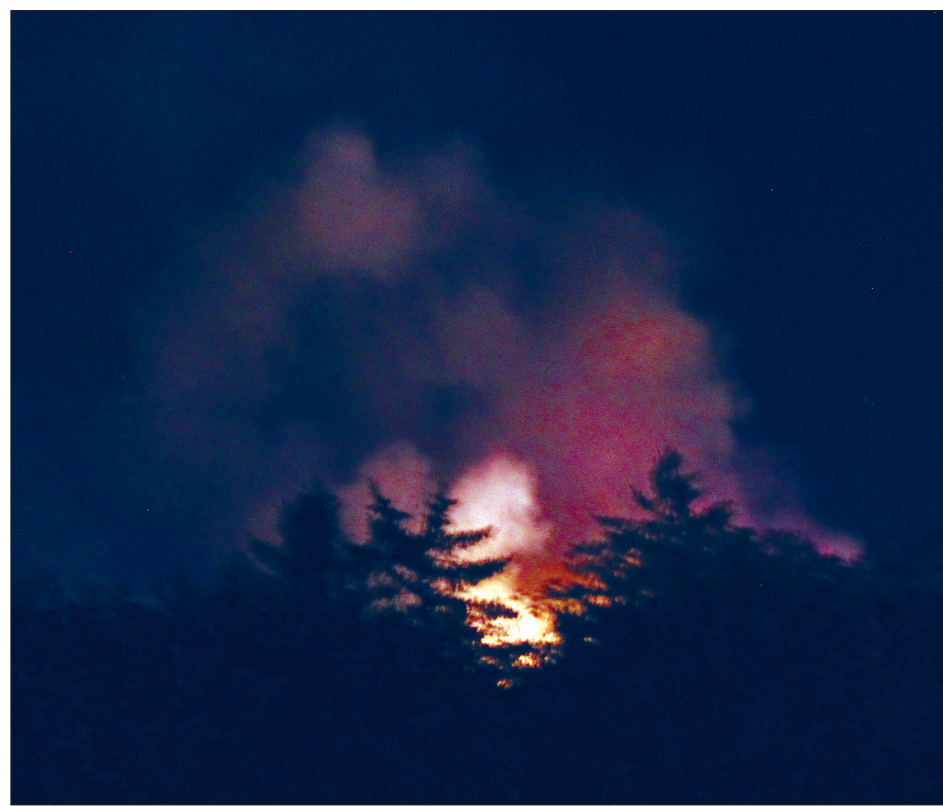




SOPHIA EDELBLUTE/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL



DAMIEN SHERWOOD/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL



SOPHIA EDELBLUTE/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

After a mortar exploded on the ground, the underbrush caught fire near the fireworks site. It was quickly extinguished, however, and no one was injured.

SHOW *from A1*

property near TJ's restaurant, drew people to surrounding parking lots, grassy fields and even to the side of the street in their cars.

As the show went on, guests were startled to see a fire break out near the site. People could be heard calling nearby relatives to warn them of the flames.

The fireworks show continued for a few minutes after the fire caught, but Division Chief and Fire Marshal Danny Solesbee, who was on site and witnessed the incident, said "We had fortunately planned for a 'worse-case scenario' and knew that if the brush did catch fire it would not go very far. There was nothing of value threatened by this fire and it was quickly contained."

Indeed, after roughly an hour, there were no longer flames and just a plume of smoke floated into the sky.

No one was injured and no one sustained property loss.

"The Chamber of Commerce, as well as the fireworks technicians, had followed the safety measures and we were standing by as planned," says Solesbee. "Fire trails had been placed through the brush and briars and the area had been wet down prior to the event."

The cause of the fire, he reported, was the misfire of a mortar which did not discharge in the air but instead exploded on the ground, igniting the brush.

Solesebee added that the fire agency is not allowed by law to cancel fireworks displays, but can only postpone them under extreme circumstances.

Earlier that day, Creswell had witnessed another flare up when an unauthorized parade made its way through town.

As the city's traditional parade had been canceled, a makeshift parade was

held in its place, organized by people affiliated with the Proud Boys, a loosely structured right-wing group with national presence.

Touted online as the "largest 'patriot' gathering in Oregon," the parade drew hundreds of people on Sunday and passed without incident, though police on the scene documented the event and the Lane County Sheriff's Office is expected to issue citations in the coming weeks.

With the Fourth of July parade over, The Sentinel has learned that Cottage Grove's Bohemia Mining Days (BMD) Grand Miners Parade has attracted the attention of the Creswell parade's organizers. This week, BMD officials received a request from the group to participate.

The BMD board will decide on how to respond to this request at its meeting today (July 8).

News of the request has concerned some in the community over the organizers' affiliation with the Proud Boys.

The Proud Boys organization has attracted controversy and condemnation over its five-year existence with accusations of the group promoting white supremacy and political violence. These accusations have been challenged and rejected by spokesmen, however.

Ideologically, the group's founder has described it a "pro-Western fraternity" and members subscribe to a range of libertarian or nationalist ideas.

Several members were arrested for their role in the Jan. 6, 2021, storming of the United States Capitol.

The total number of Proud Boys members nationally is not certain has been reported to be anywhere from the hundreds to the thousands.

Chicks* Night Out!

"Calling all farm chicks to get out of your coops and join us for a fun filled evening at the Farm"



Friday, July 9th 4-9pm
Saturday, July 10th 10am-4pm

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Admission is \$5 on Friday and just \$3 on Saturday. Children 12 and under are free.



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Starting at 5:30pm

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Magnolia Gardens invites you to join us for a fundraising...

Walk to End Alzheimer's

Sunday, September 10, 2021
at Alton Baker Park, 100 Day Island Rd., Eugene, OR

Walk With Us!



Sign up at Magnolia Gardens and join our team in taking steps to find a cure.

When you join our team you'll receive a free team t-shirt and invitations to fundraising events prior to the September walk.

Invite your friends and family and make a difference.



For more information on our walk team, call Ruth Tracey at **541-942-0054**

All proceeds go to the Alzheimer's Association.

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Yard of the Week

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Week of July 8th Winner is: 727 North 10th
Yards will be selected each week by nominations.
To nominate a yard you can call City Hall (942-5501)
or Chamber of Commerce (942-2411)