

Illegal burn causes fire that threatens area homes

BY JON STINNETT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

A fire that threatened multiple homes west of Cottage Grove on Tuesday, Sept. 29 is expected to bring a citation for illegal burning, fire officials say.

Fire crews spent much of that afternoon battling a grass and structure fire behind a home off Veatch Road just west of Cottage Grove, a blaze that is being treated as an illegal burn, according to South Lane County Fire and Rescue Chief John Wooten.

Wooten said firefighters responded to the call at about 1 p.m. Tuesday and that crews

with the Goshen and Pleasant Hill departments, in addition to the Oregon Department of Forestry, quickly joined the fight, which Wooten said almost necessitated the evacuation of about 10 structures in the immediate area.

"It was looking like we were going to have to evacuate the whole area, but I think we've got it now," Wooten said as firefighters generously applied water to an outbuilding and the grass surrounding it.

"The call came in as an illegal burn, but we haven't finished investigating," Wooten said, adding that there is currently a ban in place on open burning in this area.



photo by Jon Stinnett

A grass fire off Veatch Road spread to a nearby property and destroyed an outbuilding before it was brought under control.

"It's completely shut down," he said. "There's no burning of slash or anything like that allowed. We're still in fire season and will be until we get several more inches of rain."

"Today's a perfect example

of what can happen if the ban is violated," Wooten said. "This could have been another Stouts Creek Fire. There are a lot of houses in this area, and it's not a situation that's conducive to breaking the rules."

Chamber's grant will fund wine-country brochure

BY JON STINNETT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

A map that places Cottage Grove at center stage among the area's wineries has been on the wishlist of the Chamber of Commerce for some time, and it recently announced that funding from the Oregon Wine Country Plates Matching Grants Program will make it possible.

The program, administered by the Oregon Tourism Commission, "helps advance wine and culinary tourism projects that improve local economies

and communities by enhancing, expanding and promoting Oregon's travel and tourism industry." In the case of Cottage Grove, Chamber of Commerce Director Travis Palmer said the \$2500 in matching grant money will fund the design, printing, marketing and distribution of a brochure that highlights the community's advantageous location at the heart of the southern Willamette and northern Umpqua wine regions.

"We know that Cottage Grove is better positioned for wine tourism than a lot of people realize," Palmer said. "There are a

dozen or so wonderful wineries within 30 to 35 miles, and we've never done a really good job promoting that fact."

Palmer said maps of either wine region only show Cottage Grove on their outer edges.

"People always look at one map or another and see us as an outlier," he said. "We're at the edge of both maps, but we should be dead-center. Our map will highlight Cottage Grove at the center, and it should provide a boost for our local wineries as well."

Adding to Cottage Grove's viability for wine tourism, Palmer

believes, is the pairing between wine tourism and activities often enjoyed by wine enthusiasts such as cycling and visiting the area's covered bridges.

The awarded grant projects will be completed by September of next year. In addition to the Cottage Grove brochure, awarded projects included funding for the Eastern Oregon Visitors Association, Heart of Willamette Winery Association, Travel Lane County for its "Pinot Bingo" incentive program and Travel Yamhill Valley. Funds from the sale of "Wine Country" license plates financed the grants.

Council approves street sweeper purchase, accepts M Street

BY JON STINNETT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

The Cottage Grove City Council worked through a light agenda at its Monday, Sept. 28 meeting, accepting ownership of a portion of a local street and finalizing plans to purchase three pieces of equipment.

The Council accepted a "stat-

tutory quitclaim deed" on the portion of "M" Street between Birch and Chestnut avenues in Cottage Grove's Northwest Neighborhood.

"When the Planned Unit Development known as Sunrise Ridge was approved and the first phase platted, it included the requirement that the right-of-way for 'M' Street be dedicated," according to background material prepared for the Council. "Staff became aware recently while working with the owner of the old hospital property that the dedication did not occur for that portion between Birch and Chestnut avenues."

City staff has negotiated with the owner of the plot of land, identified as Health & Wellness Northwest, LLC, whose Michael Miller signed off on the deed.

"The City was interested in the portion...where M Street is located, but agreed to take the whole property and paid off the taxes owed on the western portion," which totaled \$60.30, according to the Council document.

The Council also authorized the execution of a loan to purchase a street sweeper, utility tractor and tiger mower. The sweeper, a Schwarze model M6000TE Avalanche, will replace one that the City purchased in 2007, which City Manager Richard Meyers said recently blew a hydraulic hose.

"It doesn't seem like it's very old, but we use it all the time," Meyers said. He said that the new sweeper should arrive this week.

The Council also authorized the purchase of a John Deere 4052M compact utility tractor and a 2005 John Deere tiger mower. Funds for the purchases were included in the 2015-16 budget, which anticipated a finance term of five years for the loan. The City will make semi-annual payments of no more than \$57,000 on the loan and anticipates borrowing \$271,155 for the purchases.

Meyers said the City is also working to finalize the purchase of a smaller street sweeper with a 45-inch sweep for sidewalks and parking lots. The City got the new "baby sweeper" from a Lane County auction in Eugene, Meyers said.



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COTTAGE GROVE

Cottage Grove City Hall
400 E. Main St., Cottage Grove
October 7 • 10:30 AM
October 19 • 10:30 AM
November 4 • 10:30 AM
November 16 • 10:30 AM

CRESWELL

City of Creswell
Community Center
99 S. 1st St., Creswell
October 7 • 2:30 PM
October 19 • 2:30 PM
November 4 • 2:30 PM
November 16 • 2:30 PM

FLORENCE

Florence Events Center
715 Quince St., Florence
October 12 • 11:00 AM
October 27 • 11:00 AM
November 9 • 11:00 AM
November 23 • 11:00 AM

EUGENE

Campbell Senior Center
Elsie's Room
155 High St., Eugene
October 21 • 11:00 AM
November 5 • 10:00 AM
November 30 • 2:30 PM

Petersen Barn
870 Berntzen Rd., Eugene
October 9 • 1:30 PM
November 13 • 1:30 PM

Countryside Pizza & Grill
645 River Road, Eugene
October 16 • 10:30 AM
November 30 • 10:30 AM

Valley River Inn
1000 Valley River Way, Eugene
October 26 • 10:30 AM

Papa's Pizza
1577 Coburg Rd., Eugene
November 3 • 2:30 PM

Veterans Memorial Assn.
1626 Willamette St., Eugene
November 19 • 10:30 AM

SPRINGFIELD

Springfield City Hall
225 Fifth St., Springfield
October 8 • 10:30 AM

Willamalane Community
Recreation Center
250 S. 32nd St., Springfield
October 15 • 10:30 AM
October 30 • 10:30 AM
November 12 • 2:30 PM

Papa's Pizza
4011 Main St., Springfield
October 22 • 2:30 PM
November 6 • 2:30 PM
November 20 • 2:30 PM

VENETA

City of Veneta
Community Center
25192 E. Broadway, Veneta
October 14 • 11:00 AM
October 27 • 2:30 PM
November 11 • 11:00 AM
November 24 • 2:30 PM

OAKRIDGE

City of Oakridge
47674 School St., Oakridge
October 28 • 10:30 AM
November 25 • 10:30 AM

JUNCTION CITY

Junction City
Community Center
175 W. 7th Ave., Junction City
October 21 • 2:30 PM
November 2 • 10:30 AM
November 18 • 10:30 AM

EVENING SEMINARS

Trillium Community
Health Plan
Cascade Rm.
1800 Millrace Dr., Eugene

October 8 • 5:45 PM
October 15 • 5:45 PM
October 22 • 5:45 PM
October 29 • 5:45 PM
November 5 • 5:45 PM
November 12 • 5:45 PM
November 19 • 5:45 PM

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H2174_AD212N Accepted 9/28/2013