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Coronavirus Coverage

Official updates provided by county, state and national health organizations
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WEATHER



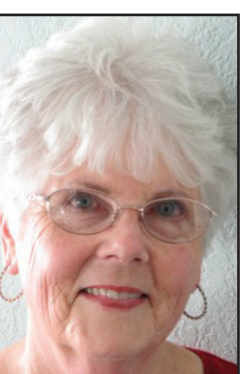
Sunny skies with a high of 95 and a low tonight of 52.
Full forecast on A5

COMMUNITY



Blues Festival in The Grove
A3

COLUMNIST



Betty Kaiser's Chatter Box
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Smoke, power outages sweep Willamette Valley

By DAMIEN SHERWOOD
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Smoke from regional wildfires filled the Willamette Valley Monday night as power outages swept the region, affecting many rural communities including Dorena and London.

Lane County Emergency Management issued a warning Monday at 4:30 p.m. that strong easterly winds were expected starting that afternoon, continue into Wednesday. By Monday evening, smoke and ash from wildfires had begun its descent into the valley.

Much of the smoke came from the east where a wildfire along the McKenzie River, now called the McKenzie Fire, started Monday evening around 9 p.m. when a power line reportedly went down. A Level 3 “Go Now” evacuation notice was issued on Tuesday for all residents from Walterville Elemen-



PHOTO BY BRUCE KELSH

A blanket of smoke moved across the Willamette Valley on Tuesday, extending as far west as the coast.

tary east to the McKenzie River Station, including all roads north and south of Highway 126 along the 35-mile stretch.

The Oregon Department of Transportation also closed Highway 126 beginning at 69th Street in Springfield through to the McKenzie Bridge.

Lane County officials said

See **SMOKE 8A**



DAMIEN SHERWOOD/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

Robin Rene is using her brightly-colored horse Spotty to promote education about horses and trail etiquette.

On the road to happier trails

Row River Trail encounter leads to educational solution

By DAMIEN SHERWOOD
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Robin Rene leads her horse Spotty around a bright pink Cadillac Eldorado fitted with bull horns,

periodically pausing for a photograph.

Spotty herself has been gussied up in pink tassels and fur and a bright red and pink saddle to complete the theme.

A striking combo, Rene is hopeful the photos will catch some eyes online and direct people to Spotty’s Facebook page where Rene is taking a lighthearted approach to help

See **HORSE 10A**

YMCA brings life back to Latham School

By DAMIEN SHERWOOD
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Despite closing last year, the halls of Latham School will once again fill with children this fall.

Eugene Family YMCA staff began cleaning the school ear-

ly this month in preparation for the return of YMCA care in Cottage Grove — this time in a venue with historical roots.

“We’re hoping to provide [families] a little bit of normalcy,” said Youth Development Director Holly Kriz-Anderson. “So their kiddos can be dropped off and they know that they’re going to get their classwork done, they’re going to have some social interactions and definitely physical activity.”

Beginning Sept. 21, when

See **YMCA 9A**

Fairgrounds made available to residents displaced by North Umpqua wildfires

Douglas County Commissioners have made spaces available for RVs and livestock

Douglas County Board of Commissioners announced Tuesday that they are opening up the Douglas County Fairgrounds RV Park and Complex to displaced residents, pets and livestock for free temporary rehoming due to the Level 3 evacuations issued for the French Creek, Archie Creek and Star Mountain Wildfires burning up the North Umpqua Highway.

The Douglas County Fairgrounds RV Park is located at 2110 SW Frear Street in Roseburg (I-5, Exit 123).

Tuesday evening, the Douglas County Sheriff’s Office, working in conjunction with Douglas County Commissioners, Douglas Forest Protective Association, U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management officials, issued a Level 3 evacuation order for all residents on all roads along Oregon Hwy 138 from Milepost 17 at the Green Bridge near Glide to Milepost 47 near Dry Creek.

Douglas County Fairground gates will remain open all night and all day for displaced residents to relocate RVs, trailers and campers into RV spaces at the complex. The “free” spaces are being offered to displaced residents of the wildfires on a first come-first served basis. In addition, they will also have limited areas available for displaced pets, livestock and/or livestock trailers.

Displaced residents are asked to check in with the Fairgrounds staff during the day, but do not need to check in with Fairgrounds staff after hours from 5 p.m. to 8 a.m.

For more information, please contact the Douglas County Fairgrounds at (541) 957-7010.

“In emergency situations like this, it is critically important that our residents and their animals have a place to go and be safe,” stated Commissioner Tom Kress. “We will continue to work on ways we can help our residents dealing with the im-pact of these wildfires.”

The Commissioners are working in conjunction with the Douglas County Fair Board and the Douglas County Fairgrounds staff to offer the free temporary rehoming for displaced residents. As additional resources and opportunities for local residents to help and volunteer are made available, more information will be provided.



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