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City council issues support for fire levy

By Caitlyn May
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South Lane County Fire and Rescue (SLFR) Chief Jon Wooten had a presentation planned for the Cottage Grove City Council Monday night on Ballot Measure 20-278.

Things changed. Wooten, along with Division Chief Joe Raade and several members of SLFR were sent to Cali-

fornia as part of five strike teams from Oregon to fight the wildfires that have claimed more than 30 lives and hundreds of homes.

"The experiences I had in Santa Rosa, I wondered if that could happen here and the answer is absolutely yes," Wooten told the council.

Wooten said current conditions and the increase in wildfire activity over the last few years could lend itself to a crisis like the one in California. And if Cottage Grove were to face such a crisis,

Levy set for November 7 ballot could mean cuts to service if voters say no

the fire district would need to maintain its current level of service or improve and to do that, it must be funded with a continuation of the levy.

The fire levy proposed in Measure 20-278 is not a new tax. The levy was passed in 2011 and set to renew this year by a vote of the people.

"I was on the fire board and I can't tell you how desperate the district was before the levy was passed," Councilman Mike Fleck said.

Prior to the passage of the levy, the district had an out-the-door time of three minutes and 30 seconds. The current time, with the levy in place, is

Please see FIRE LEVY PG. A11

LIONS COME HOME, WIN BIG



PHOTO BY CAITLYN MAY/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

Cottage Grove High School celebrates homecoming with its traditional parade through town. The football team beat out Sutherlin to end a winning regular season 8-0. The team will head to the state play-offs after a bye week.

Lion's Mane owner celebrates more than 30 years

By Isabel Hirst
For The Sentinel

In Cottage Grove there are many small businesses competing for survival. One that has undergone many challenges and still survived is owned by a woman named DeAnne Hirst. The Lion's Mane, a hair salon in Cottage Grove, had been up and running for almost 37 years thanks to Hirst and her management.

As you can guess in the 37 years Hirst has been in business, she's come across a few struggles as well as a few major successes. When Hirst opened her salon in 1989, she had the

struggle of finding long-term clients. Luckily, for her she was able to get her name out fast and just like that, her talents brought in many new clients. Hirst said, "At the beginning it was difficult to bring in clientele and to figure out how to run a successful business. Once I got more comfortable with the idea of owning a business, that's when I started succeeding."

Speaking to other challenges she went through as a business owner, Hirst explained that she used to run her business out of a very small building,

Please see LION'S MANE PG. A12

Dollar General continues expansion

New stores are popping up all over Oregon, but not Cottage Grove

By Caitlyn May
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PHOTO COURTESY DOLLAR GENERAL

Dollar General is expanding into three new states, including Oregon.

year to nonprofit organizations, schools and libraries within a 20-mile radius of a Dollar General store or distribution center to support adult, family, summer and youth literacy programs."

Drain lost its library after voters turned down a ballot measure to continue funding the Douglas County Library system. Cottage Grove is 17 miles from Drain, falling within the 20-mile radius detailed by Petkovic, and offers the closest functioning library.

"Since its inception in 1993, the DGLF has awarded more than \$140 million in grants to nonprofit organizations, helping more than nine million individuals take their first steps toward literacy or continued education. For more information about the

Dollar General Literacy Foundation and its grant programs, visit www.dgliteracy.com," Petkovic continued. She went on to explain that the foundation also does education and language outreach, "The Dollar General Literacy Foundation also supports individuals in the communities that Dollar General stores serve who may be interested in learning how to read, speak English or prepare for the high school equivalency test. Referrals to a local organization that provides free literacy services are available online or a postage-paid reply card that can be mailed in for information is available at the cash register of every Dollar General store."

In a few week's time, the doors to the new Dollar General in Sweet Home will open. It will follow the opening of the Dollar General in Creswell and Drain and Philomath and soon, Klamath Falls. The company announced in January of this year that it intends to open 1,000 new stores in 2017, adding to its fleet in 44 states. According to Dollar General representative Angela Petkovic, a new store typically brings six to 10 new jobs when it sets up shop in a community. However, Cottage Grove will not be seeing those jobs.

"When choosing store locations, meeting customers' needs is Dollar General's top priority. The company looks for places where we can offer customers an easy and convenient shopping choice," Petkovic said. Cottage Grove was not selected for a new location in the company's Oregon expansion.

Dollar General said it typically serves customers within a three to five mile radius, or a 10-minute drive. Cottage Grove

is located 9.2 miles from the new location in Creswell and just over 17 miles from the newly opened Drain location.

Cottage Grove Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Travis Palmer said he was unaware of the stores expansion in Oregon and "didn't know much" about the project. He noted that the company may have overlooked Cottage Grove due to the city's three existing grocery stores. Sweet Home has two grocery stores in town, Drain is home to Ray's Food Place, BiMart serves as a grocery store in Creswell and Klamath Falls has six grocery stores including Albertsons, Walmart and Fred Meyer.

Cottage Grove may not miss out completely on the benefits of Dollar General coming to town. According to Petkovic, "Dollar General is deeply involved in the communities it serves and is an ardent supporter of literacy and education through the Dollar General Literacy Foundation, which awards grants each

Guide to Halloween in Cottage Grove

By Caitlyn May
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The following is a list of known activities in the city but may not represent every opportunity for fun this Halloween.

On Thursday, October 26, activities will kick off with the Opal Center's annual Halloween Mash-up at 7:30 p.m. The show puts a spin on classically horrifying stories including Dracula. The schedule calls for a showing of "DraculaLand" which is described as follows: DraculaLand is a musical tale of undying life and love. Mina is a struggling actress in Hollywood which has been taken over by bloodsucking vampires. Will she choose the mysterious Count Dracula, her fiancé Jonathan or a life of fame and fortune?

The Oscar-less performance will be followed by Les Misery and Hairplane. Les Misery will detail an author's perilous interaction with his rescuer after having car trouble in Cottage Grove while Hairplane will tell the story of a plane full of hippies on its way to Cottage Grove.

Opal's Mash-up won't be the only theatrical celebration of Halloween this year. Cottage Theatre's schedule plays special attention to the spooky holiday by putting on Jekyll and Hyde. The classic story will be shown on stage Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2:30 p.m.

On Halloween, Cottage Grove families can take part in the Fall Family Fun event being held at the Nazarene Church on M St. The event promises a free dinner, kids clothing and games from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Delight Valley Church is also hosting an event on Halloween beginning at 6 p.m. For families who want to indulge in traditional trick-or-treating but don't want to walk blocks and blocks to score a haul of candy, Trick-or-Treat on Main St. will be held from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Main St. Booths will line Main St. manned by local businesses and children can parade down the line, receiving candy along the way.

Other Halloween-related activities this coming week include:

Please see HALLOWEEN PG. A11

COMMUNITY

Makeover
Great Days set for a day of renovations. PAGE A10



SPORTS

Lions stay perfect
The football team takes on its last regular season game. PAGE B1

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Coffee with the Editor
Last Thursday of the month
12 pm
@ Backstage Bakery
Come chat about the community!

