



Capone takes
 race by a
 landslide,
 page 3A



Cottage Grove Sentinel

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2015 SOUTH LANE COUNTY'S MOST AWARD-WINNING NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1889 VOLUME 128 • NUMBER 14

Shooting injures deputy, suspect eludes police for hours

BY JON STINNETT
 The Cottage Grove Sentinel

A Lane County Sheriff's Deputy is recovering this week following a Friday-evening altercation between the department and a 38-year old Cottage Grove man, who was found hours later with his

own gunshot wound and a dog bite from the incident.

On Friday just before 8 p.m., Sheriff's Deputies say they responded to a possible shots-fired call near Milepost 3 on London Road in the Cottage Grove Lake area. Once on scene, deputies encountered a male subject armed with a firearm, who

immediately fired on and struck one deputy. The suspect — later identified as Carlos Roa of Cottage Grove, fled the area, initiating a search that found police blockading the intersection of London Road and Cottage Grove Reservoir Road. Personnel with the Cottage Grove Police Department, Florence Police

Department, the Bureau of Land Management and the Lane County District Attorney's Office assisted at the scene, and it would be over six hours before Roa was located nearby, with a gunshot wound and a bite from a police dog. Following



Carlos Roa

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Fire District bond set for Nov. 3 election

South Lane Fire and Rescue hopes to raise \$2.6 million to purchase new trucks

BY JON STINNETT
 The Cottage Grove Sentinel

South Lane County Fire and Rescue Chief John Wooten said Monday that he's hearing "nothing but support" from locals regarding the District's attempt to secure bond funding to replace much of its aging fleet, and in just under five weeks, it will be known whether that support will translate into yes votes at the ballot box on Nov. 3.

Bond Measure 20-237 aims to raise \$2.6 million to replace five of the District's vehicles at a rate of \$.30 per \$1000 of assessed property value for local taxpayers. The District's Board of Directors recently voted to fast-track the bond process, Wooten said, knowing that South Lane School District is planning to seek its own bond to replace Harrison Elementary School in May of 2016.

If approved, the Fire District plans to use bond revenue to purchase a ladder truck, two fire engines and two water tenders. Wooten said the District is currently looking at a ladder truck that can possibly be purchased for around \$800,000, though they can cost up to \$1.2 million. New engines start at about \$380,000, he said, and water tenders are comparably priced. Wooten said that the District is "being conservative" while it explores its purchase options, adding that new emissions standards and safety features make fire equipment more costly than it has been in previous years.

"It's the stuff that's included now that wasn't on these trucks 25 years ago that makes them

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MAGIC MOON

Sunday evening's eclipse of the Supermoon drew locals from their homes just after dusk. It's a phenomenon that's not scheduled to occur again until 2033.

photo by Bruce Kesh

Ten-year CGPD vet dismissed, under investigation by FBI and U.S. Atty.

Phil Beach investigated for violating evidence procedures

BY JON STINNETT
 The Cottage Grove Sentinel

A 10-year veteran of the Cottage Grove Police Department is under investigation by federal agencies for alleged violations of the department's evidence/property handling procedures.

In a Friday press release, Interim Police Chief Scott Shepherd wrote that Phil Beach, who was hired in a full-time capacity by CGPD in 2005, had been suspended in June of this year after Shepherd was notified of the violation. Then-Commander Shepherd and Commander Conrad Gagner initiated

an investigation of the incident after they were notified of the possible violation on May 27, the release stated.

On Monday, Shepherd said that the violation "probably does have a criminal component," adding that the foundation for Beach's termination and the subsequent investigation is evident, though he declined to elaborate on the nature of the allegations, citing the ongoing investigation.

Cottage Grove Police handed their investigation over to Oregon State Police on June 23. Beach was terminated on July 15, and Gagner said the process that allows an officer to appeal a suspension led to the delay in Beach's

termination.

"It was clear from the beginning that this was going to be a criminal case," Gagner said.

On Aug. 18, CGPD learned that the Lane County District Attorney's Office had forwarded the investigation to the United States Attorney's Office and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Shepherd said he didn't believe that Beach's alleged actions posed a direct danger to the citizenry of Cottage Grove.

"His ethics were in question, and that's why he can't be a police officer here," Gagner said.

School District prepares Harrison bond for May election

BY JON STINNETT
 The Cottage Grove Sentinel

Last spring, the South Lane School District Board of Directors voted to pursue a 25-year, \$29.8 million bond levy to replace the aging Harrison Elementary building and address other areas of need in the District. Today, planning for the bond process continues in earnest and includes the formation of committees dedicated to design planning and the campaign for voter approval of the bond.

Built in 1947, the District has sought to replace the Harrison building for some time, and a large advisory committee met over the spring and winter months to outline its recommen-

dations, which included the duration of the bond and priorities for the use of revenue generated by the bond beyond what it would cost to build the new school building. Initial estimates suggest that it would cost \$21.2 million to construct and furnish a new elementary school. While the amount of funding for other projects would ultimately be de-



Architect Mike Gorman is a CGHS graduate, and Gorman attended Harrison School.

termined after the new school is completed, the bond advisory committee estimated that it would take just under \$8 million to address the other top priorities, which included upgrading the Warren H. Daugherty Aquatic Center, replacing several athletic fields and upgrading technology and security throughout the School District.

After reviewing requests for proposals from the architects that submitted their qualifications, the District's design planning committee has chosen an architect with local connections to spearhead planning efforts. Mike Gorman, a Cottage Grove High School graduate and member of its Athletic Hall of Fame, was originally involved with the

planning to build the current Bohemia Elementary building, and as a child Gorman attended the same Harrison Elementary building he hopes to help replace. He has recently served as the principle architect for the construction of a 700-student elementary school in Crook County.

The District faces a March of 2016 deadline to get the bond measure on the ballot for the May of 2016 election. Superintendent Krista Parent said the School Board analyzed lots of data regarding placing the bond on the ballot in the spring or fall election next year.

"We had to choose one, but we haven't filed yet," she said. "We could still change our mind."

Parent said a recent development in Salem has the District feeling hopeful about its prospects. Approved by the Oregon legislature, Senate Bill 447 provides \$125 million in match funding for bonds that school districts can secure in the May of 2016, November of 2016 or May of 2017 elections. Eligibility for the matching funds is determined by the percentage of students in a district that qualify for free or reduced lunches, and applications are processed on a first-come, first-served basis. Parent said the bill could potentially provide \$4-8 million in matching funds for the Harrison bond.

"We think the timing is really right for this," she said.

District representatives recently met with the architects from Bend-based BLRB Architects for most of a full day to tour Harrison and other facilities including Delight Valley Head Start and Al Kennedy Alternative High School, Parent said.

Members of the two bond advisory committees have committed to an ambitious schedule of meetings to outline plans for the potential new Harrison building, with meetings scheduled at least twice a month until March.

The District has scheduled a community meeting/school board worksession to discuss the bond in depth on Monday, Oct. 19 beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the school district office on Adams Ave.

Our Kids
 Book spurs local changes, page 6A



Drummer coming
 West Africa's Sylla to teach skills, culture in CG, page 9A

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