



Cottage Grove Sentinel

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WEATHER

Sunshine with a high of 70 and a low tonight of 38.
Full forecast on A5

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Community waves goodbye to local icon
A3

SPORTS — B

Lions pick up a pair of 'must-win' games
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DAMIEN SHERWOOD/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

The \$100,000 welcome center project was years in the making and has turned the city into a popular pit stop for fly-by visitors.

Airport Welcome Center propels tourism

By DAMIEN SHERWOOD
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Nadine and Shawn Kelley have found a way to pull tourists out of thin air. In its short life of a little more than a year and a half, the Cottage Grove Airport Welcome Center has been generating exactly the kind of attention the Kelleys were hoping it would, pulling in a manifold increase in visitors. “During a week in the summer, before this building came up, we would have two or three [visitors],” Shawn said. “Now we’re getting more like a dozen to almost 20.”

See **CENTER 9A**



DAMIEN SHERWOOD/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

Community members raised the first wall of the tiny house project into position last Wednesday.

Walls raised on first tiny house

By DAMIEN SHERWOOD
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Members of Presbyterian Women helped hoist the first wall in Cottage Village last week, marking a new milestone in the tiny house project at 1430 E. Madison Ave.

“This isn’t the answer to our housing crisis, but it’s definitely a start,” said Mayor Jeff Gowing to a crowd of community members and project volunteers who turned out for the April 25 event.

After more than three years of planning and volunteering, the first of 13 tiny homes has begun to take shape as a new phase has begun in the collaborative affordable housing project run by the Cottage Village Coalition (CVC) and SquareOne Villages.

With momentum gathering in the project, Lane County Commissioner Heather Buch stopped by to speak at last Wednesday’s event.

“We all know that housing is a huge issue along the West Coast in

general and we’re of course no isolated incident here,” she said. “I want to commend SquareOne Villages for identifying a gap in housing and actually moving as fast as they can to find solutions in small rural locations as well as all over Lane County. What they do is unique and your help in this effort is really commendable.”

SquareOne Village’s executive director Dan Bryant emphasized the need for projects like this.

See **TINY 10A**

Public Health Fair connects community services

By DAMIEN SHERWOOD
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More than 30 organizations packed the Cottage Grove Armory on Saturday for this year’s Public Health Fair. Booths were set up by organizations providing services ranging from mental health counseling to nutritional programs.

Because many of the groups in attendance Saturday operate out of Eugene offices, their services to the Cottage Grove area may be relatively unknown; Family Relief Nursery in-

take specialist Crystal Morrison saw the event as a great opportunity for exposure and education.

“It’s really just letting families know that we’re here for them and what we offer,” she said. “It’s also a great time to network and have other agencies get together that we don’t usually get to see.”

The fair was started four years ago by members of Family Relief Nursery and an intern in the Family and Human Services program out of the University of Oregon.

“It’s actually run by interns every

year,” said Morrison, “Usually, this is their senior project.”

As part of the project, interns contact agencies they think would be appropriate to be in attendance.

Donations also come in from all over the community for a raffle event held at the end of the day. This year, the Armory stage showcased a large selection of donations that included toys, gift baskets and several child-sized bicycles.

Fair attendees included well-known groups such as the Cub Scouts and 90by30, but also provided

a platform for lesser known groups like Bikers Against Child Abuse (BACA), whose parked Harley Davidsons outside the building and full biker regalia at the booth generated some interest.

“We’re here to help children not be fearful in their world,” said Dreamer, BACA vice president and agency liaison for Emerald Valley Charter. “The way we accomplish it is we actually bring them in to our family.”

BACA members only go by “road

See **HEALTH 7A**

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