

## Kiwanis' wood pile funds local scholarships



CAITLYN MAY/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

**SPLITTING WOOD**—Gene O'Neil spends Friday morning splitting wood for the Bohemia Sunrisers Kiwanis club. The wood is sold in cords to fund scholarships for local students. The equipment was purchased by the Kiwanis club while the lot was donated by Brad's Chevy car dealership in Cottage Grove.

By Caitlyn May  
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Every Wednesday, Friday and Saturday morning, Gene O'Neil pulls in behind Brad's Chevy car dealership in Cottage Grove and gets to work.

He's been doing it for 15 years — sometimes with help and sometimes without. Since he's retired, he's been doing it more but the goal has been the same: collect and split enough wood to sell 40 cords to fund scholarships for local students at Cottage Grove High School and Kennedy High School.

The gated space behind Brad's was donated to the Cottage Grove Bohemia Sunrisers Kiwanis Club by the car lot and most of the wood piled and waiting to be split has been too. O'Neil hasn't always been the brawn behind the project but he has been part of the Kiwanis organization

for years.

The Bohemia Sunrisers Kiwanis Club supports both local scholarships and Special Olympics in Cottage Grove and Creswell.

On an early morning last week, he was hard at work splitting and loading a five-load order with another five-load order waiting right behind it.

"Our goal is to sell 40 cords and give 10 cords to Community Sharing," O'Neil said of the local food pantry that helps low-income and homeless individuals with basic needs. "About half of the cords are committed before I even start in the spring."

By Labor Day, O'Neil likes to have all the wood for the coming winter split and delivered; a feat that takes months to achieve.

One cord of wood takes 12 hours of labor from collection to delivery. The new trailer Kiwanis purchased has made the job easier — it tilts, eliminating the need

to bend over the sides to unload the cords of wood.

The latest pile waiting to be split is made up of remnants from a tree Smith Lund Mills Funeral Chapel cut down in its parking lot. Kiwanis members collected the tree and now, O'Neil will split it.

It's how it works most of the time. People call Kiwanis and offer the group the opportunity to cut up and haul away a tree that has fallen in their yard. It counts as a tax deduction and eliminates the need for Kiwanis to cut trees down which cuts the group's liability.

Cords range between \$160 and \$200 including delivery, with the money going to fund scholarships ranging between \$250 and \$1,000.

While Kiwanis is always happy to have customers, according to O'Neil, his hands are full at the wood lot now and what's needed are volunteer hours.

To volunteer at the wood lot, contact O'Neil at 541-520-2818.

## Hospital auxiliary earns \$3,000

By Caitlyn May  
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The Cottage Grove Hospital Auxiliary holds a luncheon once a month but on May 23, there was something different about the meeting.

"They came and presented us with a check," said president Gene Brown.

The check was 90 percent of the proceeds from a joint yard sale held in conjunction with the Cottage Grove Lutheran Church that chooses a non-profit from the community to take part in the sale. This month, the auxiliary was that non-profit and earned \$3,380 by selling furniture for \$30 to \$40 a piece to \$1 tomato plant starts.

"It's a good chunk of money for us," Brown said.

The auxiliary, part of the hospital's foundation, fundraises for hospital equipment and usually does so by manning the front desk at the hospital and selling cookies it bakes itself. The group also sells used purses and cookbooks. During the summer, auxiliary members can be seen at Concerts in the Park at Bohemia Park once a week raising funds as well.

While the group raises money for standard items such as wheelchairs and physical therapy equipment, it also helps find the money for larger and more abstract needs. One year, it bought a ride-on carpet cleaner and last year it helped raise funds to purchase a new mammography machine after the manufacturer of the existing machine notified the hospital that it would no longer be able to repair the dated equipment. The new 3D machine offers a clearer image and helps cut down drive time for patients whose doctors requested a 3D imagine, available only in Eugene before the arrival of the new mammography machine in Cottage Grove.

The auxiliary currently has 40 active volunteers who pay \$10 in dues per year but is looking to add to its ranks. Volunteers must be able to pass a background and TB test due to the amount of time spent at the hospital. Once individuals are cleared, they're asked to spend half a day at the hospital on cookie duty and eventually will lend a hand to other fundraisers the group does throughout the year including Concerts in the Park cookie sales.

For more information, or to volunteer, contact Jeanne Wundrow at 541-674-9250 or wundrowwoman@msn.com.

## Final week to be busy for Crow High School seniors

Crow High School Seniors are in full swing for their last week of school. The count down begins tonight, May 30, with the school's annual Senior Recognition Night. The ceremony begins at 7 p.m. at CHS. The community is welcome to attend and hear about all the students' accomplishments over the past four years, as well as their plans for the future.

Then on Thursday, May 31, come listen to the CHS Spring Band and Choir Concert at the Crow Grange. Music begins at 7 p.m. Both the choir and band musicians have worked hard to offer an outstanding performance.

The public is invited to attend this free concert.

This Sunday, June 3, come to the CHS Baccalaureate at Crow/Applegate Church (Turn on Crow Road off of Territorial Highway, then take the first drive on the left.)

The Baccalaureate tradition is a special one and begins at 6 p.m.

The official Crow High School graduation ceremony is Friday, June 8, at 7 p.m. in the CHS gym.

Again, all are welcome to attend and share in the occasion.

The deadline to purchase 2017-18 CHS yearbooks is June 1.

**Also happening this week:**

• Cougar Mat Club Goodwill Trailer Donation Drive Fund-raiser is Friday, June 1; Saturday, June 2; and Sunday, June 3 by the CHS baseball field. Hours to drop off are 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For more information, call 541-520-9275 for an optimal time. This is a great way to clean out closets, get rid of unwanted items and help the Cougar Mat Club program.



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