

Hundreds come out for Party in the Park



PHOTO COURTESY PARTY IN THE PARK FACEBOOK PAGE

Party in the Park gave away 400 backpacks filled with back to school supplies on Saturday, August 5 in Coiner Park.

By Eric Schucht
For The Sentinel

The 17th annual Party in the Park was held last weekend in Coiner Park where over 400 backpacks filled with school supplies were given out. Hosted by the Cottage Grove Faith Center, with help from the 6th and Gibbs Church and the Living Faith Assembly, the event gave out 15,000 hot dogs, 1,000 snow cones and featured various activities. Nail and face painting, a dunk tank, a bounce house, music and giant bubbles were also available to participants.

"This is an outreach for the churches, we just want to share love and grace with people. We just wanna make this as fun as possible and let people know that they are loved in this town and supported," the event's coordinator, Shane May, said. "I want them to feel loved and cherished and know that they are worthy and a part of this community and support them."

The Faith Center collected over \$2,500 from it's members for the event and obtain donations from local business and community members.

"We love to see the smiles on kids when

they walk away with that new backpack," Shelia Powell, the church administrator at Cottage Faith Center, said.

Over 50 people donned red shirts to volunteer at the event including Victor Pearson who manned the sound system for the event.

"It's a lot of fun, even for the people who are working," he said.

People like Alicia Sanders were grateful for the free school packs and welcomed the activities for her children. Her kids were especially excited for the bounce house.

"It's really just something nice to do with the kids. School supplies are expensive, especially when you're buying them for more than one kid," Sanders said.

A crowd was present well before the backpacks were handed out. Bonnie Edmunds made sure to get here early in order to grab a spot at the front of the line. She



even brought her own chair. Her grandson will be entering the first grade this fall and she said he was excited for the new school supplies.

"Lived in California 20 years, never once in any place did they doing something like this for the children. So Cottage Grove is awesome, it is awesome," Edmunds said.

The event's goal was to bring members of the community together and to provide a day of fun for the families of Cottage Grove, May said.

"It's great serving people, it's great having people served, we love Cottage Grove. We love this town," May said.

Planes Continued from A1

Hazelnut farm in Jefferson, Oregon. Even with a busy day of flying ahead, he still makes time for jokes with passengers.

"The flights are free, but the landings cost 80 bucks," Carpentiero said.

Micolle Garrett celebrated her dad's 71st birthday with a ride in the biplane. While she said she did feel a bit nausea from the plane going up and down, Garrett said they had the time of their lives.

"Amazing, it was awesome. Like the best experience. It was really cool," Garrett said.

The goal of the event was to celebrate the life of Jim Wright, a local aviator and businessman who died in plane crash on August 4, 2003. The airfield was renamed in his honor in Decem-

ber of that year.

Biplanes from Oregon, California and Washington flew in for the Fly-In. Homemade steerman lined the airfield as owners and enthusiast talked about their hobby. Boeing created the steerman, a type of biplane, in the late 1930s. The biplane was used as a test plane to train WW2 pilots. After the war, the steerman sold as military surplus for civilian use. Many were used as crop dusters, Cassandra Barrong, the administer assistant for OAHS, said.

This year's Fly-In featured a pancake breakfast with all proceeds going towards supporting the OAHS's museum. The organization was originally incorporated in 1983 with a mission is

to collect, preserve, and restore Oregon related aviation artifacts for educational purposes.

"We here at Cottage Grove are excited to bring living history through these WW2 Biplanes," Barrong said.

While many came for the plane rides, Carpentiero said there were fewer planes in attendance than in previous years. Most steerman cost \$110,000, with Carpentiero's plane worth \$300,000. With the high costs and unavailability of parts, the biplane community has been shrinking in recent years.

"Yeah, it's always been old guys, these planes aren't cheap," Carpentiero said.

Regardless, many came to take part in the festivities, such as admiring each other planes

and telling stories. Some pilots even camped out on the field, Carpentiero being one of them.

In addition, the airport is alive and well. The grand opening of the Cottage Grove Welcome Center and Pilot Lounge is scheduled for August 15 at noon.

The lounge will provide indoor plumbing and running water for the pilots who use the airport. In addition, the City of Cottage Grove has donated a car for pilots to use around town. Local pilots have also donated two bikes as well. The news has created a buzz among the pilot community. As a result, traffic to the airport is expected to increase, Barrong said.



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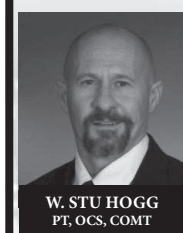
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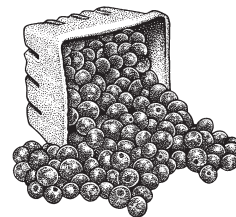
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