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

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Cottage Grove Sentinel

Bakery's next generation goes
Beyond Bread
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Volleyball cruising despite fall in rank,
page 1B

Council mulls shopping cart ordinance

BY JON STINNETT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

The Cottage Grove City Council voiced support Monday night for a citywide ordinance that would authorize penalties for local businesses that fail to retrieve shopping carts that have been removed from their premises in a timely manner.

Ordinance No. 2010-03, modeled on ordinances currently in effect in Roseburg and Forest Grove, would require businesses that supply shopping carts for public use to post signs showing that their business owns those carts, in addition to stating that removing shopping carts from their premises is a crime. The ordinance would also require businesses to provide a telephone number for the public to report abandoned carts. Business owners would also be required to retrieve abandoned carts within 72 hours or the City may take custody and impose a \$50 penalty on the owner of the cart. If not claimed, the City could take custody of the cart after 30 days.

City Manager Richard Meyers said that exploring a shopping cart ordinance came in response to a "proliferation of carts dumped on sidewalks, streets and in parks." Meyers said that, contrary to the beliefs of some that the carts are being taken and utilized by the homeless, the carts are more often taken by community members who use them to transport items, then abandon them.

"They end up in the river and in the parks," Meyers said. "We've been collecting them, taking them to the city shop and then calling their owners. This ordinance is a way to try to help encourage businesses to help us with this problem."

Meyers acknowledged that local businesses that provide shopping carts had not been consulted prior to Monday's discussion, and Councilor Jake Boone was among those in favor of communicating with those businesses to determine whether they might have ideas that could mitigate the problem.

"We need to talk to the store owners, because they're going to have a number of ideas about this," Boone said.

Councilor Jeff Gowing said that he wasn't in favor of a solution espoused by a previous grocery business that required customers to submit a 25-cent deposit before taking a cart. Councilor Garland Burback said the City should simply crush the carts and "tell the stores tough luck." Councilor Kenneth Michael Roberts said that he had been riding with city Public Works crews that day and had seen the amount of energy they spent dealing with abandoned shopping carts.

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photo by Jon Stinnett

Librarian Natasha Chitow helps Sharon Kness access a new computer at the Cottage Grove Library, which recently upgraded its public machines.

Tech partnership paying off, City says

Contract with LCOG for IT reportedly paying dividends

BY JON STINNETT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

Cottage Grove Community Services Director Pete Barrell, who oversees operations at the C.G. Library, estimates that about half of the Library's users visit to access a computer. These days, those visitors are able to access newer and more reliable machines, in part through a partnership between the City and the Lane Council of Governments (LCOG).

For about a decade, Barrell said a volunteer, Joseph Toman, kept the Library's computer system going on his own. Still, the need for newer machines was palpable, and a contract between the City and LCOG, which works to help area cities and Lane County meet their shared goals, made an upgrade possible. Despite having fewer computers available, Barrell said

the Library now has higher quality versions, and a new wireless Internet router has streamlined online visits for library users.

Barrell said the Library is also exploring the idea of purchasing tablets that can be checked out for use in the building or, eventually, taken home. Other ideas include a kids' computer zone.

"As soon as we open up our technology, it can be a huge draw," Barrell said. "People are looking for more contemporary ways to access information, and we want to be a source for that."

Last spring, the City contracted with LCOG for all of its Internet technologies services, an arrangement that has proven beneficial, according to City Manager Richard Meyers.

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Fire Chief changes format of restrictions

South Lane County Fire and Rescue Chief John Wooten announced an easing of the fire restrictions in place throughout the District last week, in addition to a change in the format of any future restrictions.

Wooten wrote that the set of regulations released last week are designed from now on to be in effect from the beginning of fire season until the season ends, adding that the District will be moving away from the practice of issuing and re-issuing emergency orders in response to changing fire conditions.

South Lane will also move away from announcing restrictions in accordance with the Industrial Fire Precaution levels issued by the Oregon Department of Forestry, Wooten said, and will enact restrictions that are designed with the general public in mind and are "reflective of fire danger based on low, medium, high and extreme" levels. Wooten said that ODF was helpful in consulting with South Lane Fire to draft the new regulations document. The current restrictions, which will last until the end of fire season (which will occur when the Lane Regional Air Protection Authority declares the legal start of open burning in Lane County unless Wooten lifts the restrictions first) are:

Smoking is prohibited while traveling, except in vehicles on improved roads, in boats on the water and other designated locations.

Open fires are prohibited, including campfires, charcoal fires, cooking fires and warming fires, except at locations where fire pits are present. Portable cooking stoves using liquefied or bottled fuels are allowed. Briquette use is allowed in barbecues, but is restricted to use on hard, non-flammable surfaces such as patios, driveways, gravel or green irrigated lawns.

The use of power saws is prohibited during extreme fire danger. Power saw use is permitted before 10 a.m. and after 8 p.m. during low, moderate and high fire danger. Each power saw is required to have one shovel and one fire extinguisher of at least eight-ounce capacity.

Cutting, grinding and welding of metal is prohibited during extreme fire danger. This activity is permitted before 10 a.m. and after 8 p.m. during low, moderate, and high fire danger, as long as it is conducted in a cleared area, and has a charged garden hose or 2 1/2 pound or larger fire extinguisher immediately available.

The mowing of dried, cured grass is prohibited during extreme fire danger. This activity is permitted before 10 a.m. and after 8 p.m. during low, moderate and high fire danger. The culture and harvest of agricultural crops is exempt from this requirement.

Motor vehicles, including motorcycles and all-terrain vehicles, are only allowed on improved roads free of flammable vegetation, except for the culture and harvest of agricultural crops.

Use of illegal fireworks is prohibited at all times, and in any location within the District. Legal firework use is permitted in areas free of dried, cured grasses, brush, or trees. Generally firework use is only permitted on asphalt, concrete, or gravel and a charged garden hose or one 2 1/2 pound or larger fire extinguisher is immediately available.

Pioneering realtor marks 50 years in business, reflects on changes

BY JON STINNETT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

Signed in 1963, the charter document of Cottage Grove's Board of Realtors is noticeable for the list of prominent realtors and other community members it contains. These days, however, the list also stands out for another reason — the gender of most of the Board's charter members.

"I used to count the number of women, and at the time, there just weren't that many," said Ruth Hemenway-Duran. "Now, there are a lot more women, and it actually seems more likely that your realtor is going to be female."

The gender shift in real estate is far from the only change in the local market that Hemenway-Duran, who celebrates 50 years in real estate this year, has witnessed since 1966, when she obtained her real estate license at age 21. And Hemenway-Duran is certainly not the first in her family to journey into the business. The daughter of James and Julia Hemenway, who started their own business in 1959, Hemenway-Duran also pointed out that her great-grandfather had a real estate business, in addition to a dry goods store and mining interests, in this community's earliest days. Still, her parents were a shining example of a power couple.

"He and Mom did everything together," Hemenway-Duran said of her father. "She didn't have her name out there, but she was very involved."

Perhaps Hemenway-Duran took some cues on being a strong woman in business from her mother, lessons she first put to use at an office in Creswell.

"Real estate is actually pretty equal-opportunity," she said. "If you make the sale, you get the commission, and it was one of the first areas where women could succeed equally if they were able to do the work."

Hemenway-Duran said those early days in Creswell offered a few hard-won lessons.

"In the old days, you didn't

share real estate listings," she said. "Over time, realtors have made cooperation the norm, but it sure wasn't 50 years ago. Now, it's competitive yet cooperative, and we acknowledge that we need other people to help fulfill our clients' goals."

Hemenway-Duran was instrumental in starting the Women's Council for realtors in Oregon, and she said she's proud of how many women may have entered the business through the Council's efforts.

Since then, the technology behind real estate has also changed tremendously, which Hemenway-Duran underscores

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photo by Jon Stinnett

Ruth Hemenway-Duran checks real estate listings in her home office; Hemenway-Duran marks 50 years in real estate this year.

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1320 Hwy 99 • 541-942-7246

CONTACT US

On the Internet
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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

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