

SLCFR *from A1*

are and how much the community supports each other and how much appreciation they have for us as a fire service," he said. "You can really feel the support in the community. It's an awesome place to be."

As part of its resident program, SLCFR offers its participants living accommodation on top of an educational stipend. While fulfilling his firefighter duties, Alton is working to get his paramedic degree at LCC.

"It's a good spot to be for people who are trying to get into the fire service and get that hands-on experience," he said. "The department here provides a lot of opportunities you can't get anywhere else."

With just over a year and a half left on getting his degree, Alton hopes to bring "a willingness to learn and to train and to contribute to the department in any way that I can so that we can free up firefighter paramedics ... to respond when necessary," he said. "Our position is to augment staffing at the stations so that there are more resources available to help people."

**Alex Wales**  
**Firefighter Paramedic:**  
Alex Wales is another new face to the department. Born and raised in Redmond, Ore., Wales worked at Black Butte Ranch Fire Department for four years in the agency's student program. Since his move to Cottage

Grove in August, Wales has found a community and a department he thinks he can call home.

"The cohesion here is unlike anywhere else I've ever worked," he said of the fire department. "We're very progressive. Everybody's got a voice. ... It's called 'crew resource management.' We're really big into that."

Wales is currently finishing his bachelor's degree

that procedure and then you're handing the patient off to somebody else."

While some of the transports in Cottage Grove can be relatively quick, others require trips to Eugene or Springfield. The longer transport times give Wales the chance to see the effects of his work on a patient. "I can hone my skills over that longer period of time," he said.

**"We love what we do and we love to come to work. We're absolutely privileged to be able to serve our communities in the ways that we can."**

— Tim Heuser, SLCFR Captain

through Eastern Oregon University, seeking a double major in fire and EMS administration. In the meantime, he offers his skills as a firefighter paramedic as part of SLCFR's career crew.

"One of the things that attracted to me to Cottage Grove was the size of the town," he said.

The nature of the area allows Wales variety in performing his skills as a paramedic. "I've worked at a lot of places where we had five-minute transport times and you don't really see much of a response [in patients]," said Wales. "You give that medication or do

Wales echoed appreciation for the welcoming atmosphere of the area. "The way the community supports the fire department is absolutely incredible," he said, hoping to return that respect through his service at the department and "making a difference."

**Dylan Fitzgerald**  
**Engineer:**  
The SLCFR has also welcomed promotions within its department. After a total of three and a half years at SLCFR, Dylan Fitzgerald has become the department's newest engineer.

Originally from The Dalles, Ore., Fitzgerald found himself in Cottage Grove by way of family who had moved to the area. The atmospheric change was a plus.

"It blows like 25-miles-per-hour winds every day in The Dalles," he said. "When I got here, I realized it doesn't always have to be windy, so I loved that."

Immediately out of college, Fitzgerald took EMS classes and was soon introduced by a family friend to SLCFR.

"I fell in love with it right away and knew that's what I wanted to do," he said.

Like many others, Fitzgerald took advantage of the department's resident program and student stipend. After 18 months, he was offered a career firefighter position on the team.

Of the department, Fitzgerald said he loves "having a tight-knit group and getting to know everybody on a personal level. ... The absolute biggest thing was having the hands-on experience with the guys who've been doing it a while."

With his experience acquired thus far, Fitzgerald is

eager to apply his skills to a new level.

"It's a great step for me. I'm really excited to have it," he said. "It's a new challenge. ... I hope to bring a little bit more of a leadership role than when I was a firefighter."

**Tim Heuser**  
**Captain:**

Topping off the new hires and promotions, Tim Heuser's roughly nearly nine years with SLCFR have brought him to the rank of captain.

Just as his family dots the Pacific Northwest, so too does Heuser's upbringing. Born in Seattle and raised in the Puget Sound area, Heuser went to high school in Eugene and Springfield before graduating from Cottage Grove High School.

A Cottage Grove resident since 1998, Heuser said he counts lack of natural catastrophes and abundance of natural beauty as part of his love for the area. "Besides the wildfires we see in the summer, it's pretty calm compared to the rest of the states," he said. "The mountains are an hour away, the coast is an hour away. You're in the best location to go out

and do stuff."

Heuser started his career in the fire department in May 2010 as a volunteer and, like many of his coworkers, joined the resident program.

"The best thing overall for the resident program here is: The entire department is really focused on our residents and getting them prepared and giving them the tools they need to be successful," he said.

In his new role as captain, Heuser is looking forward to the training duties of the job.

"I like to be able to teach the guys coming up behind me," said Heuser. "That's one thing I'm really passionate about. So being able to train the next generation of firefighters and the next generation of engineers has really been my pleasure."

Heuser's enthusiasm for the job is a thematic quality to the department at large, which in itself is a source of internal encouragement.

"The overall sentiment of everyone here is, we love what we do and we love to come to work," Heuser said. "We're absolutely privileged to be able to serve our communities in the ways that we can."



**DRAIN:**

**HOPE U.M.C.**  
131 W "A" St. Drain, OR  
541-315-1617  
Pastor: Lura Kidner-Miesen  
Fellowship & Song: 11:30am  
Potluck Lunch: 12:00pm  
Worship: 12:30pm

**COTTAGE GROVE:**  
**6th & Gibbs Church of Christ**  
195 N. 6th St. • 541-942-3822  
10:00am  
Christian Education:  
Pre-K through 5th  
www.6thandgibbs.com

**Calvary Baptist Church**  
77873 S 6th St • 541-942-4290  
Pastor: Riley Hendricks  
Sunday School: 9:45am  
Worship: 11:00am  
The Journey: Sunday 5:00pm  
Praying Thru Life: Wednesday 6:00pm

**Church of Christ**  
420 Monroe St • 541-942-8565  
Sunday Service: 10:30am

**Cottage Grove Bible Church**  
1200 East Quincy Avenue  
541-942-4771  
Pastor: Bob Singer  
Worship 11am  
Sunday School: 9:45am  
AWANA age 3-8th Grade,  
Wednesdays Sept-May, 6:30pm  
www.cg bible.org

**Cottage Grove Faith Center**  
33761 Row River Rd.  
541-942-4851  
Lead Pastor: Kevin Pruet  
www.cg4.tv  
Full Children's Ministry available  
Services: 9:00am & 10:45am

**Delight Valley**  
Church of Christ  
33087 Saginaw Rd. East  
541-942-7711 • Pastor: Bob Friend  
Two Services:  
9am - Classic in the Chapel  
10:30am - Contemporary in the Auditorium

**First Baptist Church**  
301 S. 6th st • 541-942-8242  
Interim Pastor: Reed Webster  
Sunday School 9:30am  
Worship Service 11:00am  
Youth Wednesday 6:30pm  
cgfirstbaptist.com

**First Presbyterian Church**  
3rd and Adams St  
541-942-4479  
Rev.: Karen Hill  
Worship: 10:00am  
Sunday School: 10:00am  
fpcgrove.com

**Hope Fellowship**  
United Pentecostal Church  
100 S. Gateway Blvd.  
541-942-2061  
Pastor: Dave Bragg  
Worship: 11:00am Sunday  
Bible Study: 7:00pm Wednesday  
www.hopefellowshippupc.com  
"FINDING HOPE IN YOUR LIFE"

**Living Faith Assembly**  
467 S. 10th St. • 541-942-2612  
Worship Services Sundays: 9a & 11a  
Youth Worship Sundays: 11a (all ages welcome)  
Mondays: 5:30p (6th-12th grades)

**Non-Denominational Church of Christ**  
1041 Pennoyer Ave  
541-942-8928  
Preacher: Tony Martin  
Sunday Bible Study: 10:00am  
Sunday Worship: 10:50am & 5:30pm  
www.pennoyeravecoc.com

**Old Time Gospel Fellowship**  
103 S. 5th St. • 541-942-4999  
Pastor: Jim Edwards  
Sunday Service: 10:00am  
Join in Traditional Christian Worship

**Our Lady of Perpetual Help and St. Philip Benizi Catholic Churches**  
1025 N. 19th St.  
541-942-3420  
Father John J. Boyle  
Holy Mass:  
Saturday Vigil - 5:30 PM  
Sunday - 10:30 PM  
For weekday and Holy Day of Obligation schedule see website OLPHCG.net  
Confession: 4 PM to 5 PM  
Saturdays or by appointment  
St. Philip Benizi, Creswell  
552 Holbrook Lane  
Sunday 8:30 AM  
**St. Andrews Episcopal Church**  
1301 W. Main • 541-767-9050  
Rev. Lawrence Crumb  
"Church with the flags."  
Worship: Sunday 10:30am  
All Welcome

**Seventh-day Adventist Church**  
820 South 10th Street  
541-942-5213  
Pastor: Kevin Miller  
Bible Study: Saturday, 9:15 am  
Worship Service: Saturday, 10:40  
Mid-week Service: Wednesday, 1:00

**Trinity Lutheran Church**  
6th & Quincy • 541-942-2373  
Pastor: James L. Markus  
Sunday School & Adult Education  
9:15am  
Sunday Worship 10:30 am  
Comm. Kitchen Free Meal Tue & Thur  
5:00pm TLC Groups  
tlccg.com

**United Methodist Church**  
334 Washington • 541-942-3033  
Pastor: Lura Kidner-Miesen  
Worship: 10:30am  
umcgrove.org

**"VICTORY" Country Church**  
913 S. 6th Street • 541-942-5913  
Pastor: Barbara Dockery  
Worship Service: 10:00am  
Message: "WE BELIEVE IN MIRACLES"

**CRESWELL:**  
Creswell Presbyterian Church  
75 S 4th S • 541-895-3419  
Rev. Seth Wheeler  
Adult Sunday School 9:15am  
Sunday Worship Service 10:30 am  
website www.creswellpres.org

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