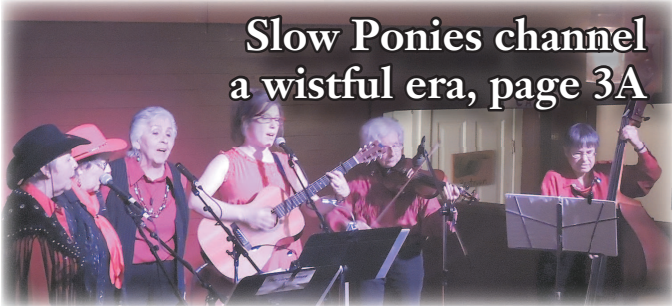


Slow Ponies channel a wistful era, page 3A



Lent draws churches together, page 8A



Opal Center offers 'Parallel Lives', page 9A



Cottage Grove Sentinel

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2016

SOUTH LANE COUNTY'S MOST AWARD-WINNING NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1889

VOLUME 128 • NUMBER 35

School Board passes resolution for bond to build new Harrison

BY JON STINNETT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

The South Lane School Board voted unanimously Monday night to place a \$35,950,000 bond levy before voters in the May 17, 2016 election, with funds to be utilized to replace the aging Harrison Elementary School building; upgrade safety, security and technology throughout South Lane School District; tackle deferred maintenance projects and renovate the Warren H. Daugherty Aquatic Center.

Superintendent Krista Parent told the Board that the bond's planning committee worked to keep the property tax rate of the bond below \$2 per \$1000 of assessed property value for local homeowners, after learning during previous efforts to pass a bond to replace Cottage Grove High School that such an amount was most likely to gain the support of voters.

First on Monday evening, though, came a review of the planning process that's led to the bond recommendation, and Mike Gorman and Greg McCracken of BLRB Architects, the firm hired to shepherd the early planning and design processes, were on hand to provide specifics.

Parent stated that a bond advisory committee of about 50 individuals began exploring the

possibility of a bond to replace the Harrison building and make other upgrades about a year and a half ago. After the School Board approved an initial recommendation to pursue the bond in May of 2016, a planning committee has met several times to begin setting priorities for the bond. Parent added that the District is scheduled to begin screening six applicants for the project's general contractor this week.

According to documents prepared by the District, rough cost estimates of the project are:

- New Harrison School on old CGHS campus: \$18,921,100**
- Safety and security upgrades district-wide: \$1,485,813**
- Deferred maintenance projects: \$2,300,443**
- Network and technology upgrades: \$1,250,000**
- Pool facility improvement: \$2,920,129**
- Early learning center: \$1,073,775**
- Kennedy High relocation: \$412,000**
- Harrison property reuse: \$513,455**
- Other costs: \$6,173,285**
- Project contingency: \$900,000**

The presentation offered additional details regarding each

Please see **BOND**, Page 11A

Suspect in chase remains at large

Police are still on the lookout for the suspect in a pursuit that spanned two counties and enlisted the help of several agencies on Tuesday, Feb. 16.



William Dee Spain

The Douglas County Sheriff's Office announced that it was involved in a vehicle pursuit that began at about 8:15 a.m. on Territorial Highway and ended at the Riverwood Mobile Home Park in Creswell, though the chase ended without the apprehension of the suspected driver, William Dee Spain, 33, of Cottage Grove, who Sheriff's Office spokesperson Dwes Hutson said was still at large by Sentinel press time Monday.

The morning of the incident, a deputy was reportedly checking on a reported suspicious vehicle in the 1000 block of Territorial Highway in the Curtin area when he came across two

vehicles and several subjects. The subjects dispersed, and the deputy attempted to stop one of the vehicles, a white 1994 Honda Accord.

The deputy pursued the vehicle north on Territorial Highway through Lorane and then onto Hamm Road. Near Creswell, police said the vehicle hit spike strips that had been set by Oregon State Police Troopers. Shortly after the car hit the spike strips, the pursuit was terminated. Troopers located the vehicle, unoccupied, about an hour later at the trailer park south of Creswell.

Spain is wanted on charges of Eluding, Reckless Driving, Recklessly Endangering and Driving While Suspended. Police said Spain also has a felony warrant for parole violation out of Douglas County. He is described as five feet, 11 inches tall and weighing 165 pounds, with brown hair and brown eyes.

Those who may have information as to Spain's whereabouts are asked to contact their local law enforcement agency or call the Douglas County Sheriff's Office at 541-440-4471.

ON HUMAN ORIGINS



photo by Jon Stinnett

Paleoanthropologist Briana Pobiner (in purple) offers tips on teaching human evolution to a group of educators at the Smithsonian traveling exhibit.

Crowds flock to origins exhibit

BY JON STINNETT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

Early in his presentation before a packed house at the Cottage Grove Community Center, paleoanthropologist Dr. Rick Potts asked the question that's central to the Smithsonian Institute's traveling exhibit: What does it mean to be human?

Hands in the audience shot up immediately; one person stated that the capacity for abstract thought is the key to humanness. Another posited that a sense of humor makes us stand out. Yet another answer involved our ability to ask "Why?"

For Potts, the question and its responses served as the starting point for a conversation about the origins of

Please see **EXHIBIT**, Page 11A



photo by Bruce Kelsch

Dr. Rick Potts, paleoanthropologist and curator of the Smithsonian Institute's Human Origins Exhibit spoke to a capacity crowd Wednesday evening at the CG Community Center.

Body of missing CG man identified

BY JON STINNETT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

The coordinator of the Lane County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue team confirmed late Monday that the human remains discovered following a search in the Brice Creek area southeast of Cottage Grove last week indeed were those of a Cottage Grove man that had been missing since September.

A vehicle found on a remote road on Sunday, Feb. 14 led police and later Search and Rescue to the remote location. That day, the Cottage Grove Police Department received a report that a white Chevrolet Blazer with Oregon license plate #285GAH had been located in the foothills approximately 25 miles southeast of Cottage Grove, off of Brice Creek Road. The reporting person indicated that the vehicle was unoccupied and covered with leaves. Additionally, he said the windows were down



John Jarrell

and the vehicle's interior was very wet. Police said the vehicle matched the description of that reportedly in the possession of John Jarrell, who was reported missing by his fiancé on Sept. 30, 2015.

Cottage Grove Police Department personnel reportedly responded to the vehicle's location and verified the vehicle was Jarrell's.

"We think it's been there the whole time," Detective Doug Skaggs of CGPD later indicated.

"It was on a spur off a spur of a logging road; there was nothing else around it, and there were no recent tracks."

Just two days prior, Interim Cottage Grove Police Chief Scott Shepherd stated that there had been no new information to aid in the search for Jarrell, though a call for information that could aid in the search was again distributed to media outlets.

On Monday, Search and Rescue Coordinator Tim Chase confirmed that an autopsy had positively identified the remains as belonging to Jarrell, adding that the manner of death was determined to be a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Following the discovery of the vehicle, Lane County Search and Rescue was contacted, and due to darkness the decision was made to have Cottage Grove Police Department secure the scene and remain with the vehicle overnight, while Search and

Rescue personnel were contacted and prepared to begin searching the following morning.

Lane County Search and Rescue organized and began a search of the area on Feb. 15, including the deployment of a cadaver dog, but throughout the day was unsuccessful in locating Jarrell or any additional evidence.

Police said the team returned the following day and continued the search, this time focusing on a different area of the forest. At about 2:30 p.m., the Cottage Grove Police Department received notification from Lane County Search and Rescue that a deceased person had been located in a heavily forested area on a hillside about a mile from the vehicle.

Lane County Search and Rescue secured the scene while detectives from the Lane County Sheriff's Office responded to conduct the death investigation.

Also inside:



On to State!
Wrestlers shine at District meet, page 1B



Fun Fly
RC aviation enthusiasts gather at Armory, page 3A



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