

Cottage Grove Est. 1889 Sentinel

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WEATHER

Sun and showers with a high of 58 and a low tonight of 48.
Full forecast on A5

COMMUNITY

Monthly Art Walk to be held next week.
A5

SPORTS — B

Lions bitten in overtime thriller.
B1

- **RECORDS**
Obituaries
Police Logs
Death Notices
A2
- **LORANE NEWS**
A5
- **CLASSIFIEDS**
Listings and public notices
B6-B7

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PHOTOS BY GREG LEE/FOR THE COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

Business of the Year winner Coast Fork Feed Company & Brew Station was awarded for its efforts to support area youth and families, as well as for its promotion of the Cottage Grove area and family events. "We really are a family and I think that's what we bring to the community," said owner Dale Smith (far right).

Chamber celebrates business, community leaders

By DAMIEN SHERWOOD
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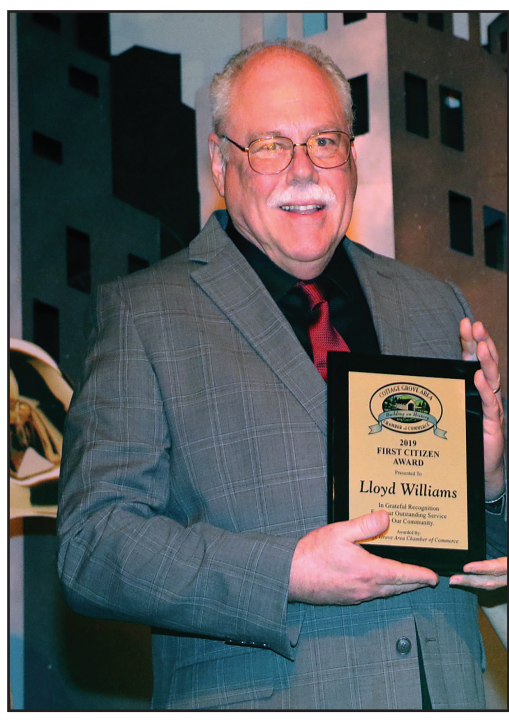
City officials, local residents and Chamber of Commerce members gathered Saturday, Jan. 18, in the Cottage Grove Armory for the 71st Annual Cottage Grove Area Chamber of Commerce Installation and Awards Dinner.

Master of Ceremonies Ned Hickson, Managing Editor of the *Cottage Grove Sentinel*, hosted the event as awards were distributed to members of the community under a variety of categories.

Starting the night off, Chamber of Commerce Ambassador Chair Ruth Linoz presented two scholarships to students for their volunteerism, community service, academic excellence and extracurricular activities.

"We wanted to emphasize what these students do in the community," said Linoz.

Eight students wrote essays in application for the scholarships. The Junior First Citizen Scholarship of \$1,000 was awarded to Austin Dempsey while the Junior First Citizen Schol-



Lloyd Williams was awarded for his service in city committees and wide-ranging work with several organizations.

arship of \$750 was awarded to runner-up Oden Armstrong.

The Distinguished Service Award, which recognizes significant community contribution through outstanding dedication and volunteer service to the city, was awarded to citizens Alice Nowicki and Ken Schwieger.

"They are quite involved in just about every activity in the town you can imagine," said presenter Russ McGuire, last year's recipient.

"We do what we do because we strongly feel that if you are in a community, you need to step up," said Nowicki.

Next, the Community Impact Award was given in honor of a person who has made a lasting positive impact on the community. This year's recipient was local developer Len Blackstone.

Blackstone's projects have included the Stewart Building and Bank Building on downtown Main Street as well as brokering the Cottage Grove Industrial Park. Currently, Blackstone is planning development on the old Harrison Elementary School property.

See **AWARDS 11A**

CG begins housing development assistance program

By DAMIEN SHERWOOD
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The Cottage Grove City Council established a Housing Development Cost Assistance Program Jan. 13, incorporating a unique tool in the city's effort to broaden the variety and increase the amount of housing in the area.

"No one else has done this that we know of," said City Manager Richard Meyers. "We actually had to create this and make this up our-

selves. We haven't found any other city that's doing anything like this."

The program, which was voted into effect unanimously, enables the city to provide relief on system development charges and building fees to nonprofit or government agency developers with projects which help the city meet its broad array of housing needs.

"It helps fill that spectrum out of trying to hit the full range of housing that we

may need in the community," Meyers said.

Though the program does not fully cover all costs, the city may pay a portion of building permit fees and system development charges for the projects.

"The ones that are going to benefit the most from it are going to be those citizens that need this kind of innovative new housing that hits the affordable — or moderate —

See **HOUSING 8A**

SLSD board members share hopes for future

By DAMIEN SHERWOOD
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This month is School Board Recognition Month in Oregon. The Oregon School Boards Association has set aside the month of January to honor the unpaid elected volunteers who serve on Oregon's 197 local school boards, 19 education service district boards and 17 community college boards.

Some in the community may be curious what exactly a school board does.

See **SCHOOL 9A**

Celebrating

44 YEARS

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OUR TOWN, Not Defined by Borders, But by People

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