



# Cottage Grove Sentinel

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



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For a complete six-day forecast please see page A5.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30, 2017

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## A sweet effort

### Armory group looks to aid reconstruction with ice cream social



PHOTO BY CAITLYN MAY/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

A steady flow of visitors keeps the volunteers at the Ice Cream Social busy all afternoon as they man carnival game booths and give tours of the armory, currently under renovation and the subject of a sizeable fundraising effort.

"What's great is people who have never been in the armory are getting a chance to see what it has to offer the community." - Councilman Ken Roberts

By Caitlyn May  
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A police barricade blocked traffic from 6th St. as emergency personnel responded to their posts: monitoring the blowup fire truck/slide combo that took up residence on half the street and had children climbing to the top and toppling down all afternoon. The bounce house was just one of the activities offered at the Cottage Grove Armory's Ice Cream Social held on Saturday, August 26. From 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. nickel carnival games, live music and, of course, ice cream lured residents into the building the city says it plans to make the social hub of Cottage Grove once renovations are completed.

"What's great is people who have never been in the armory are getting a chance to see what it has to offer the community," Cottage Grove City Councilman Kenneth Roberts said in between shifts manning

Please see **ICE CREAM PG. A10**

## Homeless numbers up for Lane

By Caitlyn May  
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There are more homeless people in Oregon than there were last year and Lane County has the majority of them. This, according to the yearly point in time count conducted by Oregon Housing and Community Services as part of a nationwide effort to count homeless populations around the country. Lane County was recorded as having the second highest homeless rate, fourth largest chronically homeless population and second largest homeless veteran population behind Multnomah County.

This year's count—conducted in January by volunteers armed with questionnaires—saw the total homeless population in the state total 13,953. The number is up, six percent, from 2016's count total of 13,276. In Lane County, 1,529 individuals were counted as homeless; 42 percent of those individuals were classified as chronically homeless.

The results of the point in time count vary in their accuracy—a phenomenon officials say

Please see **HOMELESS PG. A10**



## FIRES KEEP BURNING AROUND THE STATE

### Smoke continues to fill the valley as crews work to contain several fires around Oregon

By Caitlyn May  
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Oregon's emergency personnel are fighting fires across the state as high temperatures continue to quell efforts to contain the blazes. Air quality around the state has seen-sawed between dangerous and safe while various fire districts between Portland and Eugene send personnel and equipment to assist in the firefighting efforts.

This season, wildfires have torched approximately 300,000 acres in Oregon alone with a dozen still burning thanks to a dry season and a hot summer. The closest fire to Cottage Grove, the Jones Fire in Lowell, was ignited by lightning on a hard to reach hillside and gained traction on August 12. Approximately 650 firefighters have been dispatched to the area from around the country. South Lane Fire and Rescue (SLFR) has sent personnel to Lowell as well.

"The crew that went to Sisters came home last Friday," SLFR Chief John Wooten said. "Raade (chief Joe) is in Brookings with the state fire marshal team and I might be going to the fire in Riddle but that's a big maybe."

The Milli Fire in Sisters, Oregon prompted evacuation orders and has continued to burn. "The Oregon State Fire Marshal's Green Team has triaged over 400 structures in the Black Butte Ranch and Sisters communities while on the Milli Fire. The Green Team leaves to go home today and has turned responsibility of structure protection back to the local fire agencies," the fire marshal's office reported on Friday, August 25. Residents in the area of Edginton Rd. and Remuda Rd. were given a Level 2--be set to go--evacuation notice and OR242 east of Cascade Coast has been closed.

Lane Regional Air Protection Agency (LRAPA) has reported the air quality in Cottage Grove and the surrounding areas as unhealthy due to the smoke filling the valley.

"Particulate matter levels are hovering between 'Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups' and 'Unhealthy' levels," LRAPA posted to its website. "Air quality in Lane County is not expected to clear completely until the wildfire season is over."

The air quality is causing more than just breathing complications. The Oregon Department of Forestry reported on August 27 that the Horse Prairie Fire 12 miles west of Riddle, Oregon had spread.

"One factor in the fire's sudden growth was attributed to late detection because of the thick layer of smoke that has blanketed the valley from other fires in the area. Once detected, the fire had already grown to about 40 acres and was moving rapidly through logging debris, timber and felled and bucked logs," the agency reported.

The Horse Prairie Fire is estimated to be at 750 acres and is 15 percent contained.

Please see **FIRES PG. A11**



PHOTO COURTESY INCIWEB-INCIDENT INFORMATION SYSTEM

Above, the Chetco Fire burns forcing evacuations in Brookings. Below, the Milli Fire in Sisters engulfs a tree.



**COMMUNITY**  
**Animal House 8•2018**  
"Animal House" celebration set for August, 2018.  
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**SPORTS**  
**Football starts**  
The Lions got off to a strong start at the jamboree. PAGE B1

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