

St. Clairs celebrate 60 years together

Norman and Beverly St. Clair of Drain, Oregon were married Nov. 10, 1956 in Glendale, Oregon. Norman was employed in the timber industry, cutting and heli-logging. Beverly worked as a housewife, for the state tree farm and in convenience stores. They enjoy gardening, visiting with family, and going to garage sales. Their children are Steven (Ronda) St. Clair of Roseburg, Pam (Jack) Dailey of

Reedsport, Greg (Cindy) St. Clair of Drain, Lisa (Mike Carpenter) St. Clair of Cottage Grove, and Ashley (Aaron) Kephart of Cottage Grove. The couple also has 14 grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, and step-grandchildren that consider them grandpa and grandma, too. They will celebrate their marriage of 60 years with family and friends.



RENTALS

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While it's difficult to find data to pinpoint the vacancy rate in Cottage Grove, many believe that the number here is even lower. Mike Fleck, director of Community Sharing in Cottage Grove, said that the agency can frequently green-light funding help for families in search of an affordable place to rent, but these families are often unable to find a place to live.

A rebounding economy has meant several new hires at South Lane School District, which in turn means that many new school employees are undertaking the rental search.

"Most of them are new to the area and want to wait to buy something, so they check out rentals first," said Sherry Duerst-Higgins, a member of the South Lane School Board in addition to a realtor with Remax. "A lot of times they can't find anything here and end up looking in Eugene and Springfield, which is probably where they'll stay once they find a place."

Duerst-Higgins said she's not alone among landlords who have raised the rent for their properties in response to high demand.

"If I get 20 calls a day about a place, that tells me something," she said.

"It's a great time to be a landlord," said another local property owner. "There's not much available, so I'm bombed with applications. If something comes open, we advertise it, and immediately, we fill it."

Still, there is reason to believe that at least some relief may be on the horizon for Cottage Grove's version of the rental

housing crisis, as housing development projects that have been slow to take shape have begun to progress in recent weeks. On Friday, the Sentinel spoke with Richard Gordon, who has owned the former Cottage Grove Hospital building in the Northwest Neighborhood since 2008 and who, together with his wife, Nedora, has recently resumed plans to convert the building into 27 one and two-bedroom apartments, along with three 2000 square foot office spaces.

Gordon said he's almost ready to present plans to the City for building permits and hopes to do so by Dec. 1, once his architect finalizes them. His plans had been approved before the Great Recession, but the economic dive shelved those plans for him. Now, Gordon said he has seven of the apartments already spoken for.

"We're happy to be doing this project again," he said. "It was viable back then, and it still is. We're excited to be back, and the demand is greater now. We're looking forward to this, and we think it's very positive for Cottage Grove."

Meanwhile, the City said it has received word from Hayden Homes, which steadily built its Riverwalk development of starter homes in Cottage Grove throughout the economic downturn, that it wishes to resume its plan to build 32 cottages in the lot next to Riverwalk, a project that had also stalled after its approval. Its plan calls for mostly three-bedroom cottages averaging 1064 square feet. Additional two-bedroom cottages at 880 square feet and one-bedroom units of 400 square feet are also

planned. The City recently received a request from Hayden Homes for an estimate of the fees it can expect to pay for the project, indicating renewed interest.

City Planner Amanda Ferguson said the City has also been informed that Shelter Care, which works to provide affordable housing access locally among its other missions, may be closer to receiving the federal funding that will allow the human services agency to proceed with its plan to build over 30 apartment units of varying size on a lot next to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church. Shelter Care's plan for the development was approved several years ago, though it had to resubmit those plans after it was unable to secure the needed funds.

Taken together, Ferguson said that, should those three projects come to pass, it would represent by far the most significant growth in multi-family housing in Cottage Grove in over a decade.

"We need a variety of options, and this is a nice range," Ferguson said. "With the planned construction of the new school and these projects, we're going to be busy."

As detailed in a recent edition of the Sentinel, a group calling itself the Cottage Villages Coalition is also moving forward with plans to bring "tiny homes" to town to serve those most at risk of being homeless here. The group, which will model its efforts on Eugene's Square One Villages initiative, will present its plans to the Cottage Grove City Council on Nov. 14. Representative Sharon Jean said the

How to snip some stems and have new plants in spring

BY KYM POKORNY
OSU Extension Service

Snipping some cuttings from the garden will produce your own private nursery of plants by spring.

Whether you plant the results of your "snip and stick" project or give them away, propagating by cuttings can be a rewarding process.

Although some sources of information can be intimidating, Neil Bell, a horticulturist for Oregon State University Extension Service, has good news.

"I do lots of them at home," he said. "I don't use a greenhouse or even bottom heat. What that means is that the average gardener can propagate their own plants with nothing more than a tray, a decent medium, a bit of rooting hormone and a place to keep them out of the way."

Greenhouses are advantageous, but not necessary. Using bottom heat can help as well if you've got room in the house to set up a system. But Bell keeps his trays of cuttings outside in a sheltered area and has reasonable success.

Not all cuttings will "take" and produce roots, he said, but enough will to make it worth the attempt. Up to 100 to 125 cuttings can fit in one tray, so if you've never propagated by cuttings, try one or two trays and you're bound to get some plants out of your efforts.

"There's no need to complicate it," he said. "Even if you end up with 10 percent rooting, you've succeeded and most of

the time you can do far better."

This list of possible plants to propagate from hardwood cuttings in October and November is long, but some common ones include rosemary, rhododendron, hydrangeas, flowering currant (Ribes), Oregon grape (Mahonia aquifolium), mock orange (Philadelphus), redbud (Cercis), dogwood (Cornus sericea), rock rose (Cistus), manzanita (Arctostaphylos), Hebe, Cotoneaster, barberry (Berberis) and Pyracantha. If you grow half-hardy shrubs like salvia, cuttings taken now are great assurance against winter injury.

Bell's recommendations for taking hardwood cuttings:

You'll need: clean small clipper (the sharper the better), clean 3- to 4-inch deep tray, rooting hormone, tight-fitting gloves to protect hands against prickles and hormone, and a soilless mixture of 80 percent perlite and 20 percent peat moss. If you've used the tray before, wash with soap and water or a mild bleach solution and let them dry thoroughly.

Start with a healthy plant. Those stressed by disease, pests or drought will have a high failure rate.

Fill tray with perlite-peat moss mixture.

The easiest cuttings to take are shoot tips from strong-growing twigs. Cut the twig about 3-4 inches long, which will leave

Please see **STEMS**, Page 10A

SENIOR MEALS PROGRAMS

Offering Meals on Wheels and Cafe 60 at the following locations: Anyone age 60 and older is served, regardless of income, suggested donation is \$3. Guests under age 60 are welcome to attend for \$8 per meal.

Cottage Grove Riverview Terrace
925 W. Main St., Cottage Grove
Noon: Tues., Wed., Thurs.

Creswell Cresview Villa
350 S. 2nd St., Creswell
Noon: Mon., Wed., Fri.

THURSDAY, NOV. 3: Turkey Pasta Salad or Curried Chicken & Rice Salad
FRIDAY, NOV. 4: Pork Choppie w/Gravy or Honey Mustard Chicken
MONDAY, NOV. 7: Cowboy Campfire Stew

or Chicken Lo Mein
TUESDAY, NOV. 8: Breaded Baked Fish/Tartar Sc or Chicken Patty w/Dijon Sc
WEDNESDAY, NOV. 9: Hot Turkey Sandwich or Hot Meatloaf Sandwich

Drain/Yoncalla area

Served at 400 Main St., Yoncalla.
(For Douglas County Meals on Wheels eligibility, call 541-440-3677.)
Suggested donation \$3.50

THURSDAY, NOV. 3: Salisbury Patty w/Gravy
FRIDAY, NOV. 4: Tuna Salad 1/2 Sandwich w/Vegetarian Veg. Soup
TUESDAY, NOV. 8: Breaded Chicken Patty w/Mayo or Beef Sloppy Joe on a Bun

The City of Cottage Grove Public Works Department will be conducting its annual Leaf Pickup during the following weeks:

November 14th-18th • December 5th - 9th • December 19th-23rd

Tips for Leaf Placement in Street

- ✓ Only piles of loose leaves will be picked up
- ✓ Pile leaves on the street surface near the gutter, keeping gutter and catch basins free of leaves so storm water is not obstructed
- ✓ On streets without curbs and gutter, pile the leaves near the street surface away from ditches
- ✓ Stack the leaves so that they don't block bike and traffic lanes
- ✓ Leaves should be piled in rows so they do not block the flow of water along the curb and do not encroach on the traffic lane
- ✓ Do **not** place leaves in the streets where curbside parking does not exist. You may bring those leaves to the designated area outside the Row River Water Treatment Plant at 3300 Row River Road
- ✓ Do **not** place your leaves in plastic bags
- ✓ Branches will **not** be picked up
- ✓ Shrub prunings and blackberry vines will **not** be picked up
- ✓ Do **not** include rocks, metal or other debris in your leaf pile
- ✓ Lawn clippings will **not** be picked up

For more information please contact the Public Works Department at (541)942-2042 during working hours of Monday through Friday, 8:00AM to 5:00PM.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR



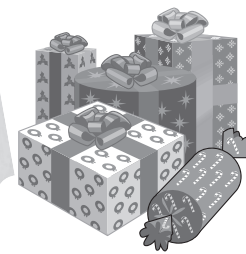
Humane Society of Cottage Grove's

6th Annual Christmas Bazaar

American Legion Hall • 826 Main Street, CG

Friday, November 4th
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday, November 5th
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Come and see what we have for our raffle!



Collectibles
Decorations
Christmas Cards
Lights
and Much More

All Proceeds Help Animals in Our Community.

27th Annual Cottage Grove Emblem Club #269

Craft Fair & Flea Market

November 5th • 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

November 6th • Noon to 4:00 PM

Cottage Grove Elks Lodge

755 N. River Rd

Bake Sale!

Reserve Your Table Now
Only \$15 Per Table



To reserve tables call Alair at 541-942-2871
Set up Fri. 4-6 PM & Sat. 7-9AM

Lunch Will Be Available Saturday 11am-1pm

Emblem Club #269 is a Nonprofit Organization Dedicated to helping the Elks and Our Community.