police should be targeting.

But Scott Shepherd, who took over as interim police chief this week following the retirement of Chief Mike

Grover, said that the tickets don't necessarily mean such infractions will be treated differently on his watch.

"Police work is often very call driven," Shepherd said. "We get calls based on incidents that happen, and we respond to them. But between those times of high call volume, we need to take advantage of the opportunity to target these types of violations."

The blotter for the Cottage Grove Police Department certainly showcased an increase in traffic stops last week, with many earning tickets for speeding, failure to obey traffic control devices, failure to display a front license plate and failure to provide proof of insurance. Most were attributed to just a few officers, which Shepherd said may be due to a shift change and the officers' attempts to address a different type of issue on their new shift. Additionally, tickets were handed out in earnest beginning in the middle of the week, prior to Chief Grover's departure.

Rotarians aid children's dental clinic

At its Sept. 3 meeting, the Rotary Club of Cottage Grove assembled pouches of dental products and instructions for the Smiles Program for the South Lane School District elementary students. Rotarians will be giving away these packets at the Health Screening Day in September. The Rotary Club of Cottage Grove raises \$3000 every year to support this program. Pictured are Sharon Scarpelli, Darrel Williams, Dave Kelp and George Devine.



photo by Nadine Kelley

REMEMBERING

9.11.

Today we remember the tragic events of 9/11, a day that forever changed the landscape of our nation. We solemnly remember those who passed, and we salute the firefighters, police officers and everyday heroes whose brave and selfless actions saved so many lives. We will never forget.



Rogers & Son
1324 E. Main St
Cottage Grove
541-942-0500

Fort Rock Construction
Cottage Grove
541-767-1611

Starfire Lumber Company
2795 Mosby Creek Rd
Cottage Grove
541-942-0168

Romero's Flooring
Cottage Grove
541-914-4195

Hedge Carter's Continous Gutter Service
Cottage Grove
541-942-3630

Dave's Pump and Construction
76082 London Rd.
Cottage Grove
541-942-9635

Taylor's Radiator's New & Used
78869 Thornton Ln.
Cottage Grove
541-729-5586

South Lane County Fire and Rescue
Proudly Serving South Lane County
233 Harrison Ave
Cottage Grove
541-942-4493

Cottage Grove Police Department
400 E. Main Street
Cottage Grove
541-942-9145

Cottage Grove Sentinel
116 N. 6th Street
Cottage Grove
541-942-3325