

South Lane Fire acquires new equipment

South Lane Fire and Rescue recently received a new fire engine to replace an outdated one. Division Chief and EMS Training Officer Joe Raade said that the new fire truck was a very necessary acquisition. The old fire engine is from 1986 and was deemed unsafe to drive by an independent investigator. The fire equipment goes through yearly inspections to determine the conditions of the firehouse's equipment. The new fire truck can now seat four people as opposed to the old one, which only sat two. South Lane Fire and Rescue received the funding for a new fire engine as part of a bond approved by local voters.



photo by Sam Wright

This new fire engine replaces one that was built in 1986.

Surgery to sideline Municipal Court Judge

An injury reportedly sustained while playing soccer has sidelined Cottage Grove's Municipal Court Judge.

At its Monday, Oct. 24 meeting, the Cottage Grove City Council moved to appoint Dawn Reynolds as its Judge Pro Tempore for the period of the absence of Judge Martin Fisher, who has stated that he plans to miss at least the first two weeks of court in November. Fisher wrote to the Council that he is scheduled to have surgery to

reconstruct the anterior cruciate ligament in his knee, though city officials added that he may be out for up to six weeks in recovery.

The judge's contract stipulates that he himself shall arrange for the compensation of the pro-tem judge (a term denoting one who acts in the absence of a regular position-holder).

"On the recommendation of attorneys who have appeared before her, as well as my own review, I am proposing that the Council appoint Dawn Reynolds

as a pro-tem judge," Fisher wrote. "Ms. Reynolds has an impressive resume, including as a municipal court judge and pro-tem judge in the state of Washington and, more recently, in Florence."

Reynolds' resume describes 25 years' experience as an attorney in both the private and public sector with experience in civil, criminal and administrative law. She is currently a partner at Brissenden and Reynolds, LLC, which provides counseling to individuals, small busi-

nesses and non-profits.

Fisher pointed out that Kathy Kely, a longtime veteran of the Municipal Court, had previously been appointed a pro-tem judge, though she "has taken on other obligations and is no longer able to fill that position."

"Although the court needs to have a pro-tem judge available generally, at the moment the issue is fairly pressing," Fisher wrote.

Low-Income Energy Assistance Program awaits funding release

The federal office of Health and Human Services has released funding to the states for this winter's Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), which helps income-qualified households with their home energy bills in the winter.

Beginning Tuesday, Nov. 1, non-profit and senior services agencies that administer the LIHEAP program throughout Lane County began placing households on LIHEAP appointment waiting lists. Interested households may place themselves on a waiting list by calling one of the agencies that operate the program. In Cottage Grove, households without a senior citizen or those with a disabled resident can access the program at Community Sharing in Cottage Grove; those with senior or disabled residents are asked to contact Cottage Grove Senior Connections.

Lane County said it has not received its LIHEAP allocation yet from the State but is anticipating a similar LIHEAP

funding level as last year.

If a household doesn't get on the LIHEAP waiting list in early November, the household is advised to try again the first working day of each month all the way until June, as agencies do re-open their LIHEAP waiting lists more than once each year.

To qualify for LIHEAP, a household's current gross monthly income must be at or below 60 percent of Oregon's median income level. A household of one person can have a gross monthly income as high as \$1,885 and qualify. A household of four people can have a gross monthly income of \$3,625 and qualify.

The amount of assistance a household receives depends on a number of factors. The program pays the assistance directly into a household's utility account as a one-time payment that can range from \$150-\$550. Interested households may call one of the agencies listed below to be placed on a waiting list.

Art Walk wraps a busy 2016 season

BY JON STINNETT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

Downtown Cottage Grove hosted its final Art Walk of the season on Friday, and organizer Michele Rose said the event series had a busy 2016.

While taking in the sights at Five Flying Monkeys thrift/vintage store, Rose said that organizers responded to requests from the public to extend Art Walk hours — the event had previously been held from 6-8 p.m. but was lengthened to 6-9 p.m. this season. It's a move, however, that won't be duplicated.

"We don't need to do it," she

said. "People wanted the extra hour, but by 8 p.m., people are pretty much done."

Rose said that Art Walk has lined up "a good core list" of local artists from which to draw for future events, and she added that plans for next year involve more traveling musicians to wander the streets with their tunes.

"It's been a good year," Rose said. The spring months of April and May were the busiest this year, she said. June and July's events featured hot weather that may have kept some visitors away, though things picked up in recent months.



photo by Jon Stinnett

Stephanie Kornman (right) shows off her 'art to inspire a sweeter life' at Five Flying Monkeys with her mom, Juanita.

New school for youth takes off at Aprovecho

Elemental Exploration Education, a seasonal-based session of classes for kids aged 4-9 years, begins Wednesday, Nov. 9 at Aprovecho (west) in Cottage Grove.

More information is available at: <https://www.facebook.com/Elemental-Exploration-Education-187086198382336/>

This is the first session of EEE courses, a sustainability and social justice focused, artful education program that aims to inspire and engage individuals holistically in sustainability and social justice. Current times offered are aimed at precocious preschoolers, children that missed the kindergarten cut off, and homeschooled kids. Lead

instructor Heather Greene describes herself as an artist, wild-crafter, farming, homeschooling mother of four. She is currently completing her thesis for a graduate degree at Marylhurst University in Food Systems and Society, and she has a bachelors degree in Interdisciplinary studies- Social Science, Art, and World Culture/Health.

There will be a winter and spring session, as well as two special short summer camp intensives in June and August (This will be the third annual EEE summer camp). Future offerings will provide opportunities to individuals of all ages and abilities.

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