

# Cottage Grove *Est. 1889* Sentinel

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**WEATHER**



Clouds and rain with a high of 58 and a low tonight of 52.  
**Full forecast on A5**

**COMMUNITY**



**Booher celebrates 100th birthday.**  
A3

**SPORTS — B**



**ND girls gear up for playoffs.**  
B1


- **RECORDS**  
Obituaries  
Police Logs  
Official reports  
A2
- **LORANE NEWS**  
A5
- **CLASSIFIEDS**  
Listings and public notices  
B8-B9

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## Curtis historic thread of Yoncalla's fabric

*Marge Curtis is a living history and icon of the Yoncalla community*

By NICK SNYDER  
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Marge Curtis' house overlooks the Yoncalla High School grounds, as is only fitting.

For over 65 of her 85 years of life, Curtis has lived in Yoncalla, watching over the comings and goings of the town, seeing young people grow up and move away — or sometimes

remain. She continues to be a witness to vast changes in economy and industry, all the while fulfilling her voluntary role of Douglas County matriarch, repository of history and a bygone era that fades more with each passing day.

"Well, I'm one of the older ones now," said Curtis, "because most of the older ones have passed. Not all of them yet."

The way Marge Curtis tells her life

story is bucolic and modest, in many parts distinctly matter of fact. Over the last 20 years or so, Curtis has taken time every now and again to write down her memories of a life spent entirely in Douglas County. The stories now take up the large part of a 70-page spiral notebook. Its distance from the current digital age and myriad tales of a simpler time where

See **CURTIS 7A**



*DevNW and community leaders celebrate construction on six new affordable homes*

NICK SNYDER/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

**Cottage Grove Mayor Jeff Gowing (center) welcomed members of nonprofit DevNW to the community for a ceremony marking the construction of six new community land trust homes last Friday.**

By DAMIEN SHERWOOD  
[DSHERWOOD@CGSENTINEL.COM](mailto:DSHERWOOD@CGSENTINEL.COM)

Nonprofit DevNW celebrated the continuing construction of six community land trust homes in Cottage Grove Jan. 24, a project which will offer permanent homeownership for low- and middle-income families in the area.

"This particular project was a labor of love and we ran into a lot of hurdles along the way," said DevNW

CEO Emily Reiman at the event.

DevNW was created last year when nonprofits Neighborhood for Economic Development Corporation and Corvallis-based Wilamette Neighborhood Housing Services united to increase regional impact. The nonprofit aims to empower communities through a variety of methods such as financial counseling, revitalization projects and assistance programs.

The six new homes under con-

struction on Arthur Avenue are being sold to homebuyers below 80 percent of the area median income (AMI).

Cottage Grove's AMI was estimated to be as high as \$47,000 according to U.S. Census Bureau data from 2014-2018.

Eligibility for ownership of the new land trust homes will be dependent on family size and annual income, ranging from an income

See **HOMES 9A**

## Housing program awards first applicants

By DAMIEN SHERWOOD  
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The Cottage Grove City Council has received and approved its first three requests for assistance under the city's new Housing Development Cost Assistance Program.

The program was adopted when councilors voted for the housing policy during the Jan. 13 City Council meeting. Under the new assistance program, which targets nonprofits and government agency developers, applications may request assistance from the city on development costs

See **PROGRAM 8A**

## Resignations shake up carousel board

By DAMIEN SHERWOOD  
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Friends of the Cottage Grove Carousel accepted resignations from the board's president Don Williams and board member Linda Sexton last week amid disagreements over handling of the project and other conflicts within the board.

"It is with a broken heart that I come to the community, the donors, volunteers and Board of Directors to tender my resignation as president and board member of Friends of the Cottage Grove Carousel," wrote Williams in his letter. "It is my sincere regret that I am unable to fulfill the commitment to many — that I would see the job through to completion. ... I think it best, for the health and well-being of the project, to step aside."

Williams had led the project since 2014, when he resurrected the dream of late Cottage Grove resident Judy Cash to establish a carousel in town.

Though still supportive and optimistic about the carousel's restoration, Williams said the aggregation of several minor incidents and an atmosphere of conflict

See **CAROUSEL 11A**



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