

DeFazio visits — 3A  
 Peach paradise — 6A  
 Jamborees! — 1B

# Cottage Grove Sentinel

photo by Patti Hardy  
 Late-summer sunshine illuminates Cottage Grove Lake.

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 31 2016

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

VOLUME 129 • NUMBER 10

## FIRE WATCH, 2016

### Fire on the mountain

Blaze burns two acres on Mt. David

BY JON STINNETT  
 The Cottage Grove Sentinel

South Lane County Fire and Rescue Chief John Wooten did not mince words when assessing the impact a helicopter had on efforts to suppress a fire that broke out on Mt. David in Cottage Grove last week.

"The helicopter saved our bacon," Wooten said of a Weyerhaeuser chopper and pilot that helped douse the flames that sprung up behind an apartment complex in Cottage Grove's Northwest Neighborhood just after 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 24. "There's no question that if the helicopter hadn't been used, we would have had a much larger, more intense fire. They saved the day."

The first call regarding the blaze came into police dispatchers at 4:36 p.m., indicating that the fire was burning in a wooded area on the southern slope of Mt. David, a landmark slope that rises above Cottage Grove immediately to its northwest.

Cottage Grove Interim Police Chief Scott Shepherd said that he personally arrived early on at the area above J Street to see a fire burning about 20-30 yards up the hill behind the complex and two young bystanders using shovels in an attempt to put it out.

"The winds looked like they were already blowing it up the hill," Shepherd said. He added that he saw a burnt rug in the woods and a charred area low on a tree trunk that may have been where the fire began. In a press release later that evening, Shepherd classified the fire as an incident of "reckless burning" and asked that anyone with information on who may have started the blaze to contact CGPD at 541-942-9145. Police will cooperate

Please see **FIRE**, Page 11A



A helicopter pilot douses flames near the summit of Mt. David, as witnessed from a nearby backyard, on Wednesday, Aug. 24.

photo by Bob Klavano

### Teens arrested, charged after park, trail fires

BY JON STINNETT  
 The Cottage Grove Sentinel

Three teens are reportedly in custody at the Serbu Youth Center after police say they deliberately set fires in a restroom and along a popular trail in Cottage Grove on Friday.

Cottage Grove Police Department Commander Conrad Gagner said via a news release that his department and South Lane County Fire and Rescue personnel responded to Bohemia Park along 10th Street in Cottage Grove at about 12:30 p.m. Friday regarding a report of a fire in the park's pub-

lic restroom. Police say the fire was quickly extinguished after doing minimal damage and filling the restroom with smoke.

Officer Sean Branstetter told the Sentinel Monday that two other officers, Josh Dumas and Tami Miles, were able to track down one of three suspects captured on video surveillance footage shortly after the fire due to the description of their clothing. That one suspect eventually gave police the names of the other three teens captured on the video, Branstetter said, though he added that the suspect's information wasn't entirely truthful.

Branstetter said he had planned to go to

Coiner Park to confront the other suspects, who were due for a rendezvous with the first suspect, when he got word that a second fire had been set, allegedly by the other suspects, near the Row River Trail between the trail and the Cottage Grove Walmart store. Calls regarding that blaze came in just before 2 p.m.

"The fire was estimated to be approximately 800 square feet in size when, fortunately, there happened to be an Oregon Department of Forestry water tanker in the area which was able to be deployed very quickly

Please see **TEENS**, Page 11A

### Fires, conditions prompt emergency restrictions

While taking a break from fighting a fire that broke out on the southern slope of Mt. David last Wednesday, Aug. 24, South Lane Fire and Rescue Chief John Wooten said that the behavior of the fire, coupled with dry, hot and windy conditions, might prompt him to issue an emergency order for the District placing a temporary ban on activities that could contribute to setting other fires. The emergency order came soon after, though by Sunday, South Lane had eased the fire restrictions somewhat. An update to the emergency order reads that, "in accordance with ORS 478.960, within the

city limits of Cottage Grove, Creswell, and any area within SLCFR District boundaries not protected by the Western Lane or Eastern Lane Districts of ODF, the following restrictions are in place, until rescinded by the Fire Chief of SLCFR:"

**No open flames** are allowed out of doors, including no campfires, warming fires, cooking fires or ceremonial fires not within a fire pit. Gas and briquette barbecues are allowed but are restricted to use on hard, non-flammable surfaces such as patios, driveways, gravel or green irrigated lawns.

**No power equipment** such as mowers, chain saws, stump

grinders, etc. may be operated on or near dry grass, brush or trees at any time between the hours of 11 a.m. and 7 p.m., EXCEPT that mowing of green, irrigated lawns is allowed at any time.

**No smoking** outside of buildings or vehicles in any area with dry grass, brush or trees.

**No operation of welding or metal cutting equipment** out of doors in any area with dry grass, brush or trees.

**All logging operations**, including power saws, cable yarders, and tractor/skidder, feller-buncher, forwarder, or shovel logging operations are **prohibited** outside of the current IFPL for

Western and Eastern Lane ODF Districts.

**All construction operations involving dozers or graders** are restricted to streets or roads, developed building sites, or other areas of non-flammable surfaces except those allowed within the current IFPL for Western or Eastern Lane ODF Districts. Those construction operations in dry or dead grass, brush, or trees must have fire protection capabilities on site.

**Any other spark-emitting operation** not specifically mentioned is prohibited out of doors in areas containing dry grass, brush or trees.

### Elementary school plans detailed

Rising construction costs, design, timeline discussed

BY JON STINNETT  
 The Cottage Grove Sentinel

Last May, local voters approved a nearly \$36 million bond levy to replace the aging Harrison Elementary School building in Cottage Grove and make technology, security and other upgrades throughout South Lane School District. On Thursday evening, district officials joined the architect charged with designing the new school to detail their plans and progress. The dimensions and layout of the school were discussed, as was the impact that escalating construction costs may have on the project and the District's early efforts to make security and other upgrades.

District staffers comprised a large portion of the group gathered at the Cottage Grove High School library, though residents living near the Taylor Street property on which the new school will be built were also invited. South Lane Superintendent Krista Parent told the group that the District had sold the bonds in July, faring quite well on the bond market, and that the funds are already in the District's bank account.

Since then, Parent said, teams of teachers, kitchen and maintenance staff and technology experts have met several times to fine-tune various aspects of the school's design. Mike Gorman of BLRB Architects met with many of those groups himself, and Gorman was on hand to showcase the most recent design.

Please see **HARRISON**, Page 11A

### Brewstation burgled

Computers, sound equipment stolen from downtown pub

BY JON STINNETT  
 The Cottage Grove Sentinel

An overnight break-in at the Brewstation pub on Sixth Street in downtown Cottage Grove led to the theft of computers and much of the pub's sound equipment.

Cottage Grove Police said that signs of forcible entry were observed at the Brewstation after the break-in, which was discovered Saturday and must have occurred after the pub closed Friday evening. Officer Sean Branstetter said the thieves made off with two speakers or monitors at floor level, though they were not able to take the main monitors chained high up on the wall of the Brewstation's performance space. Computers were also taken.

Branstetter said the assailants left a small pry bar behind and that evidence indicated they had later used a much larger pry bar to force open a sliding door and gain entry to the building.

"There were some three-inch marks where a large pry bar had been used," he said. "It had to be somebody strong to break the door that way, and there had to be someone small to get into the building through the opening they had created."

Branstetter added that those facts lead him to believe that more than one assailant participated in the burglary. He said police recovered a few partial fingerprints from the scene, including a print on the key to the cash register. Prints were later taken of pub ownership and employees to eliminate them as sources of the fingerprints. Branstetter also said that the method employed by the burglars leads him to believe they knew what they were after.

"I can't imagine it would not have been somebody that visited that restaurant before," he said. Police reviewed video from surrounding businesses, he said, including video from Les Schwab that appeared to show flashlights at the Brewstation, but police "couldn't make out anything" from the video. Surveillance cameras at other locations did not offer a glimpse at the Brewstation, he said.

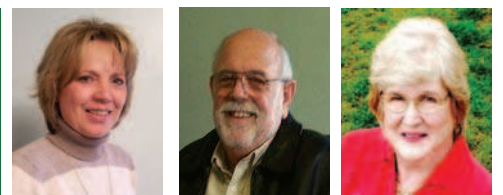
Owner Emily Rinck said that ownership, staff and supporters felt violated by the incident, though she added that they have been comforted by the support that they have been shown since.

RAIN COUNTRY REALTY INC.



RainCountryRealty.com raincountryrealty@gmail.com 1320 Hwy 99 • 541-942-7246

We wish you a safe and sober Labor Day weekend from your friends and neighbors at Rain Country Realty Inc.



Principal Brokers  
 Teresa Abbott .....221-1735  
 Frank Brazell.....953-2407  
 Broker  
 Valerie Nash .....521-1618



#### CONTACT US

On the Internet  
 By telephone  
 By fax  
 By e-mail  
 By mail  
 In person

www.cgsentinel.com  
 (541) 942-3325  
 (541) 942-3328  
 cgnews@cgsentinel.com  
 P.O. Box 35, Cottage Grove, OR 97424  
 Corner of Sixth and Whiteaker, Cottage Grove

#### WEATHER



Partly Cloudy

HIGH 74  
 LOW 51

#### CONTENTS

Calendar.....11B  
 Channel Guide.....4B  
 Classified ads.....6B  
 Obituaries.....2A  
 Opinion.....4A  
 Public Safety.....5A  
 Sports.....1B



6 18134 42405 2

1 Dollar