

# Cottage Grove Sentinel

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SPORTS

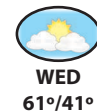
Mel Gowing finds new success on the golf course. B1

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For a complete six-day forecast please see page A5.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2018

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## Drain library re-opens thanks to grassroots effort

By Caitlyn May  
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Like all good things, the grand re-opening of the library in Drain kept people waiting. A car crash had waylaid the newly-elected-first-responder-mayor Justin Cobb, but the Friends of the Mildred Whipple Library had endured a failed ballot measure, a confusing maze of governmental red tape and a campaign to convince a traditionally anti-tax community to raise its own taxes.

Nothing was going to stop them Saturday morning.

In 2016, Douglas County residents voted down a bond measure that would have levied .44 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value to fund the 11 libraries in the Douglas Library System after the county voted to close the system due to a lack of funding.

One by one, the libraries from Reedsport to Roseburg and Drain to Yoncalla shut their doors. Nearly two years later, all 11 have re-opened or are planning to open but only Drain, Reedsport and Roseburg will have a stable funding source.



CAITLYN MAY/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

Community members celebrate the re-opening of the Mildred Whipple Library, which closed in 2017 following budget cuts in Douglas County.

All three communities passed levies at a local level to fund their libraries; in Drain, voters approved the same .44-cents-per-\$1,000 of assessed value by more than

70 percent after a tireless campaign by the Friends of the Mildred Whipple Library, some of whom were elected to the library board during the same May, 2018 election that saw the

levy pass. Anne Campbell was one of them.

Campbell opened Saturday's event by welcoming the more than 50 residents who braved

the chilly November morning to watch the doors open again and wait in line for their new library cards.

She reminded the crowd that the library had been in oper-

ation for more than 80 years before being closed on April 1, 2016, that it moved from the Methodist Church to city hall

See **LIBRARY 8A**

## Twin brothers celebrate 90 years in The Grove

By Caitlyn May  
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The Yearous house is off the beaten path but not quite into the woods. It's just to the side of Latham Elementary School and sits very comfortably on the land that has been raising Yearous children since 1891, rooting them in the community.

"Can't forget the day I was born. A cool November afternoon," Everett Yearous jokes. His wife reminds him to speak up so his twin brother, Gilbert can hear him without a signal boost from a granddaughter who sits close by ready to shout the words that slip through 90-year-old hearing.

Everett and Gilbert were born a mile down the road from where they sat in Everett's living room five days before their 90th birthday. The household would soon fill with children and helpers readying for the celebration but in the lull, the twins recounted their childhood, growing up in Cottage Grove.

In 1891, John and Amanda Hull moved to Oregon from Missouri, settling in Latham. They raised their 10 children

and buried John's father—who served in the Civil War—in Fir Grove Cemetery.

In 1910, their daughter Nora married Roscoe Yearous and on Nov. 18, 1928 they welcomed the last of their six children, twin boys.

While Gilbert can't hear as well as Everett, he has a bit more to say.

"They ask me if I've lived my whole life on Hull Rd. and I say, not yet I haven't," he said. The brothers live within each other's sight and have seen Cottage Grove evolve from a timber town to a municipality their grandnephew Jeff Gowing presides over as mayor.

"There was a dance at the armory every Saturday night," Everett said, "Our father would park the old Model A and when we got out of the cowboy show, we'd go to the car and the blues were playing at the dance at the armory."

That was when the National Guard still owned the armory and before the store fronts changed, welcoming a rotation of new owners and entrepreneurs; it was before a movie cost upward of 10 times what

See **TWINS 11A**

## Dorena searches for fire protection

By Caitlyn May  
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On Sept. 5 of this year, smoke filled the skies above Dorena, rising to meet the helicopter armed with water that hovered above the flames.

It was the second fire in seven days to hit the Cottage Grove area and part of the broader string of fires that enveloped the west coast, burning thousands of acres and forcing mandatory evacuations that required teams of local fire personnel and equipment to provide mutual aid to California fire crews.

And while South Lane County Fire and Rescue (SLCFR) was dispatched to Dorena on Sept. 6 along with resources from North Douglas Fire EMS and the Goshen-Pleasant Hill Fire District, there wasn't much they could do.

"South Lane County Fire and Rescue, we cover from Dillard Road by Goshen, south to the Douglas County Line," said SLCFR Division Chief Joe Raade. "We cover west up to mile post eight, south out to London Road and to Razor Road going east. Up Dorena, it's basically the dam on the south side and to the north, it's mile post five or six. The fires that

See **DORENA 9A**



COURTESY PHOTO

Dorena residents have begun exploring options, like this 1962 Ford fire engine, to bring fire protection to the area.

## Buch wins E. Lane Commish seat

By Caitlyn May  
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Heather Buch spent election day with her family and election night being cautiously optimistic after initial results showed her beating out Gary Williams for the East Lane Commissioner position.

With just over 26,000 votes counted, Buch led 56.05 percent to 43.50 percent in a race against area native Gary Williams, who arguably had a slight edge over Buch going into the race after serving as mayor of Cottage Grove for more than a decade and being appointed to the county commission seat over

Buch after former commissioner Faye Stewart stepped down to take a job with the City of Cottage Grove.

"I was knocking doors very early on and getting the one-on-one interaction with everyone within our district and getting to know what their issues were," Buch said after delivering a speech Tuesday night.

The commission will now see its first lean to the left in several years — an issue that crept into the non-partisan race with election material labeling Buch as working with "extremists."

"The issues that resonated when I

See **BUCH 11A**

## Four measures fall short at ballot box

By Caitlyn May  
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Voters statewide had the chance to rule on five measures last Tuesday ranging from affordable housing to abortion and their verdict was a resounding no with four of the five measures failing to pass.

Measure 102 (Passed): Local governments will be permitted to use bonds to finance affordable housing projects with private companies after 56 percent of voters

See **MEASURES 8A**

### COMMUNITY

Firefighters head to CA.  
SLCFR sends firefighters to help with California fires  
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### DORENA

Special recognition  
Dorena Grange No. 835 receives Distinguished Grange award  
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