

# Cottage Grove Sentinel

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2015 SOUTH LANE COUNTY'S MOST AWARD-WINNING NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1889 VOLUME 128 • NUMBER 20

**ELECTION**

## Voters approve fire levy

*New ladder truck and other fire apparatus to be acquired*

**BY SAM WRIGHT**  
*Cottage Grove Sentinel*

The South Lane County Fire and Rescue's Measure 20-237 was passed on Wednesday, Nov. 4. The measure was voted for the district to issue general obligation bonds not exceeding \$2,605,000, funding that would upgrade and repair a lot of Cottage Grove's fire equipment.

The vote saw 3,847 votes for yes and 1,995 votes for no (63.61 percent vs. 36.39).

SLCFR plans to purchase one ladder truck (or quint), two structural firefighting engines and two water tenders (or heavy brush engines). Fire Chief John Wooten said the department was in much need of a new ladder truck, as some of the equipment had exceeded its life span by 25 years.

"The next step will be deciding which manufacturer will build the fleet," Wooten said. This decision is one that will take time, as the department wants to get the most out of the funding.

The department also said that updates will be provided on their website and social media pages on the progress of obtaining their new fleet.

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## A HERO'S WELCOME



**World War II veteran Bob Grimes (above) of Cottage Grove visits the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., during the recent Honor Flight program, which takes veterans on a trip to see the capitol's war and other memorials. Fellow veterans and Cottage Grove residents Leonard Waitman and Jack Gates (at right) also made the trip.**

*Cottage Grove veterans board an Honor Flight to visit war memorials in Washington, D.C.*

**BY JON STINNETT**  
*Cottage Grove Sentinel*

"I'm no hero..." Patients that Bob Grimes helped mend while he served as a surgical technician in the U.S. Air Force at Denver's Lowry Field during World War II (and others) might tend to disagree, but there's little doubt that Grimes and two fellow World War II veterans from Cottage Grove — Leonard Waitman and Jack Gates — received a hero's welcome at every step along their recent journey to Washington, D.C.

Grimes, Waitman and Gates were three of the most recent veterans to journey to the nation's capitol as part of the Honor Flight program, which takes veterans on a whirlwind trip to visit the capitol's war and other memorials.

"We just went, and went, and went," said Waitman. "Every time we offloaded, there were people honoring us — teachers with schoolchildren, a squad of state troopers at the Portland Airport."

Waitman said the small children who appeared at airports and elsewhere during the trip made a special impression on him, particularly the small boys of about 5 years old in sailor suits who saluted and offered a proud "thank you for your service."

A total of 43 veterans made the trip to D.C., with the Cottage Grove vets' journey organized by South Willamette Valley Honor Flight, which funded the trip and provided volunteers at no cost to the veterans.

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## Many happy returns

*2015 finds Chinook salmon coming back to Coast Fork*

**BY JON STINNETT**  
*Cottage Grove Sentinel*

A group that began a journey of hundreds of miles in the Coast Fork of the Willamette River as fingerling Chinook salmon started returning to the area in earnest this past spring, to the apparent delight of local anglers and wildlife and habi-

tat restoration agencies. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife began introducing salmon smolts in various locations in the Coast Fork beginning in 2012 with the goal of establishing a viable fishery there, and the spring of 2015 marked the first significant return of the fish in the spawning stage of their life

cycle, according to Jeff Ziller, fisheries biologist with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. "We had spawning fish in Mosby Creek, the Coast Fork and the Row River," Ziller said. "The fishery is actually doing pretty good. We heard of anglers catching limits at a number of locations."

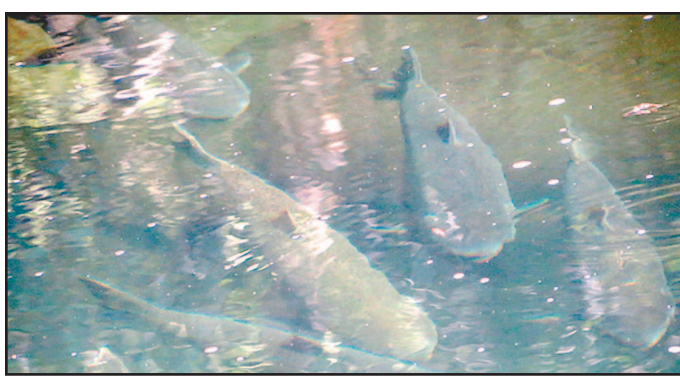
Fish and Wildlife first began reintroducing young Chinook smolts in local rivers in the spring of 2012, releasing 213,000 young fish at that time, followed by close to 300,000 fish in 2013 and 207,000 fish in the spring of 2014. Similar numbers of smolts were due to be released there in the spring of 2015, but a lawsuit alleg-

ing that ODFW was releasing too many salmon into the McKenzie River, coupled with fears regarding the viability of spillway gates at the Leaburg Dam upstream of the hatchery that raises the fish, led to their early release last December. After their release, the salmon undertook a journey of over 300 miles — 20 miles of the

Row River to the Coast Fork, 186 miles from the Coast Fork to the mouth of the Willamette River and 100 more miles to the ocean.

They likely spent time in the Gulf of Alaska near British Columbia, Ziller said. Some Chinook returned to the Coast

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courtesy photo

**This spring marked the first significant return of Chinook salmon in their spawning stage in the Mosby Creek, Coast Fork and Row River areas. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife first began reintroducing the young fish in 2012.**

**Rain Country Realty Inc.**

...Would like to take time to thank the Men, and Women of the Armed Forces, and their families, who have kept our country safe. Please have a safe holiday while remembering those who fought and are still fighting for us.

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