

# Carousel comes out of hiding



PHOTO BY GREG LEE

Friends of the Cottage Grove Carousel volunteers and board members gather to show off the attraction on October 12.

By Caitlyn May  
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Don Williams doesn't waste an opportunity.

So, when the Cottage Grove Tourism Board agreed to have its meeting at the W.O.E. Fairgrounds, Williams started making phone calls. By the time he was done, a rainy Thursday morning saw tourism board members, chamber of commerce members and community leaders milling around a drafty building, munching on hot dogs for breakfast and taking in the sight of the most recent labors of the Friends of the Cottage Grove Carousel.

"I wanted people who wouldn't ordinarily come out here to get here and see that we are serious," Williams said.

He sits on the Friends of the Cottage Grove Carousel board—a nonprofit tasked with wrangling a location and business plan that would see the attraction eventually settled on Main St. While the effort to bring the carousel to Cottage Grove has spanned nearly 20 years, the revamped group has taken up the cause again and cites nearby efforts, such as the refurbished carousel in Albany, that have found recent success.

Cottage Grove resident Judy Cash originally bought the car-

ousel after coming into a large sum of money from a family friend and immediately explored ways to make her childhood passion for the carousel viable as a tourist attraction for the town she fell in love with. After several attempts to secure funding, locations and energy for the project, this latest reincarnation of the effort has hit the ground running and signed an agreement with Cash which outlines the specific circumstances that would see the carousel gifted to the group.

Cash previously told The Sentinel the agreement was in place to ensure progress after seeing other groups try and fail to bring her carousel to Main St.

On Thursday, Friends of the Cottage Grove Carousel set out to prove they are serious. The group assembled the pieces of the attraction at the fairgrounds, lining animals along the wall to showcase the restoration effort.

"This is the first time it feels like something will happen," Travis Palmer, executive director of the chamber of commerce, said, noting the tourism-generating potential of the carousel.

The group has moved forward with restoration efforts, teaming with the advanced art class at

Cottage Grove High School to repaint the animals and working to find a viable option to update the running board with local, historical photographs.

However magnificent the restoration, the group still needs a location to stage the attraction as well as professional architectural drawings, permits and a slew of other things wrapped in red tape.

To combat the cost, the Friends of the Cottage Grove Carousel have mounted numerous fundraising efforts including a no-show banquet and

raffle. Its latest will be a sponsorship drive. Members of the community will be able to sponsor a piece of the carousel with prices distributed throughout every income bracket.

"Someone will sponsor everything," Williams said of the plan to have a sponsor for each piece of the carousel from the lightbulbs to the floorboards.

For more information on the carousel, to donate or volunteer, please contact Friends of the Cottage Grove Carousel at (541) 649-1210.

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Community sing-a-long

Thursday, October 19 at 10:30 a.m. in the reception hall in the Cottage Grove Community Center at 700 E. Gibbs Ave.

### Fire board meeting

The fire board will meet on Thursday at 7 p.m. at the station house on Harrison in Cottage Grove.

### Farmer's market

The South Valley Farmers' Market will be open Thursday from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the corner of 7th St. and Main St.

### Sprout film festival

The Lane Community College Cottage Grove Center presented its 10th annual fundraising event showcasing people with developmental disabilities. Free admission. October 20 to October 21 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

### Humane Society

The Cottage Grove Humane Society annual jamboree benefit will be held on Saturday, October 21 at 6 p.m. at the Creswell Community Center. Drinks and snacks available with donation.

### Halloween play

Opal Center's annual Halloween mash-up will run Thursday, October 26 through Saturday, November 4 at 7:30 p.m. Ticket information available at opalcenter.org.

### Railroad show

The model railroad show is coming to the Cottage Grove Armory on Friday, October 27 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. and on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### Main St. trick or treat

Annual Main St. trick or treat will be held on Halloween from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

### American Legion

The American Legion will host a dinner on October 24 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Plates for the fundraiser cost \$7 and feature lasagna, salad and garlic bread.

# Shopping cart ordinance may be headed to board



PHOTO BY COUNCILOR KEN ROBERTS

By Caitlyn May  
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The city council has been struggling with the issue of abandoned shopping carts crowding city streets for over a year. Now, they may be ready to settle on a plan.

According to Cottage Grove City Manager Richard Meyers, the city has had an ordinance on ice for approximately one year.

"In September of 2016, we came up with a draft and tried to get input from local businesses," Meyers said. "And the council said, 'ok' and they've been thinking and it tapered off. Now, it's picked back up again."

The issue has been resurrected after city councilman Ken Roberts announced he'd picked up and returned more than 100 carts in his first few months in office. He began working with local businesses and researching how other municipalities deal with the issue.

Roberts spoke out at a recent city council meeting saying that "something had to be done" regarding the carts left around town.

While several residents have spoken out and suggested legal ramifications for anyone caught

with a shopping cart off store property, Meyers says it's not that simple.

"What we're missing is something that says the cart belongs to this store and it's not to be removed," he said. "We need that because we have to indicate that they stole the cart. Did Safeway just give them the cart to walk off with? Probably not but we still need identification and a statement that says it can't be taken from the property."

Meyers said that while signage would allow the city to prosecute, that may not be the answer.

"The demographic that is taking the carts most likely cannot pay the \$500 fee and then we house them in jail and feed them," he said.

Currently, the city stores carts it picks up at the maintenance yard and attempts to contact the store owners to retrieve them.

Some do, Meyers said. And some don't.

"We can scrap them after a while but what a waste," Meyers said. "This will continue to be a discussion."



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**In Honor of All Veterans**

The Cottage Grove Sentinel is preparing to publish its "Salute to Vets" a special section devoted to all military veterans who are Cottage Grove-area residents or have a connection to this area.

If you are interested in sharing your military story in the annual Veterans Day publication, or in updating information that we have published previously, please complete the form below and submit it to the Cottage Grove Sentinel. Service photographs are also welcome.

Submit forms and photos (preferably) by e-mail to cgsnews@cgsentinel.com; or by mail to Cottage Grove Sentinel, Attn: Caitlyn May, PO Box 35, Cottage Grove, OR 97424; or drop forms off at the Cottage Grove Sentinel, 116 6th Street, Cottage Grove.

Please be sure that all materials are carefully labeled with your name and phone number. **ALL FORMS AND PHOTOGRAPHS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY OCTOBER 31, 2017.**

Thank you for participating in this project to remember and honor our veterans.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Branch of Service: \_\_\_\_\_

Rank Achieved (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

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Has your veterans information been published previously in the Cottage Grove Sentinel Veterans Publication?  
YES NO  
Do we have your military photo(s) on file? YES NO  
(Note: If you have submitted photos in the past, we will still have them on file.)