South Lane County Fire sends team to help with California wildfires

By Caitlyn May cmay@cgsentinel.com

Using its emergency mobilization plan, through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact, the Office can stay in the state for up of State Fire Marshal (OSFM) has activated its Agency Operations Center and is in the process of mobilizing 15 initial 16-day stay. strike teams with equipment the Camp Fire in California.

The OSFM is sending structural task forces from the following counties: Rouge Valley, Klam-Linn, Benton, Lincoln, Polk, Marshal Jim Walker. Washington, Multnomah, Clatsop, Columbia, Clackamas and Yamhill.

South Lane County Fire and Rescue sent four individuals and a type one engine to the state for 16 days. According to Division Chief Joe Raade, the team to 21 days but a conversation would have to take place be-

fore extending beyond the

"Once again, our neighand personnel to assist with bors in California are in need of support, and even though Oregon had a very long fire season, our Oregon Fire Service has stepped up humbly to help the state of ath, Douglas, Lane, Marion, California," said State Fire

California made the request through the Emergency Management Assistance



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Firefighters from South Lane County Fire prepare to leave for California to assist with mutual aid efforts. Monday, a new fire had reportedly broken out near Simi Valley, Calif.

Compact a national state-tostate mutual aid system.

The EMAC request is sent directly to Oregon Emergency Management who contact and coordinate with the appropriate Oregon agency to fulfill the requests.

Raade said that while Oregon's fire season is somewhat distinct, California faces wildfires for much of the vear.

"California traditionally does have fires in the fall," he said. "It's much different than in Oregon where we have more moisture.

"It's not unusual for California to have fires until the first of the year."

Future of community meeting place 'Healing Matrix' uncertain

By Caitlyn May cmay@cgsentinel.com

For small communities, meeting places provide a sense of community, open forums and generate new ideas and opportunities.

selves to rumor and, in Cottage tal Health and area veterans' Grove, the rumor mill has been spinning about the future of the Healing Matrix — a public building on the open market meeting space on 7th and Main but they would rather donate Street with strong ties to several it to someone with resources local nonprofit organizations.

the whisperings around town co-director of Sustainable It needs a save.

Currently, the 4,000-square-Taubert Foundation, and opgroups and organizations like Sustainable Cottage Grove, Team Cottage Grove, Be They can also lend them- Your Best, South Lane Mengroups.

"The choices are to sell the to continue it as a community And while the majority of space," said Richard Sedlock, are false, one reality rings true: Cottage Grove and board chair various groups, including the

foot building is owned by the small development team has ing an entity with the funds to been hosting several discussions run the building but preserve tions Coordinator Garrett Briderates as a catch-all for local about the building's future with the community space.

According to Sedlock, a District, with the hopes of find-

"The choices are to sell the building ... but they would rather donate it to someone with resources to continue it as a community space"

> -Richard Sedlock, co-director Sustainable Cottage Grove

of the Healing Matrix nonprofit. city and the South Lane School the city, the school district, wrote.

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the county and the nonprofdistrict seemed like the obvichange-over in the superinten-

Sentinel, SLSD Communicagens said he attended the discussions with superintendent representatives to share their Healing Matrix and added that may help bridge the time gap. the district recognizes and supin the community.

"We are grateful that we were invited to be a part of the discussion and are hopeful that the space will continue to be used in a positive, impact- one pretty quiet," Sedlock said. "We've had people from ful way in our community," he

"Nonprofits don't usually can do something." its," Sedlock said. "The school have the big profit streams to support something like this," ous choice but, because of the Sedlock said, noting that the city did not immediately show interest in the building.

also floated the idea of donating

In an email response to The the building to a parks and recreation district. However, the city doesn't currently have a parks and recreation district.

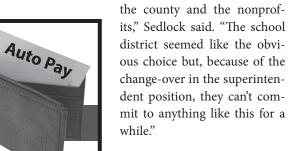
Sedlock noted that form-Larry Sullivan and other SLSD ing a district would take time - something he group is short thoughts on the future of the on - but an interim agreement

Ideally, the owners of the ports the role the facility plays building would prefer not to own the building by the summer of 2019, giving the group the remainder of this year and the spring to find a solution.

> "It could be that there's some-"Maybe an advocate, but not a joiner, with some resources, who

> Sustainable Cottage Grove will be meeting at the Healing Matrix on Saturday, Dec. 1, at 10 a.m., to discuss the issue.

Interested parties can contact The development team has Sedlock at rsedlock ca@gmail. com.



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