

Community News

Centennial Celebration



COURTESY PHOTO

This past Saturday, Jan. 15, Cottage Grove resident Charles (Chuck) Booher (left) celebrated his 100th birthday at the Cottage Grove Community Center, where family and friends packed the room for the occasion. Booher, originally from Curtin, Ore., was described by family and friends as “an amazing man,” “still full of life” and “with a sharp mind.”

PakTech makes donation to enhance Bohemia Park lighting



COURTESY PHOTO

From left: Bohemia Foundation Board Members Gary Williams, Lloyd Williams, Board President Faye Stewart, PakTech General Manager Scott Diehl, Board Member Tom Munroe, Christina Lund of Lund Development Solutions, Board Members Steven Stewart and JoAnn Gray.

Recently, members of the Board of Directors of the Bohemia Foundation gathered at Bohemia Park to receive a \$25,000 check from PakTech General Manager Scott Diehl. Board President Faye Stewart accepted the check on behalf of the Foundation, which manages the park and has overseen its transformation from a brown field to a hub of community activity over the past decade plus.

Stewart explained that the contribution will help the Foundation purchase 10 of the nearly 30 light poles it expects to install in the Park soon. He said this new lighting will enhance safety in the Park and expand its potential uses.

Diehl said that PakTech, which expanded its Eugene-based operations to Cottage Grove in 2016, “is proud to support local initiatives aimed at reclaiming important facilities and buildings for community use.”

PakTech used extensive resources to repurpose its own Cottage Grove facility, formerly home of the Kwikie Corporation. The company, which manufactures a broad line of products including the four- and six-pack handles seen on many canned beverages, has since supported the renovation of the Cottage Grove Armory and the ongoing evolution of Bohemia Park.

Tucker’s Cupboard hosting ‘Name Your Price’ sale

Tucker’s Cupboard, a Cottage Grove area group that aids low-income households in SLSD care for their canines, is hosting a “Name Your Price” sale and fundraiser Feb. 28 and 29 at the Cottage Grove Community Center (700 E. Gibbs).

The sale will offer a wide variety of items to name your own price on and all

reasonable offers will be gladly accepted. All proceeds will help aid animals in the local area.

The sale will take place in the Shepherd Room each day, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The goal of the volunteer group is to aid low-income households in providing a better quality of life for their canines.

The Carousel Corner

This advertisement is paid for by Don Williams.

Dear Readers

The following is an explanation of why I have left the leadership role of the Cottage Grove Carousel. I come to you to eliminate any rumors or misgivings that I know happens in Cottage Grove. I’ve seen it time and time again, when projects are injured because someone leaves and the true story is not expressed to the public.

My leaving the Cottage Grove Carousel does not affect the longevity and the beauty of a project we began in 2014. When I put this organization together, I knew it would be a long haul. Anyone who has seen the carousel in the last few weeks will understand my heartfelt thanks to the wonderful crew of volunteers, who have made it happen, along with thousands and thousands of dollars to make Judy Cash’s dream come true.

Make no mistake about my intent, I’m leaving the carousel project because of personality conflicts. You and I understand these conflicts are in the course of human events. And in this case, I leave the carousel in excellent hands. Project Engineer Russ McGuire and the crew of volunteers he has working on the project will not be affected by my leaving.

The publicity, promotions, land use planning and the fundraising event are in the hands of confident, qualified individuals who have experience in these fields. The next big step is to lay the foundation to move forward with the 2.5 million dollar building and purchase the land for it.

I must say, I do not believe I have missed a board meeting since the project was created. I’ve held at least two exploratory meetings a week since 2014. So, you can see my dedication and I offer my continued prayers for the carousel project’s success.

The board has asked me to stay on as an advisor. I sincerely appreciate that offer. Under the circumstances, I feel I must decline.

The following is an explanation of why I felt the need to leave the Carousel project.

Don Williams

ABBREVIATED LETTER OF RESIGNATION TO THE FRIENDS OF THE CAROUSEL BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND THE COMMUNITY OF CAROUSEL LOVERS

Heartfelt thanks to the volunteers who have given so much of their valuable time to the re-creation of the 1929 Hershall Carousel. My thanks go to many donors, large and small. I am most grateful to the many businesses who have contributed many thousands of dollars to that re-creation.

My further grateful thanks to the Cottage Grove Sentinel, Creswell Chronicle, Springfield Free for All, Register Guard, the local Eugene TV stations, KNND radio, The carousel project would not be where it is at today – a beautiful, rebuilt machine that will bring much happiness to many families for years to come – without such strong media support.

Having been in the promotion and advertising world, in promoting local events for almost 40 years in Cottage Grove, I know and understand the value of the media in the success of a project. The media has been outstanding in covering, in a positive manner, the promotion and fundraising of the carousel, for which I am eternally grateful.

Before I formed the committee to restore the carousel and bring it to Cottage Grove, my main focus was tourism and a place of community enjoyment and happiness. I knew little of the history of carousels, other than my wife and kids loved to ride carousels

during our 50 years together.

Secondly, I was doing it out of friendship for a lady with a dream, Judy Cash. Judy and I met early on many times after the carousel was suggested at a tourism committee meeting I had called. The purpose of that tourism meeting was to think about what we could do to bring tourism to the Cottage Grove area and spend a few dollars at local businesses.

When I first formed the committee and asked for support and help, I promised the citizens a transparent organization – and I would communicate with the supporters in the community as best I could.

The carousel is one step from opening to the public. This will fulfill Judy Cash’s vision of a beautiful meeting place of enjoyment, not only for tourists, but for creating lasting family memories, bringing bright wide-eyed smiles to children’s faces.

The carousel is well and healthy.

It is with a broken heart that I come to the community, the donors, volunteers, and Board of Directors, and tender my resignation as President and Board Member of Friends of the Cottage Grove Carousel.

For several months there had been some disagreements and personality conflicts that your president has been unable to get his arms wrapped around and resolve.

An executive board meeting was called and held. In-depth discussions were presented regarding conflicts of personalities of board members. It was suggested that one board member be relieved of a place on the Board of Directors. If this were not to happen, I would run the risk of losing the remaining board members. This allegation did not frighten me, as all but one of the members could be replaced. I had several very qualified individuals in mind. This would be

with the exception of the Project Engineer, Russ McGuire. With his multiple talents and skill levels, plus his dedication to bringing the carousel to South Lane County, he could never be replaced without tremendous added expense.

It has been brought to my attention there are members of the board who feel I have demonstrated poor leadership and unprofessionalism in my written e-mails. A leader/manager/CEO, particularly a volunteer, must take these allegations very seriously and consider the well-being of the total project.

I have been taught, in my professional life, that if leadership is pointed out as being inadequate, for the good of the project, you remove yourself. This has a great deal of influence in my decision to leave the leadership of the Friends of the Cottage Grove Carousel.

Once again, to the wonderful

volunteers and donors, my sincere thanks for your involvement in the re-creation of the carousel for South Lane County. It is my sincere regret that I am unable to fulfill the commitment to many – that I would see the job through to completion. In my thinking, when I made that commitment, it was for a restored carousel that included a building and a permanent home for the carousel in a highly visible location. At the time, I think it best, for the health and well-being of the project to step aside.

I had looked forward to the day when we could design the inside of a permanent home. This is one of the first things that Judy Cash and I talked about over breakfast at the Koffee Kup 2014.

This letter of resignation is effective at 9:01am January 22, 2020.



Dedicated in memory of Mary Jean Williams



Dedicated in memory of Susie and Matthew Williams