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Cottage Grove Sentinel

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Village Green sale falls through

Buyer backs out after management company objects; hotel is now 'off the market'

BY JON STINNETT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

The sale of the Village Green Resort and Gardens in an online auction at the end of June fell through after the buyer backed out, a prominent

member of the hotel's management team said Monday. Tom Aura, Director of Operations at Moonstone Hotel Properties, the Cambria, California-based company that owns the Village Green and six other hotels, told the Sentinel last week

that it appeared a sale had happened but that the purchaser had backed out, a statement he confirmed on Monday.

"We had a prospective buyer, but he said his management company told him that it wasn't comfortable with him owning a full-service facility, so he backed out," Aura said.

Moonstone had placed the facility — a 16-plus acre resort

and gardens that was built in 1959, and at the time, was the first five-star hotel built in Oregon — in an auction with online platform Ten-X.com, an auction that ran from June 28-30. Aura said the prospective buyer was also due to visit the Village Green last Tuesday but did not make an appearance.

Aura said the buyer was the only one to meet the reserve

amount for the auction, an amount he declined to name. But he added that Moonstone personnel including owner Dirk Winter were okay with the sale falling through.

"Dirk had a bit of seller's remorse when the winning bid was made," Aura said. "He had a change of heart."

Since the sale has fallen through, Aura said, the hotel

will not be listed for sale again and is "off the market" unless an unsolicited offer appears and is too good to refuse. Instead, he said Moonstone will "start laying out a plan to start making some improvements" at the Village Green, though he declined to elaborate on specific improvements until plans materialize more fully.

One Cottage Grove woman dead following Friday crashes

Wreck at Layng and Row River injures several

Two separate crashes on Row River Road led to several hospitalizations and the death of a Cottage Grove woman on Friday.

The Lane County Sheriff's Office said that at about 4:30 p.m. Friday it received a report of a motor vehicle crash on Row River Road and Layng Road near Cottage Grove involving a 1991 Ford Aerostar minivan and a 2001 Ford F250 truck. Personnel with Oregon State Police and LCSO, in addition to first responders with South Lane County Fire and Rescue, responded to the scene.

According to the Sheriff's Office, a preliminary investigation indicates that the truck, which was carrying a mother and her four children, was traveling eastbound on Row River Road pulling a loaded horse trailer. The minivan, which carried seven occupants including two minors, was traveling northbound on Layng Road and attempted to turn left onto Row River Road when it collided with the truck.

Six of the seven occupants of the minivan were transported to the hospital for medical attention, including the driver, who was transported via Life Flight. One of the six was eventually flown to Doernbecher Children's Hospital in Portland. The seventh occupant of the van, who the Sheriff's Office later identified as 48-year old Francisca Chales Ramos of Cottage Grove, was pronounced deceased at the

scene. The occupants of the truck suffered injuries and were evaluated on scene. The horse was also evaluated by a veterinarian on scene for injuries.

Later on, at about 11 p.m. Friday, Sheriff's deputies reportedly noticed what was later described as a "suspicious vehicle," a white Toyota Camry, on upper Row River Road. A captain with OSP, which was later contacted to assist with the investigation, reported that the vehicle's driver accelerated from the area at a high rate of speed, disappeared and eventually crashed into some trees off the shoulder of the highway. Joe Raade of South Lane Fire and Rescue told the Eugene "Register-Guard" that the crash occurred at about Milepost 9 of Row River Road.

Sheriff Deputies arrived upon the scene moments afterward and discovered a serious-injury crash they said apparently involved the same vehicle they observed earlier. Both the operator and passenger were hospitalized with serious to life-threatening injuries.

State Police identified the driver of the Camry as 25-year old Jesse Woody of Dorena. The passenger was identified as 23-year old Levi Chase of Cottage Grove. There was no update available as to the condition of either man at Sentinel press time Monday.



Shepherd settling in

photo by Jon Stinnett

Scott Shepherd has served the Cottage Grove Police Department since 1993.

Interim chief praised, pleased though appointment isn't official

BY JON STINNETT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

Scott Shepherd said he'd "absolutely" be honored to serve as full-time chief of the Cottage Grove Police Department. Which is probably a good thing, considering he's already more or

less doing just that.

Former Chief Mike Grover announced in September of last year that he would be retiring from the position after serving CGPD for over 30 years. At the time, Shepherd was named interim chief for a period of six months, a period that has long since passed.

"That's what the goal was, but of course we've gone beyond that," said Shepherd's boss, Cottage Grove City Manager Richard Meyers.

Meyers said the City plans to announce an in-house recruitment for the

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Community band, #instaballet to augment Monday's Symphony performance

The return of the Eugene Symphony to Cottage Grove for its second-annual outdoor performance in the Bohemia Park amphitheater will feature a full evening of entertainment with the addition of new activities prior to the evening's feature performance.

The Symphony will return this Monday, July 18 for a free concert that begins at 7:30 p.m., though there will be plenty to do prior to start time. At 5:30, professional musicians from the Eugene Symphony Association will be holding an Instrument Petting Zoo, which aims to offer the opportunity for visitors of all ages to handle and try out instruments like those that will be heard in the Symphony's performance.

City Manager Richard Meyers told the City Council recently that the community has not been notified which instruments will be on hand at the "zoo."

At 6:30 p.m., Cottage Grove's own Community Band will perform. The Community Band was started in 2010, as a way for local musicians to play together each summer without having to leave town and is in its seventh summer program this year. The band was created and is directed by retired band director Bob Dill. Cottage Grove middle and high school directors Joanna Newton and Gabe Dickinson also help direct and conduct the band, which is made up of community adult musicians of all ages, as well as current college stu-

dents home for the summer and a select group of current high-school students. The band receives rehearsal space and support from the First Presbyterian Church of Cottage Grove and rehearses there weekly each June and July. The group will also perform a concert at the church on Thursday, July 21 at 7 p.m., an evening that will also feature performances by local school musicians taking part in a summer band camp.

At 6:50 p.m., following the Community Band performance, #instaballet will perform. The group is billed as an interactive dance performance group

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courtesy photo

The Eugene Symphony will return to Bohemia Park for the second in a series of outdoor concerts on Monday, July 18.

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