

Cottage Grove Retrospective

A look back at Sentinel stories from 30 and 60 years ago

CSD keeps custody of girls in 1988

From Wednesday, March 9, 1988

By Pete Malliris
1988 Sentinel Staff Writer

The state Children's Services Division maintains temporary custody of three Cottage Grove girls whose 5-year-old sister was murdered Feb. 27.

CSD filed a petition in Lane County Juvenile Court Monday alleging that the girls' mother, Coleen Edwards of Cottage Grove, has used drugs that have led to instances of child abuse.

Edwards, 27 and her lawyer, Randy Taylor of Veneta, agreed that the children should remain in CSD custody but denied allegations that she is a habitual drug user.

"We asked for the meth test. We got it; she's clean," Taylor said.

Judge Jack Mattison granted continued visitation rights to Edwards. Currently, Edwards visits her three children, ages eight, four and two, one hour each day under the supervision of the girls' grandparents, who live in Creswell.

Allotted time for the visits is expected to increase. Taylor said he is concerned that the separation from their mother could add to the

trauma the children face after their sister's death. "I don't believe the children feel their mother is on trial," Taylor added.

CSD took custody of the three children after Nicole Edwards was found dead in a farmhouse attic located near Oakville. The two oldest surviving sisters were allegedly kidnapped along with Nicole the night before but were not seriously injured. The youngest girl was not involved.

Lane and Linn County sheriff's deputies arrested Dallas Ray Stevens, 35, of Tangent in connection with the incident.

Stevens is lodged in Linn County Jail without bail. He faces charges of aggravated murder as well as four counts of first-degree kidnapping, two counts of first-degree sexual abuse, two counts of second-degree assault and one count of first-degree rape.

Police reports said the girls were abducted after getting into Stevens' car with the understanding that he would follow Coleen Edwards home.

POLICE BLOTTER

Cottage Grove Police Department 24-Hour Anonymous Tip Line: 767-0504

March 5

A woman heard sounds outside her house and reported her dogs were barking. She requested a premises check.

A male wearing a black hat headed northbound on Gateway Blvd. after reportedly striking a woman in the face while she was holding a child.

A transient was reported as sleeping on a bridge taking up the walkway.

March 4

An intoxicated woman was asked to leave the lobby of a local establishment.

A flute reported missing from Lincoln Middle School.

March 3

A woman reported being sprayed with pepper spray by a neighbor in the early daylight hours of March 3.

A syringe was found lying against the curb on Hwy. 99 near a Honda.

Two male subjects were reported trying to pass large travelers checks, buying multiple iPads and electronics.

A resident reported hearing an unknown person knocking on their doors twice.

The sound of two shots in the area of the golf course were reported.

March 2

A man in overalls was reported riding an ATV up and down 17th St. without a helmet.

Two male suspects reportedly engaged in a fight at a local restaurant.

Feb. 28

An individual turned themselves in for starting the fire on Adams Ave. Subsequently denied starting the fire after police interview.

Two males on Centennial Bridge swinging rope at passersby.

Resident reported her dogs "going crazy" while she was home alone.

An illegal camper was discovered on Airport Rd.

A female was reported to be scene "smoking meth."

National Beat

News from the state and around the nation

From around the state

The Oregon legislature granted funding to state officials tasked with monitoring elections in response to reported Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election. An additional IT position will be funded at \$166,348. Oregon was identified as one of more than 20 states targeted by hacking during the last major election cycle.

A Gallup poll released last week shows that more Oregonians identify as liberal than conservative for the first time. The poll noted that in 2016, 44 states leaned conservative with that number dropping to 39 in 2017.

Senator Tim Knopp (R) introduced an amendment last week that would make threatening a school in the state of Oregon a felony. The move comes two weeks after the mass shooting in Parkland Florida where 17 people were killed when a shooter entered a local high school. Currently, the state of Oregon classifies the threatening of a school as a misdemeanor.

House Bill 405 passed the state House last Wednesday requiring cost transparency from prescription drug companies. The bipartisan bill would mandate that drugs costing more than \$100 for a month's prescription or 10 percent more than the previous year's cost, come with information from the company that explains contributing factors related to the price including manufacturing and distribution. The bill moves onto the Senate before landing on the governor's desk.

In July, Oregon lawmakers passed a \$15 tax on bicycles purchased with at least 26-inch wheels. An effort during the current shortened session aims to expand the tax to all bicycles over \$200. The original tax was part of a landmark \$5.3 billion transportation package passed during the 2017 legislative session.

From around the nation

A teacher in Georgia was arrested last week after firing a shot inside a classroom at Dalton High School. The math instructor allegedly barricaded himself in a classroom and fired a handgun. His intention was not yet known as of Monday, March 5.

Students from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida returned to school last week, two weeks after the Feb. 14 shooting that killed 17 of their classmates and teachers. Students were not permitted backpacks and were met by a group of therapy dogs at the entrance of the school.

White House Communications Director Hope Hicks submitted her resignation on Wednesday, Feb. 28.

President Trump announced on Thursday, March 1 that he would impose a 25 percent tariff on steel and a 10 percent tariff on aluminum.

More than a dozen companies have cut ties with the NRA after the fatal shooting in Parkland, Florida that killed 17 students and administrators. Businesses include Delta, Best Western, Hertz, Enterprise and MetLife. Since the shooting, Walmart, Fred Meyers and Dick's Sporting Goods have announced they will alter the way they sell firearms, raising the age from 18 to 21 in some cases and removing the guns from stores in others.

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6-day weather forecast

THURSDAY March 8 52° 41° Showers	FRIDAY March 9 49° 35° Showers
SATURDAY March 10 61° 41° Partly sunny	SUNDAY March 11 64° 40° Showers
MONDAY March 12 54° 42° Showers	TUESDAY March 13 55° 40° Showers

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