



photo by Sam Wright

Capone, a two-year old Dachshund, easily won the finals of Saturday's Wiener Dog Races and Pet Fest.

Wiener dog races make impressive return

BY SAM WRIGHT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

A wet morning turned into a sunny day on Saturday, Sept. 26 for all dog lovers attending the Wiener

Dog Races at Coiner Park.

The races, which had taken a year off due to a lack of sponsorship, proved to be a great and adorable success, with a large amount of participants and spectators ready to

watch the dashing dachshunds of Cottage Grove race for a trophy and a whole lot of love and attention.

"We're really happy with the turnout this year; it's great that we got to bring this back

because it seems like everyone is having a great time," said Celia Gowing, organizer of the event.

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Planning Commission to review Arby's, dog park plans

At a special public hearing scheduled Wednesday, Oct. 14 at the Council chambers at City Hall, the Cottage Grove Planning Commission will review plans for two new additions to the community.

Many local dog owners are excited about a public dog park that Steve Nisewander hopes to build in a vacant lot behind his car wash on Main Street. The plan calls for a park in the 120x250 square foot tract between Lulu's Car Wash and the Row River Trail, and the Planning Commission's review of the plan has been held over from the Commission's September meeting at Nisewander's request. He has stated that an article in the Sentinel alerted him to the need for a dog park in Cottage Grove.

The City of Cottage Grove has offered to cover the dog park under its liability insurance and will also furnish signage.

The Planning Commission will also review the site design for an Arby's restaurant in a vacant lot across from Walmart on Row River Road. Eugene-based businessman Doug Mortimore of The Howling Coyote, Inc., recently told the Sentinel that the current Arby's restaurant on Gateway

Blvd. will be moved to the new vacant lot.

Mortimore built the structure in the Bi-Mart shopping center that currently houses Arby's in 1989, the year he founded Howling Coyote, though the building originally hosted a Taco Time franchise. Arby's opened there in 2000; currently Howling Coyote operates five Taco Time restaurants and three Arby's restaurants in the Eugene/Springfield area.

City Planner Amanda Ferguson said the City expects to see permits for another restaurant at the current Arby's location, though Mortimore told the Sentinel it would be "premature to comment" on the plans for that site.

The Planning Commission will also deliberate on a comprehensive plan amendment for half of a .89-acre parcel of land on Gateway Blvd. The applicant is seeking to change the zoning and comprehensive plan designation on the land from Community Commercial to Single-family Residential on part of a vacant parcel of land and an adjacent residence.

The Wednesday, Oct. 14 meeting begins at 7 p.m., and the public is welcome to attend.

As Pope's American visit ends, his message finds a local audience

Cottage Grove priest calls visit "a great big shot of hope"

BY JON STINNETT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

Pope Francis wrapped up a historic six-day, three-city visit to the United States with a flight back to Rome Sunday evening, and his trip made an impact here as well, where the visit figured prominently into the Sunday sermon at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church in Cottage Grove.

Francis, the Catholic church's 266th pope, was born Jorge Ma-

rio Bergoglio, and his election in March of 2013 marked many firsts — he is the first pope from the Jesuit order, which is dedicated to apostolic ministry and evangelization throughout the world. He is also the first pope from the Americas and the Southern Hemisphere, and his papacy already appears to have invigorated a Catholic church wracked by scandals of sexual abuse in recent decades.

On Sunday, parishioners in Cottage Grove gathered to hear Father Roy Antunez — himself a Jesuit whom parishioners say also lives quite simply as does Pope Francis — speak about the historic visit.

"He put things in a really good perspective," one attendee of Sunday's mass said, though the stance Francis has taken on political matters appears to make many leery of commenting openly on his teachings.

"Everybody has an opinion, and people can put any type of spin they want on what he says," said Betty Krumlauf, who works at the OLPH Parish Center. "But he preaches helping the poor and the need to care for our environment."

On Sunday, Antunez took care to point out that all decisions are political and add that the Pope is simply "putting Jesuit spirituality into practice."

"They try to say he's liberal or that he's conservative," Antunez said. "They try to politicize everything he says, especially with regard to the economy. But popes have been writing about Catholicism since the 1900s, and they have pointed out its dangers. Jesus himself said to beware of wealth."

The bigger question emphasized by the Pope's visit, Antunez said, is "what are we doing about the poor?"

"Are we marginalizing or giving them our help?" he said. "The Pope's message is the Gospel message. Who did Christ go to visit? He went to see the poor. This is what Jesus Christ taught,

and as Catholics, we should try to mirror him, to be like him."

Antunez said the Pope's visit has been good for Catholicism, particularly as it moves on from the sex abuse scandals that have found many of its priests and laypeople implicated in wrongdoing.

"It's given a great big shot of hope to people to reinforce their belief in who the Pope is," he said. "There are signs he sends by the way he lives."

Antunez said that in Cottage Grove, the church, which shares his services with St. Philip Benizi Catholic Church in Creswell, is doing quite well but has a lot of older parishio-

ners, which he surmises is due to the lack of opportunities for young people here. He has been in Cottage Grove for four years and said he finds Our Lady of Perpetual Help "a very generous parish."

"If someone wants help, they usually call the Catholic church," he said, pointing out its support for initiatives like Beds for Freezing Nights and Christmas food drives as examples of local generosity. The church hosts a Spanish-language mass on the third Sunday of each month and a bilingual mass on the fourth Sunday, which parishioners say has brought a new energy and vitality to the church.

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