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WEATHER



Sunny skies with a high of 95 and a low tonight of 62.

Full forecast on A5

COMMUNITY



Library celebrates Summer Reading A3

SPORTS — B



CGHS teams take to the field B1

RECORDS

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541-942-3325 ph • 541-942-3328 fax
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Territorial Highway project gets green light

By DAMIEN SHERWOOD
DSHERWOOD@CGSENTINEL.COM

The Lane County Board of Commissioners approved the Territorial Highway project Aug. 20, marking a significant step in the project's multi-year development.

"The success of this project has been, and will continue to be, the result of all of us working together to realize these needed improve-

ments," said the county's Senior Transportation Planner Becky Taylor in a statement.

The highway project is a result of many years of input and coordination with a community of residents, bicycle riding groups, freight companies and other stakeholders to discuss ways to address safety concerns on the 5.7-mile stretch of rural road.

Meetings with these groups indicated a shared desire to protect the

natural environment and preserve the rural character of the roadway while softening sharp curves and widening the shoulders.

The project is slated to be completed in four phases over four summers.

Phase 1 will begin in the summer of 2020 at a midway section of the highway, which addresses a landslide hazard at Stony Point and

See PROJECT 6A

AKHS mural marks milestone for Kennedy

By DAMIEN SHERWOOD
DSHERWOOD@CGSENTINEL.COM

Students at Al Kennedy Alternative High School (AKHS) are entering the year with a new face on their school.

A mural depicting the AKHS logo and forested surroundings now welcomes visitors at the school entrance, marking a milestone in the school's transition into its rural setting.

"It's kind of symbolic that we have a home now," said Principal Kim Scrima. "Having this, kids can start that ownership process again."

The mural bears significance in light of the school's tenuous first two years at the location.

"It's been kind of a rocky transition," Scrima said.

In the last three years, the school has not only seen three different principals, but struggled with some of the logistics of a new site.

When the school moved from its



PHOTO BY DAMIEN SHERWOOD

The new mural was painted over the summer by AKHS graduate Samantha Kelsey and WIOA Transition Specialist Heather Lawson.

location in town to its current site in Delight Valley, the space was initially shared with Head Start, putting pre-school and high school youths on the same campus, which required fencing to be put up in some parts of the school.

Then, as part of the Harrison Elementary School transition, Kennedy's greenhouse at the old Harrison site was demolished and various obstacles have so far prevented a new one from being installed on the new

site.

Additionally, well water for the school's garden, which requires at least a year of monitoring before being allowed for use, had prevented the garden program from being fully realized. However, the school has since found ways around the issue with water tanks and a rain catchment system.

Now entering its third year at its

See MURAL 9A

Armed suspect shot, killed by LCSO deputies

Last Friday, Aug. 23, shortly before 10 p.m., the Lane County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) received a report of a dispute between a male and a female at the 37000 block of Row River Road in Cottage Grove.

Deputies responded but were unable to locate the male and the female.

Saturday morning (Aug. 24) at approximately 1 a.m., the Sheriff's Office received two 911 calls reporting that the involved male and

female were back at the location in a dispute again. Deputies responded to the location and were initially unable to locate the involved female but received information that the involved male was in an outbuilding on the property.

Deputies used a loudspeaker in attempt to get the male to come out of the outbuilding. After several minutes the male, later identified as 34-year-old Larry Leonard Lowry Jr., exited the building and came at

deputies with a large, fixed blade knife.

Deputies shot Lowry as he advanced on them. Deputies performed CPR for several minutes until medics arrived and pronounced Lowry deceased.

The Sheriff's Office would like to thank the multiple law enforcement agencies that responded to assist. This incident is being investigated

See LCSO 6A

SVRA helps fill gaps among The Grove's most hungry

By SOPHIA EDELBLUTE
SEDELBLUTE@CGSENTINEL.COM

It's a good feeling to enjoy a filling meal, but some don't have that opportunity as often as others. South Valley Resource Alliance (SVRA) is looking to change that.

SVRA could be characterized as an up-and-coming food distribution group, having started in early 2019, but that doesn't mean they aren't doing all they can to help. Working with donations, the group dedicates the first and third Friday of every

month to a food sharing event held at the Cottage Grove Community Center, which is organized by Sara Simochko and executed through the help of numerous volunteers.

The group is a partner agency of Food For Lane County (FFLC), one of 157 that distribute food. To qualify as a partner agency, a group must be a 501(c)(3) nonprofit or be umbrellaed under an agency with that status. SVRA is still in the process of receiving nonprofit status so, for the moment, it works under Another Way Enterprises (AWE) of Cottage Grove.

According to Karen Edmunds with FFLC, the food the organization receives for distribution to partner agencies comes from a variety of sources. Local businesses donate about 43 percent, with 25 percent contributed from Oregon Food Bank, 27 percent coming from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, four percent from local food drives and the remaining one percent coming from miscellaneous sources.

SVRA collects food from Food For Lane County and transports it

See FOOD 7A

Investigation concludes in Dowens fire

By DAMIEN SHERWOOD
DSHERWOOD@CGSENTINEL.COM

Officials at the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) have concluded that the Dowens Road Fire, which occurred on May 10 just outside Cottage Grove, was not directly human-caused.

"The cause of it was a branch coming into contact with the power lines," said Michael Curran, unit forester with ODF's South Cascade District. "It is important to note, though, the tree that had the branch fall to cause the fire was outside of the power line right of way."

The 75.6-acre blaze took four days to contain, destroyed one residence, threatened several others and prompted a Level 1 Evacuation to be issued between Dowens Road and Shoreview Drive by Lane County Emergency Management.

Within two hours of being reported, a full complement of agencies including ODF, South Lane Fire and Rescue, Eugene-Springfield Fire, Coburg Fire, Lowell Fire, Lane Fire Authority, Harrisburg Fire, Lane County Sheriff's Office, Lane County Search and Rescue, Lane County Emergency Management, Cottage Grove Police and Oregon State Police were on the scene to battle the blaze and direct residents to safety.

At least 86 emergency response personnel were involved in the event.

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. on the day of the fire, the threat to homes had been mitigated and the sheriff's office lifted the evacuation notice.

No deaths or injuries resulted from the fire.

Fires caused by power lines have caused immense devastation lately in Northern California. In late 2017, power lines owned by Pacific Gas & Electric were blamed for 18 related deaths and a dozen Northern California wildfires, including the infamous Camp Fire which burned up the town of Paradise.

One of Oregon's largest power companies, Pacific Power, has said it will consider shutting down electricity during extreme weather events to avoid wildfires, though only "as a last resort," the company said in a press release in June.

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Show Times

September 13, 14, 20, 21 show at 7:00pm
September 15 and 22 show at 2:00pm

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