

TOBACCO

Continued from page 1A

The amended county ordinance, Leutke said, specifies that the \$200 fee charged for a license can only be used to administer the licensing program. Penalties for selling tobacco products to minors were also added for the employee in addition to the business owner. Four such violations in a two-year period would result in the revocation of the sales license.

"It won't solve all the issues created by tobacco, but it's an important part of an overall strategy," said Assistant Director Karen Gaffney.

And Cottage Grove has a particularly pronounced problem

with tobacco, according to data presented to the Council that points out that this community has the highest density of tobacco retailers in Lane County, with one for every 500 residents. Additionally, Leutke pointed out stats showing that one of four outlets in Cottage Grove sold to minors last year.

Comment from the Council was light, though Councilor Jake Boone did ask why tobacco retailers are being targeted if most first-time underage users get the products from their friends.

"I'm all for kids not smoking, and adults, but this doesn't feel to me like the right way to go about it," Boone said. "Edu-

cation already has led to less smoking. I don't see the reason to take more money from people who are at least following the rules."

Gaffney countered that the licensing program can have an effect on use by minors.

"We're working hard to make an impact where we can," she said.

The Council did not make a formal motion to support the ordinance, but City Attorney Carrie Connelly said she would be working with the county ordinance to see if she could craft something the Council could support.

FIRE SEASON

Continued from page 1A

area's large landowners, while South Lane Fire protects local homes and up to five acres of their surrounding property. He said that fire such as the small brush fire that started as a result of an illegal burn off Veatch Road east of Cottage Grove in December could easily grow in

conditions such as those experienced last summer.

"We had several close calls, fires that could've easily caused a lot of damage," he said. "We managed to stop them dead in their tracks, but without coordination, it wouldn't happen that way, which is why those relationships are valued."

Lane County has a mutual

aid agreement that states that agencies collaborate with other agencies for 12 hours at their own expense, after which the assisting agency foots the bill.

"The Western and Eastern Lane districts are complementary to keeping fire damage in Lane County relatively small," Wooten said.

OFFBEAT

Continued from page 4A

he was Earhart, shot him, inflicting a severe chest wound.

"As soon as the facts were realized the posse was considerably rattled, and Earhart's whereabouts were lost track of," the Gazette reported.

Assuming Earhart was in one of the warehouses, the posse surrounded them. They soon learned their mistake when the shotgun bellowed again from a nearby bush on the hillside behind them, sending a cloud of stinging .160-caliber pellets at a posse member from 80 yards away. The posse member, peppered with shot but not really hurt, fell to the ground and started yelling for help: Morrow County Sheriff's Deputy Walter Cason went to help him, and himself got a charge of shot in the back and another in the legs.

After that, the posse reformed and waited for daylight, which finally came and revealed

Earhart's hideout. Tired, sober and suddenly aware of the hopelessness of his situation, Earhart started crying and begging for mercy. He came out and was soon safely arrested and shackled and on his way to Heppner in the care of the sheriff.

Behind him he left the town of Ione peppered with bullet holes — more than 50 of them on the north side of Main Street alone.

On the way to the sheriff's office, Earhart and Deputy Walter Cason — who, remember, Earhart had hit with two long-range blasts from the shotgun — got into a nasty verbal fight. It ended with Earhart threatening to come back to Ione and kill Cason — a threat that several other people overheard.

Earhart pleaded not guilty to all charges, and his trial was a bit of a circus. "In outlining his case to the jury, (Earhart's attorney) declared that they would prove the shot fired by Earhart

... was fired accidentally as the result of his stumbling as he walked along the sidewalk," the Gazette's reporter wrote. "He said further that they would prove that a conspiracy was formed by the armed mob for the purpose of murdering the accused man."

Not surprisingly, it didn't work. He drew four and a half years in the state pen.

One imagines the citizens of Ione didn't much look forward to Earhart's release date. Of course, he came straight home. But he found the reception awaiting him somewhat warmer than he might have anticipated.

Maybe Earhart intended to settle his score with Cason upon his return to town, and maybe he'd forgotten all about it. But when he arrived, he found Cason waiting for him.

The two men went for their pistols. Cason shot him through the heart.

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