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SPORTS

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

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15, 2018

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Suspects arrested in kidnapping

By Caitlyn May
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Local authorities report that Dustin Michael Borg, 31, and Kristie Marie Jones, 28, have been arrested on charges of kidnapping, robbery, theft and felony in possession of a firearm.

The couple was located at a hotel on W. Sixth Street in Eugene.

In the early morning hours of Aug. 8, Cottage Grove police reported that an individual was parked on the 700 block of Gibbs Ave. in Cottage Grove when two individuals, a man and a woman, approached the car with a handgun and used it to gain access to the victim's car.

"The victim was then driven to an undisclosed location and subsequently released," a statement issued by CGPD read.

The victim was reportedly able to return to Cottage Grove to report the incident.

A third person, Cottage Grove resident Leon Paul Meiser, 56, was also arrested at the scene for violation of his parole.

Jones will face robbery in the first degree, kidnapping in the second degree, unlawful entry of a motor vehicle and theft.

Borg faces the same charges as well as unlawful use of a weapon and felon in possession of a firearm.

Wildfire evacuees find shelter in CG

By Caitlyn May
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Welcome by residents helps family to make temporary move permanent

Every June for the last few years, Cassandra Barrong's family gathers all their important papers, clothes and momentos and gets ready to run.

For generations, they've been living in Shasta County, California but for the last six years, the family has been under mandatory evacuation at least once or twice a year as wildfires continue to plague the area, becoming more common, more dangerous and — more

and more often — driving families from their homes under the threat of flames.

"Basically, right now, everywhere around them is on fire," Barrong, executive director for the Oregon Aviation Historical

ing the neighborhood, the Carr Fire, has burned more than 200,000 acres and more than 1,000 residences, making it one of the most destructive fires in California history.

As of Monday, July 13, the

for a little while," Barrong said. And while she appreciated the welcome her grandmother received in Cottage Grove, Barrong said her family may not be visitors much longer — instead they plan to move to Cottage Grove to escape the fire season in California that continues to grow each year.

"So, right now my mother is packing up things like the furniture my grandfather built because you can't replace that," Barrong said. She also said that being under evacuation so often has taught her family what really needs to make it into a suitcase.

"People always think about what they want, sentimental things, but they don't always think about what they need,"

See **EVACUEES 8A**

"Last year there was a burn in the area so when the fire came down, there was nothing left to burn."

—Cassandra Barrong

Society said. "Last year there was a burn in the area so when the fire came down, there was nothing left to burn."

The fire currently threaten-

fire was 59 percent contained with no expected date for full containment.

"My grandma just went home, she was here with me

Outlying schools may receive wifi upgrade

By Zach Silva
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Improved Wi-Fi connections could be coming to the South Lane School District schools which fall near or beyond the city's limits — Al Kennedy High School, Dorena School, London School and Latham Elementary School — perhaps as early as this school year.

Last year, technology administrator Jesse Baber applied for federal funding from the Universal Service Fund (USF). The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) funds the USF by charging telecommunication companies a quarterly fee which is then seen as a charge on consumers' phone bills.

The USF then funds four different programs with the goal of universal service. One of the programs is for schools and libraries. If SLSLD receives the funding, the schools that are not in town would have improved wireless connections.

"These schools don't have any sort of commercially available internet that we can get. A number of them are done over radio. The one to Dorena goes over two radio hops. One

of those hops has no power so it's solar and propane. And as you can imagine, during the testing season it's always a little tricky to make sure that stays on," said Baber to the board at Monday's school board meeting.

As of now, London School has a 20-megabit connection for the whole school.

Baber reported that if they received this funding, this number would grow to 10-gigabits which is 500 times more digital storage than they have now.

"I guess a good way of explaining it is it is right now [Kennedy, Dorena, London and Latham] are very out of town and with this addition, it's as if they become an in-town school from my perspective," said Baber.

To implement the fiber optic cables and get this all ready for the schools to use would cost an estimated \$1 million. The USF would fund 80 percent and the state of Oregon is expected to cover 10 percent.

The rest may be matched by an additional state organization and if not, there are some funds set aside for technology from the 2016

See **Wi-Fi 11A**



CAITLYN MAY/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

A participant in last week's protest makes his feelings known regarding the local Special Olympics program.

Volunteers question Special Olympics funds

By Caitlyn May
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The local Cottage Grove Special Olympics program volunteers are confused but it's not their fault. This is according to Special Olympics Oregon CEO Britt Oase.

The statement came days after local volunteers questioned the organization regarding the whereabouts of \$50,000

willed to the local group by former Cottage Grove counselor and Special Olympics supporter Michele Portmann.

"In our recent conversations with local program coordinators, in both group webinars and individual calls and meetings, we have found there to be an inconsistent understanding of the Special Olympics Oregon business model that has been in place, how funds are allocated and how

to interpret the internal reports they have received," Oase said in an emailed statement. She went on to say the "inconsistent understanding" was not the fault of the local group and that the organization was working with all 30 programs under its umbrella to "evolve the system to better reflect the financial challenges" the

See **FUNDS 8A**

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