

Carousel from AI

actually see how it's balanced and work on things that happened with it," said Nowicki.

The test results were promising.

"Lights are all on. Everything's working — the systems are working, the drive is working and our speed controls are working," said McGuire.

Two days earlier, a video had been posted on Facebook with volunteers and workers performing a smaller test of the carousel, prompting a large response on social media as people expressed their excitement and asked about rides.

Until last Thursday's full test, the focus had primarily been on creat-

around before Thursday, but the question was whether it would hold up with the expected capacity of riders onboard.

The previous motor was five-horsepower, according to project engineer Russ McGuire, but the new motor is seven-and-a-half-horsepower. The carousel started out at two rotations per minute, but by the end of the test it was able to reach three rotations per minute. This was the first time it had moved with its own power in 25 years.

"With a group like this, it gives us an opportunity to put people on it and



DAMIEN SHERWOOD/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

Members of the Corvette Club visited the Cottage Grove Carousel July 11 to test out the new power system. The carousel is now moving again for the first time in 25 years.

ing the art and animals that decorate the carousel. Now with those aspects mostly finished, electrical work and certifications have moved to the forefront of the project. In addition, to ensure the carousel is fit for commercial use, it must first pass an inspection and receive Occupational Safety and Health Administration

(OSHA) certification. Until the certifications can be acquired, however, the carousel will not be open to the public for safety reasons. The timeline on this certification is "several months before we get all of this done and everything ready to go," said McGuire.

This delay is, in part, due to the availability of

the inspector; the closest person able to do the inspection is from Spokane, Wash., and it could take about a month for him to be available. Not only that, new insurance is now required for the carousel, and that must be ironed out before opening day as well.

According to McGuire, Olsson Industrial Electric donated a lot of the control systems on the carousel, which were purchased at a discount through Platt Electric Supply. North Coast Electric, which did some work on Albany's carousel, helped with the design for the controls.

McGuire estimates, in total, more than \$90,000 worth of material was donated to get the carousel to this point, including the machinery, paint, wood and other essential parts.

"Everybody's been great ... they're just very generous people," McGuire said.

The carousel can be visited Monday and Thursday, from 8 a.m. to noon, which is when volunteers are working on it.

For more information visit www.cgcarousel.com or the Friends of the Cottage Grove Carousel Facebook page.

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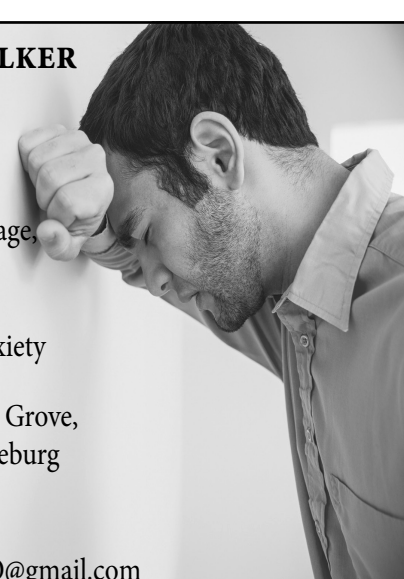
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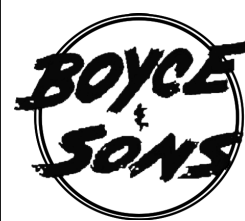
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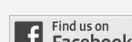
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