

Fire department, councilman set record straight

A comment during an open meeting relayed false information

BY CAITLYN MAY
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The Jan. 9 Cottage Grove City Council meeting covered a variety of issues facing the city in the coming year including added costs to the Taylor Pump Station project and a review of the city's budget but it was a comment from councilman Burback that garnered attention.

During the open meeting, Burbeck used his time during council concerns to address the audience and inquire about a neighbor's house fire. In the process, he alleged the fire department was answering another call outside of Cottage Grove and took 40 minutes to respond to his neighbor's emergency. Burbeck said he understood the fire district was large but was curious as to why the department's response time was so long.

Burback was referencing information he had received from individuals on the scene and according to city manager Richard Meyers, presenting questions about the incident to the city council and staff.

Since the Jan. 9 meeting, more accurate information has been shared with city officials that note South Lane Fire and Rescue responded to the scene in 16 minutes; not 40.

"The passage of time is skewed in the case of an emergency," said District Chief John Wooten. "What feels like 15 minutes was actually five minutes and we see that a lot."

Councilman Burback said he was relaying information he had heard from a neighbor.

"Just a misunderstanding and I should have just contacted the fire chief to begin with," he said. He noted that he had informed his neighbors of the fire department's actual response time to the incident.

Wooten echoed Burback's statement and noted, "I don't think he intentionally put that information out there. I think he said what he was told by his



constituents."

The Dec. 17 call was one of two that required the department's attention; a rarity according to Wooten but he said rumors circulating that the city of Cottage Grove is left unattended when department personnel answer calls elsewhere in the district, are false. Several inter-agency agreements are in place that allow departments in other cities to respond to emergencies in Cottage Grove.

"It's just not true," Wooten said. "Everyone in the district is entitled to be covered but the

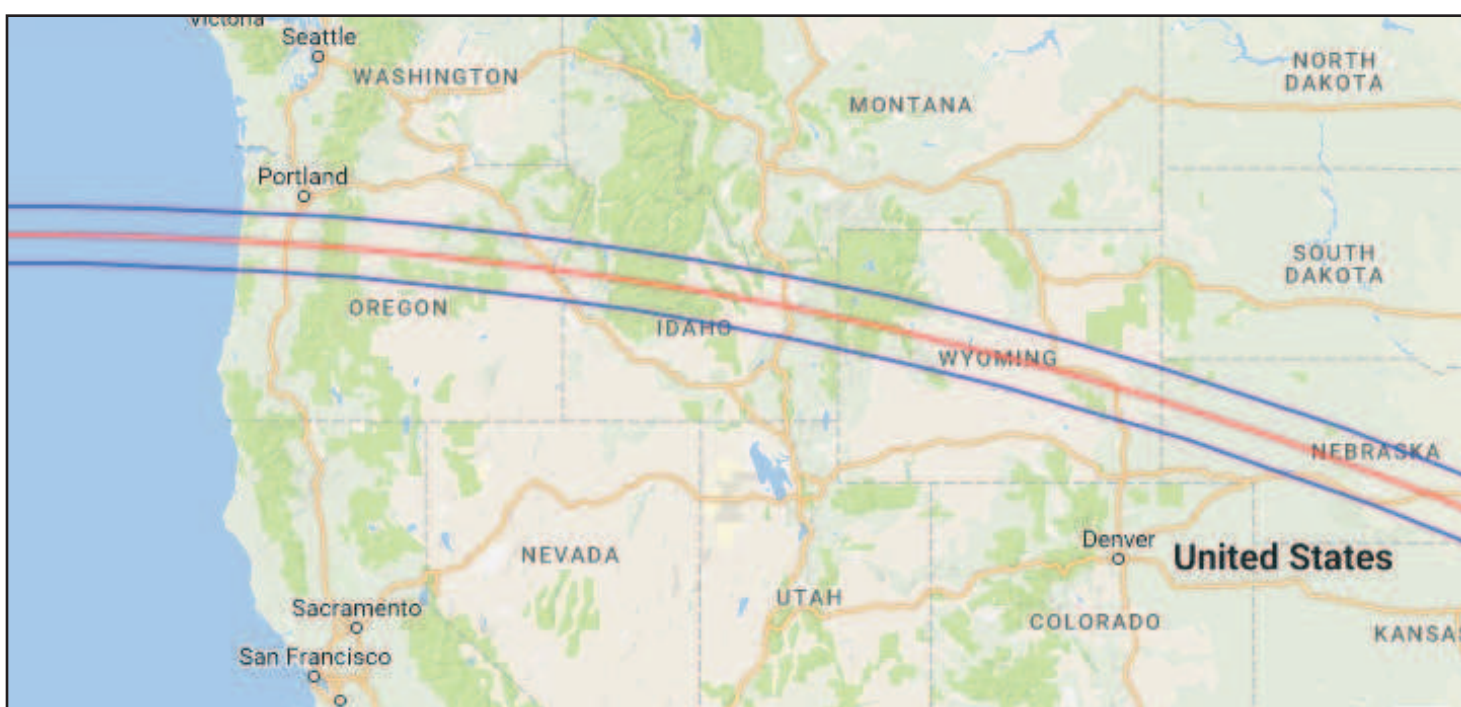
city is never left unattended."

Currently, South Lane Fire and Rescue operates with seven career personnel on shift, supplemented with three resident interns. Industry standards mandate 14-16 individuals on scene of a structure fire.

"Full staff here is seven people. Full staff in Creswell is four people. But that's where our agreements come in," Wooten said. "I'm not the chief to cry over spilled milk. We do what we do with what we have."

Eclipse sells out Oregon, not Cottage Grove

Cities quickly sold out hotels and campgrounds but Cottage Grove has vacancies



The map above, courtesy of NASA, shows the path of the August 21 eclipse set to pass over the state of Oregon.

On August 21, the sun will vanish.

The first total solar eclipse since 1979 is scheduled to pass over 13 states and its first stop is Oregon.

As a result, several cities in the state have completely booked hotel rooms and camping grounds. In Cottage Grove, all four lodging facilities are reporting available rooms for the weekend of the event.

"We hadn't done a campaign because we're not, in any of

the maps that I've seen, in the awesome path, if you will," said Travis Palmer, Cottage Grove Chamber of Commerce Executive Director.

Cottage Grove isn't in the direct path of the eclipse but according to NASA, cities that hundreds of miles outside of the direct path will still be able to see the eclipse which is expected to last for two minutes in the state of Oregon.

The eclipse is expected to hit Oregon just after 10:15 a.m. and

leave the state just before 10:30 and while hotel rooms in Salem are sold out for a viewing at the city's fairgrounds, all four of Cottage Grove's establishments have vacancies.

"We are close enough to it that I think it would be worth staying here if you can't get a spot in the path," Palmer said. However, due to budget constraints, the chamber will not be launching a campaign to court potential guests to the city.

"I think it's one of those

things that we'll let people know we're here and available but to put money into it that we don't have in the budget when it's likely we will probably be filling those rooms anyway, is not possible," Palmer said.

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Worship Directory

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Gateway Family Fellowship
Church of the Nazarene
337 "C" St. Drain, OR
Sunday School 9:30am
Worship 10:45am
Living Hope Free Lunch
Wed. at 12:30pm
541-836-7051 www.drainnaz.org

HOPE U.M.C.
131 W "A" St. Drain, OR
541-315-1617
Pastor: Lura Kidner-Miesen
Bible Study: 10:45am
Potluck Lunch: 11:45
Worship: 12:30pm

COTTAGE GROVE:
6th & Gibbs Church of Christ
195 N. 6th St. • 541-942-3822
Pastor: Aaron Earlywine
Youth & Families Pastor: Seth Bailey
Services: 9am and 10:30am
Christian Education
Nursery for pre-k - 3rd Grade
www.6thandgibbs.com

Calvary Baptist Church
77873 S 6th St • 541-942-4290
Pastor: Riley Hendricks
Sunday School: 9:45am
Worship: 11:00am
The Journey: Sunday 5:00pm
Praying Thru Life: Wednesday 6:00pm

Calvary Chapel Cottage Grove
1447 Hwy 99 (Village Plaza)
541-942-6842
Pastor: Jeff Smith
Two Services on Sun: 9am & 10:45am
Youth Group Bible Study
Child Care 10:45am Service Only
www.cgcalvary.org

Center for Spiritual Living
Cottage Grove
700 Gibbs Ave. (Community Center)
Rev. Bobby Lee
Meets Sunday 3:00 p.m.
cslcottagegrove@gmail.com

Church of Christ
420 Monroe St • 541-942-8565
Sunday Service: 10:30am

Cottage Grove Bible Church
1200 East Quincy Avenue
541-942-4771
Pastor: Bob Singer
Worship 11am
Sunday School: 9:45am
AWANA age 3-8th Grade,
Wednesdays Sept-May, 6:30pm
www.cgbible.org

Cottage Grove Faith Center
33761 Row River Rd. • 541-942-4851
Lead Pastor: Isaac Hovet
www.cg4.tv
Summer Schedule: Sunday Service 10am
Full Children's Ministry available

Covered Bridge Nazarene Church
152 S. M St.
541-942-4422
Pastor: Cindy Slaymaker
Sunday School: 9:30am
Worship 10:30am

Delight Valley
Church of Christ
33087 Saginaw Rd. East
541-942-7711
Pastor: Bob Friend
Two Services:
9am - Classic in the Chapel
10:30am - Contemporary in the Auditorium

First Presbyterian Church
3rd and Adams St • 541-942-4479
Pastor: Karen Hill
Worship: 10:00am
Sunday School: 10:00am
www.cgpresbynews.com

Grove Community Church
77820 Mosby Creek Rd.
Cottage Grove, OR 97424
541-942-0123
Pastor: Bryan Parsons
Worship: 10:30 a.m.
Nursery: Infant - Pre-K
Kid's Church: K to 5th grade

Hope Fellowship
United Pentecostal Church
100 S. Gateway Blvd. • 541-942-2061
Pastor: Dave Bragg
Worship: 11:00am Sunday
Bible Study: 7:00pm Wednesday
www.hopefellowshipupcc.com
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Living Faith Assembly
467 S. 10th St. • 541-942-2612
Pastor Rulon Combs
Worship & Children's
Church 10:00 am
Youth 180 Mondays 5:30-8pm

Non-Denominational Church of Christ
1041 Pennoyer Ave * 541-767-0447
Preachers: Tony Martin & Robert Evans
Sunday Bible Study: 10:00am
Sunday Worship: 10:50am & 5:30pm
www.pennoyeravcc.com

Old Time Gospel Fellowship
103 S. 5th St. • 541-942-4999
Pastor: Jim Edwards
Sunday Service: 10:00am
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Catholic Churches
1025 N. 19th St.
541-942-3420 / 541-942-4712
Pastor: Roy L. Antunez, S.J.
Euch. Liturgies; Sat. 5:30pm
Sun. 10:30am
St. Philip Benizi, Creswell:
552 Holbrook Lane • 541-895-8686
Sunday: 8:30am

St. Andrews Episcopal Church
1301 W. Main • 541-767-9050
Rev. Lawrence Crumb
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Worship: Sunday 10:30am
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Seventh-day Adventist Church
820 South 10th Street
541-942-5213
Pastor: Kevin Miller
Bible Study: Saturday, 9:15 am
Worship Service: Saturday, 10:40 am
Mid-week Service: Wednesday, 1:00 pm

Trinity Lutheran Church
6th & Quincy • 541-942-2373
Pastor: James L. Markus
Sunday School & Adult Education 9:15am
Sunday Worship 10:30 am
Comm. Kitchen Free Meal Tue & Thur
5:00pm TLC Groups
tlccg.com

United Methodist Church
334 Washington • 541-942-3033
Pastor: Lura Kidner-Miesen
Worship: 10:30am
Comm. Dinner (Adults \$5, Kids Free)
2nd & 3rd Monday 5-6:00pm
cottagegroveumc.org

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Pastor: Barbara Dockery
Worship Service: 10:00am
Message: 11:00am
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