

Opal Center to premier original play ‘The King is Dead!’ this Friday

The Opal Center for Art and Education will host the world premier of the original play “The King is Dead! The King is Dead!” beginning Friday, May 17. “The King is Dead! The

King is Dead!” is a musical play by Hal Holbrook and directed by Carmen Dowell. The king from last season’s show, “The King Who Wanted a Whale”

returns with a cast of zany royal subjects. Did the king actually get a whale? Well, yes and no. He settled for a boat made to look like a whale. The next installment

finds the King and Messenger Boy sailing out on the moat when a storm comes up. The whaleboat hits the dock and starts taking on water. Do the King and

Messenger Boy survive? Find out at one of the upcoming performances set for May 17, 18, 24, 25 and June 1 at 7 p.m. There will also be matinee performances May 19, 26 and

June 2 at 2:30 p.m. General admission tickets are \$12 General, or \$10 for students and seniors. For more information, call 541-623-0513.



DAMIEN SHERWOOD/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

A wildfire off Row River Road burns through woodland near a residence, where occupants were evacuated.

Fire from A1

the event. Due to a high volume of onlookers on Row River Road and a lack of response to clear the area, the Lane County Sheriff’s Office closed the road for much of Friday evening. Meanwhile, three helicopters on six-hour shifts took turns dropping water on the fire while two bulldozers helped build containment lines along the fire’s flanks. By 10:30 p.m. Friday, the threat to homes had been mitigated and the sheriff’s office lifted the evacuation notice. Through the night, fire crews worked to improve

containment of the fire, achieving 35 percent containment and completing control lines around 85 percent of the fire’s perimeter by 9 a.m. Saturday. Though the cause of the fire is still under investigation by ODF, it is thought to have started at a cluster of residences near the base of the hill, according to ODF Public Information Officer Marcus Kauffman. The area is a patchwork of residences and logging slash and timber on private forest land. “Seventy-five percent of fires are human-caused,” Kauffman said. The investigation will include extensive review of forensic evidence and eyewitness accounts, a process that Kauffman says may

take some time. “I’ve never seen it done in quicker than 30 days,” he said. “It’s a very laborious and comprehensive process.” On May 8, a temporary outdoor burning ban was issued jointly by Lane Regional Air Protection Agency, Lane County Fire Defense Board and ODF, extending from May 9 to May 16. “Things are pretty stable,” Kauffman said on Saturday. “We will be patrolling throughout the day and into the evening and we won’t leave the area until we deem that it’s safe. So we’ll be here on site with engines for the next couple of days.” As of Monday, containment had reached 80 per-

cent and all road and trail closures had been lifted. Fire crews continued to mop up the area, a process of putting the fire completely out, to ensure that the fire does not reignite during the summer. On top of being aware of outdoor burning bans, Kauffman stressed the importance of being attuned to abnormal weather patterns. “I think that it’s really important for people to recognize that we are in summer wildfire weather in May,” he said. “We’re two months ahead of schedule and people need to adjust how they behave around fire, what they do with fire and adjust their expectations of what they can do.”



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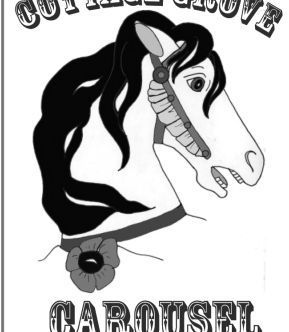
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