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# Cottage Grove Sentinel

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## House fire displaces local family

The community is collecting items to help the Moores

By DAMIEN SHERWOOD  
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Just before 1 a.m. on Sunday, Sept. 15, South Lane County Fire and Rescue (SLCFR) crews were dispatched to a structure fire in the 1000 Block of South 10th Street in Cottage Grove.

Fire crews arrived to find heavy fire in the kitchen of the home, which caused significant damage to the house, and were able to keep the fire contained to the room of origin with light fire damage to a neighboring room.

Crews were met by the

See FIRE 7A

## City responds to water quality concerns

High water usage cause of 'brown water'

By DAMIEN SHERWOOD  
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Reports of cloudy water from users in Cottage Grove surfaced earlier this month prompting many to question the quality of the city's drinking water.

In a Sept. 11 interview with KVAL, Public Works and Development Director Faye Stewart addressed the concerns.

"All of our tests have come back negative for any issues," he said. "Our chlorine levels are within the requirements of the state, so our water is safe to drink."

Staff from the water treatment plant take daily water samples at multiple locations throughout the city and no changes in water quality have been reported.

The city's stated policy when testing indicates drinking water is in violation of the Safe Drinking Water Act Regulations is to notify each user, the Oregon Health Authority and media outlets.

Water treatment plant operators sample and test the water according to federal and state laws, screening for any of the

See WATER 11A



PHOTO COURTESY OF GREG LEE

Riders roll into Schwarz Park on Friday from Diamond Lake, a 95-mile ride, for the final stage of the Cycle Oregon Classic bicycle tour.

## Cycle Oregon sweeps through The Grove

By DAMIEN SHERWOOD  
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Roughly 2,000 cyclists and staff descended upon Schwarz Park on Friday for their last stop on the Cycle Oregon Classic seven-day bicycle tour.

This year marks the third visit for Cycle Oregon, a nonprofit which has been organizing annual bicycle trips around the state since 1988.

The event at Schwarz Park resembled something of a festival, complete with vendors, food, a beer garden and a stage which hosted live music.

Local representatives from the



From left: Mayor Jeff Gowing, Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Travis Palmer and City Manager Richard Meyers (out of frame) address the Cycle Oregon crowd in Schwarz Park on Friday.

PHOTO BY DAMIEN SHERWOOD/CG SENTINEL

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the City of Cottage Grove welcomed the riders from the stage while members of the Creswell Heritage Foundation shared the impact the Cycle Oregon's grants have had on the nonprofit.

"I can't think of a better place for you to have your last night," said

See CYCLE 8A

## New year, new teachers, programs at SLSD

By NICK SNYDER  
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With every new school year comes a number of changes and South Lane School District, like districts throughout the state of Oregon, isn't immune.

Fall has nearly arrived in full and school got back into session over two weeks ago. Fortunately, the administrators at the district office spent the summer proactively tackling potential issues that may arise

"With leadership changes, the challenge that we meet head on is to continue the trajectory, continue the vision..."

—Brian McCasline, Interim Assist. Superintendent

with new staff as well as outlining areas of focus that the district office and local schools will emphasize throughout the year.

Lest community members feel as though staff turnover from the previous school year was extreme or abnormal, Interim Assistant Superintendent Brian McCasline put the changes into perspective.

"As I look back over the last five years, there was a year that we had more hires. There were a few years where we had around the same

See SLSD 7A

## City launches emergency preparedness contest

By DAMIEN SHERWOOD  
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September is National Preparedness Month and Cottage Grove is taking a unique approach to getting the message out: competition.

A series of emergency situations this year – including a snowstorm, flooding and fires – has put the community's state of readiness on the radar. City Manager Richard Meyers sees the trend as an opportunity to

proactively motivate citizens and city officials to get prepared.

"I was thinking, 'How can we get more people to actually do something?'" he said.

By challenging residents to compete in four preparedness tasks identified by the city, Meyers hopes participation will at least spark the concept in the public's consciousness.

"These preparedness tasks alone don't get you all the way prepared,"

Meyers said. "It's saying, 'Here's a step.'"

Completing each task qualifies a resident or household to enter a drawing in which they may take home preparedness-related prizes.

Drawings are open only to residents within the Cottage Grove city limits and only one drawing per address.

The first task asks households to

See PREPARED 8A

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### WEATHER



Clouds and rain with a high of 64 and a low tonight of 51.  
Full forecast on A5

### COMMUNITY



Creative Chaos returns to The Grove  
A3

### SPORTS — B



Lions take down Klamath Union  
B1

• RECORDS  
Obituaries  
Announcements  
A2

• LORANE NEWS  
A5

• CLASSIFIEDS  
Listings and public notices  
B8-B9

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