

Deli opening draws a crowd

Carousel Delicatessen takes up residence on Main Street

BY JON STINNETT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

A packed house spent the noon hour at 616 Main Street in downtown Cottage Grove on Monday to witness the official grand opening of the Carousel Delicatessen and Ice Cream Parlor.

Local dignitaries, family and friends joined father/son team Judd Van Gorder and Michael Cummings for a Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting to open the new deli, the first business located in its downtown home since Fleur de Lis bakery closed in September of 2013. Guests tried hot and cold sandwiches named in honor of the owners' family and friends — the Sharon, Shellby, Missi and Bailey are just a few, in addition to sampling ice cream from Red Wagon Ice Cream in Eugene. Van Gorder said his business is the first outside that city to offer Red Wagon's wares. At the front of the restaurant, a carousel horse belonging to Judy Cash, a horse many hope is destined to once again find itself atop a carousel in Cottage Grove, welcomes visitors.



Carousel Deli co-owner Judd Van Gorder talks with Cottage Grove Mayor Tom Munroe during Monday's grand opening.

"This should be a great partnership and a great use of this space," said Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Travis Palmer. "People in this community have really missed having a business here on Main Street."

"When Michael said, 'Let's do something different,' I was too stupid to say no,

and here we are," Van Gorder joked. "It's exciting and scary as hell, but everybody's been so supportive. It's going to be a true adventure."

Carousel Delicatessen and Ice Cream Parlor will be open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. seven days a week.

photo by Jon Stinnett

City clears space for Library flagpole

BY JON STINNETT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

The City of Cottage Grove has not budgeted funds to purchase a flagpole to be placed in front of the Cottage Grove Library, but City Manager Richard Meyers said the City has cleared a space for a potential new pole.

"We're not buying one, but we've cleared a spot," Meyers said. "We pulled a tree out of the way and moved the irrigation lines. We'll be putting brick pavers there until we're ready and have the resources to get a pole."

The lack of a flagpole at the Library sparked a conversation on a local Facebook group among individuals who wished to see the flag flying there last fall. At the Monday, Nov. 23 meeting of the Cottage Grove City Council, a group of citizens used a public comment period to ask why there was no flag at the Library, and one woman even offered to donate a flag to fly there. Meyers later said that the City has been

searching for a proper place to erect a flagpole at the Community Center for some time, particularly since a pole had been donated for that purpose back in 2007. Meyers said the City did not want to lose valuable parking spaces at the Community Center to accommodate a flagpole, and he added that, as the building was formerly a Safeway store, the City still does not know the schematics of the utilities that could be located under the parking lot.

Meyers said last week that the space cleared for a new flag pole does not eliminate any Community Center parking. He said a new pole, which ideally would have its hardware mounted inside the pole to curb vandalism issues, could cost between \$2000 and \$3000. The pole would need to be about 24 feet high. At the Nov. 23 meeting, City Councilor Mike Fleck said he'd like to see the possibility of a new pole revisited during the City's budget process, which takes place in May and June.

DeFazio talks transportation bill during Rotary visit

Later, calls Obama presidency 'very disappointing'

BY JON STINNETT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

U.S. Congressman Peter DeFazio has visited Cottage Grove a number of times in his 30 years in office, and on Thursday, he addressed the local Rotary and Lions clubs with good news about a transportation bill he's helped to craft and pass.

"People are pleased when you can tell them we've done something positive," he said after the meeting.

DeFazio, a Democrat who represents Oregon's Fourth District, is currently the ranking member on the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and he told Cottage Grove about his involvement with what he called "one of the most historically bi-partisan committees" in Congress. The six-year "Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act)"

provides close to \$300 billion to fund transit, highway and safety programs. DeFazio said he would have liked to see a larger number in terms of funding on the bill to address the 40 percent of pavement that needs repair in America, in addition to the \$80 billion backlog in repair projects for major cities. Much of the money from the bill, he said, will find its way to state transportation departments, which will utilize it to complete needed projects.

"The policies are good, it was a bipartisan bill, and it's going to put a lot of people back to work," he said on Thursday.

Still, DeFazio said he was disappointed that Congress could not come to an agreement on ways to raise revenue to fund such legislation.

"We're going to borrow the money," he said. "The Republicans have said they're going to mandate that the IRS use private tax collectors, and that that will be used to

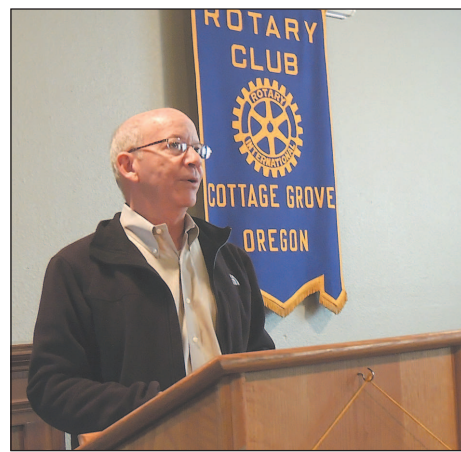


photo by Jon Stinnett

U.S. Congressman Peter DeFazio addressed members of Cottage Grove's Rotary and Lions clubs.

help raise the money. But we've tried that in the past and it hasn't worked. They also plan to take \$40 billion from the Federal Reserve, and they just make up money anyway."

DeFazio said he's also happy that a deal has been reached to get the U.S. Coast Guard back in the ice-breaking business, and that he's opposed to efforts to privatize

Please see DEFazio, Page 5A

Hours for I-5 construction slowdowns limited

Starting next week, the Oregon Department of Transportation says that Interstate 5 motorists will encounter fewer rolling slowdowns in north Douglas County.

Over the past two weeks, ODOT and prime contractor K&E Excavating have been slowing southbound I-5 traffic between Cottage Grove and Rice Hill due to tree cutting operations. The slowdowns had been taking place hourly each weekday, resulting in frequent delays.

ODOT said most of the tree-cutting work has been completed, so the hourly rolling slowdowns will no longer be necessary.

However, starting the week of Jan. 25-29, workers will begin blasting rock on the southbound side of the road to make room for a new climbing lane. Approximately 20-30 blasts will be scheduled between late January and early March. Blasting will take place during the morning hours

when traffic volumes are lower. No more than one blast will be scheduled each weekday.

As a result, motorists should expect intermittent delays on weekday mornings through early March. Though less frequent, the upcoming rolling slowdowns will be conducted in both directions. Southbound I-5 motorists will be slowed down between milepost 174 and 160, while northbound motorists will be impacted between milepost 150 and 162.

Most delays will be less than 20 minutes.

Meanwhile, motorists should watch for intermittent lane closures in both directions between milepost 154 and 162.

The tree-cutting and blasting operations are part of a \$40.3 million project that will resurface eight miles of I-5 and build a southbound auxiliary/climbing lane at milepost 161. The project is scheduled for completion in summer, 2017.

Cottage Grove Area
Habitat for Humanity®

RESTORE

WINTER HOURS:
THURSDAY, FRIDAY & SATURDAY

10AM-4PM

For Drop-off appointments,
after hours, call the office

We need volunteers for the
ReStore ~ a few hours
each month! Will you help?

Habitat Office and Warehouse
2155 Getty Circle ~ Unit #1
in the Cottage Grove Industrial Park
South on Hwy 99 past the High School

**DONATIONS
ALWAYS
WELCOME!**

Call 541.767.0358
for more information
Email
info@habitatcg.org

HOMESTEAD

Furniture



**JANUARY
MONTH END
SALE**

RECLINERS
(SIMILAR STYLES) STARTING AT
\$199



**MANY
STYLES
TO
CHOOSE**

**BAR
STOOLS**
(SIMILAR STYLES)



**COFFEE/END
TABLES**
(SIMILAR STYLES)



**MIXED
CLOSE-OUT,
ODDS
& ENDS**

BEDDING
(SIMILAR STYLES)



615 Main Street • Cottage Grove • 541-942-8711
homesteadcg.com