



Cottage Grove Sentinel

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Candidates to interview for Stewart seat today

Commission may choose today

By Caitlyn May
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Interviews for former Lane County Commissioner Faye Stewart's seat begin today, April 12, with 27 candidates but not all are taking the opportunity as a launching pad for their political careers.

Patrick Starnes has announced that if appointed by the remaining four commissioners, he would not run for re-election in 2018. His decision is in stark contrast with fellow candidate Kevin Matthews who told The Sentinel he plans to run next year regardless of the commission's decision.

Starnes is joined by fellow applicant Cedric Hayden in vowing not to seek the seat once the current term expires in 2018. Hayden, not to be confused with state representative Hayden, currently serves as the chief of staff for the Oregon State Legislature.

The county received 29 applications for Stewart's seat, announcing plans to interview the 27 who met the basic requirements for the position including Cottage Grove's own Cindy Weeldreyer, Thomas Weeler, Donald Nordin, Mike Fleck and Gary Williams. Donald Enrich of Creswell, Charles Conrad, William Ganser, James Barber, Jennifer Flint, Gary Carl, Christy Inskip, Tim Laue, Gary Mounce, Thomas Price, Rose Reinertson, Alvin Riggs, Laura Roman, Betsy Schultz, Robert Schutte, David Stram, John Tyler and Marie Wilson also threw their hats into the ring.

Stewart resigned from office in March of this year after securing a position with the city of Cottage Grove as the head of its new joint public works and community development department.

The individual selected by the commission will finish out the remainder of Stewart's term but will have to run in the 2018 election to retain the position.

The interviews are open to the public and will also be webcast live at <http://apps.lanecounty.org/Webcast/Default.aspx> and broadcast live on Metro TV (Comcast Channel 21). Public comment will not be welcome during the interviews.

Sentinel launches new website

On Monday, April 10, Sentinel subscribers were greeted by something new. Those who logged onto cgsentinel.com found a new layout, easy-to-navigate menus, larger photos, accessible stories and content that could be readily shared via social media. They found the new Sentinel website.

The redesign is part of a company-wide overhaul within the News Media Corporation family of newspapers and is designed to make the reader experience more informative.

"Transitioning to a new website is a wish come true. The new website is more user friendly and will allow us to provide even more and better content to our readers," said Sentinel General Manager Gary Manly.

Readers who already subscribe to The Sentinel and have recorded their email address with the paper can log on immediately. Simply login, enter the email address that corresponds to the subscription and reset the password. The reader will be prompted to re-enter their email and password and receive an email. Follow the directions in the email to complete the process. New subscribers can currently sign up for \$29 per year by entering "APR29" online.

Those who have not subscribed will still be able to access the website. Gone are the snippets of stories from the old website. Now, readers will be able to read complete stories, up to 10 per month, without being subscribers.

However, some stories will be behind a hard paywall that will prompt browsers to subscribe even if they have not yet hit their 10 free story mark for the month.

As the website grows, The Sentinel staff will continue to take advantage of the upgrade by featuring videos and audio as well as photo galleries along side stories. The site will also be updated throughout the week with breaking news available immediately and other stories appearing long before Wednesday morning.



Tiny houses now "Cottage Village"

By Caitlyn May
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The goal was to listen. That's what SquareOne Villages CEO Dan Bryant told approximately a dozen Cottage Grove residents on Thursday, April 6 during an open meeting addressing neighborhood concerns over the proposed tiny village on Madison Ave.

For just under an hour, residents and several members of the Cottage Village Coalition, along with Bryant, exchanged concerns and assurances regarding the development which currently calls for 13 tiny homes to be built by the end of 2018.

However, due to the nature of the project, Bryant repeatedly noted that definitive an-

swers to many questions concerning water, sewer, utilities, roadways, residents and by-laws were not available.

The project has stoked passions among residents and while prior meetings have garnered shouting matches, Thursday's meeting saw more leveled discussion, but no fewer questions.

Several questions concerning the apparent pond that develops every year due to the layout of the property and flood waters were met with assurances from Bryant that an engineer has told the group it could be repaired. However, the cost of the repair is still unknown.

SquareOne bought the property with a

grant from the Meyer Memorial Trust but in order to begin construction, it must partner with Cottage Village Coalition to fundraise \$800,000.

"We'll be filling out grants and doing direct asks," said Cottage Village Coalition member Sharon Jean. "We're hoping to bring the price down because Cottage Grove is such a wonderful, giving place," she added in regards to possible donated materials and services.

According to Bryant, the group has until the end of 2018 to complete the project, with the current schedule slated to see construction begin next spring. However, if the group does not raise the estimated \$800,000

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Habitat for Humanity breaks ground



The Parson family was joined by city leaders on April 10 to breakground on their future home provided by Habitat for Humanity. Photo: Greg Lee.

"Curtains" opens at Cottage Theatre



Mark VanBeever (playing Aaron Fox), Kim Fairbairn (Carmen Bernstein), Tracy Nygard (Georgia Hendricks), Ward Fairbairn (Oscar Shapiro)

By Jerry Thompson
For The Sentinel

If you are the kind of person who doesn't enjoy laughing or trying to figure out who is guilty in a murder mystery, then the Cottage Theatre's "Curtains" is not for you. However, if you are among the 99 percent of us who enjoy comedies and mysteries, then "Curtains" is a great entertainment choice!

"Curtains," which is a musical within a musical, is a very clever and brilliantly written play. Director Janet Rust knew she had a hit on her hands, the challenge was to effectively cast the wide-array of comedic

characters, which is not always easy. Rust hit a home run with the Cottage Theatre's 24-person cast.

Joel Ibanez was superb as Lieutenant Frank Cioffi, the affable policeman, who found it necessary to quarantine the entire cast of the western version of "Robin Hood," the play within the play, after Georgia Hendricks, the lead in the musical fell dead at the conclusion of her pathetic performance. We quickly learn that every major character had a motive for her demise. Without giving away too much, Hendricks' murder is followed by two more during the course of Cioffi's investigation.

I have seen many performances at the CT by Sophie Blades, and I think her portrayal of Niki Harris was her best to date. She displayed a wide range of emotions and talent in this fast-moving production. All the major characters were very good, but Larry Brown as Christopher Belling, the pompous, pretentious director, was spot-on. It is hard to conceive of anyone who could play that role better than Brown. He was a joy to watch and listen to in every scene he was present.

There are almost 20 musical numbers and all were choreographed by Rust. I found Mark VanBeever's solo, "I Miss the Music"

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SPORTS
Baseball & softball
Track, baseball and softball took the lead for the Lions last week. **PAGE B1**



EASTER
Easter mass schedule
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Coffee with the Editor

Every Tuesday 12 pm

@ Backstage Bakery

Come chat about the community!

