

*\*\*This information is to the best of our knowledge. Please submit edits/more information to [DunlapDCDC@gmail.com](mailto:DunlapDCDC@gmail.com). We are looking for facts only currently (business names, owners, dates, and photos.)*

## 114 Iowa Ave

**Current Business:** Cottonwood Event Center (2018)

**Previous Businesses:**

Dunlap Reporter

1867 – Dunlap was platted







# Turning a new page in time

## The former Dunlap Reporter building to be transformed

BY JESUSA CHRISTIANS  
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The former Dunlap Reporter building in downtown Dunlap will be turning a page in its history soon, transformed into something new for the community.

The building that has been home to the community's newspaper was recently sold by Dianne Walker, former publisher/owner of the newspaper, to Bill and Beverly Wendt of Dunlap.

The Wendts are business owners of Wendt's Pots & Posies, a floral business, as well as owners of several rental properties in the community.

"We have owned Pots & Posies since 1979, so we are familiar with the business aspect of it, and I guess



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**The old Dunlap Reporter building purchased by Beverly and Ed Wendt of Dunlap. Renovations are in the works to provide a hall or community center for people to use. The building also comes with a loft apartment.**

the opportunity came for another business building on Main Street," said

Bill. "It has a 1,200 square foot apartment up above, another 1,200 square feet downstairs, so we figured that maybe there is an opportunity for a retail avenue for someone or a business hall for reunions or get-togethers."

The property also includes green space on the west and south sides. The west side of the building has a 150-year-old cottonwood tree that has generated some questions from the community to the Wendts.

"I've been getting a lot of questions about whether I am going to take the tree down now that we own the building because it drops cotton seeds everywhere," said Bill. "It's big and sturdy, and I think it's go-

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**Beverly and Ed Wendt, who also own Wendt's Pots & Posies, are the new owners of the former Dunlap [Reporter building](#).**



# NEW PAGE: The former Dunlap Reporter building to be transformed

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ing to be standing there as long as I'm alive."

The former Dunlap Reporter building has some unique features to it. The flooring on the main floor and the upstairs apartment are mahogany, which Bill said they are going to restore and shine up. The bricks that the structure was made of also have a unique history to them.

"We were told that recycled bricks that came from a building in Arion that had been in a fire were used to make this building," said Beverly. "If you think about it, there are nine miles in-between towns, and that's when years ago there used to be a train depot through here. The reasoning was that every nine miles they had to put a water stop in, Arion was nine miles from here, so that's the reason for it. I think it's a great building, and it looks nice. It's pretty solid."

During renovations, Bill stated that they took down a wall in the entryway to open up the room more. They also plan to put an opening in the



Ed Wendt looks over the old dark room of the Dunlap Reporter. He plans to clear out all and renovate the space to a bar/kitchen area.

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the options for the downstairs space that was home to the Dunlap Reporter.

"Maybe a community hall/center," said Bill, "but if someone is interested, I'm open to renting it out as retail space or as office building space just to get people into Dunlap. I want to fix the floors up and add some lighting so it is presentable. It just needs some updating. It's probably going to take about \$10,000 by the time I get the floors, the lighting, and wiring done, and put in new bathrooms.

ready by fall.

Bill said that one of the reasons they are considering making the downstairs space a community area for people to rent is because some of the other venues in town do not allow alcoholic beverages or can be rather costly to rent.

"I want this one to be less expensive and affordable and on a smaller and more intimate, private scale, and allow for beverages to be brought in," said Bill. "It also has a fenced-in backyard/smoking area."

The Wendts shared that

Fox Auto Show, which is held on the Fourth of July is now in its fourth year. I am on the Silver Fox Foundation committee, and we are renovating the nativity scene that used to be located out west of Dunlap. The nativity scene consisted of wax figures that were created by Agnes Dunham, a late resident of Dunlap. It's been in disrepair for quite a few years, about five to 10; Silver Fox has taken on that project. We are going to build a new building and move to get the nativity scene back up again."

old dark room and convert it into a bar/kitchen area with a refrigerator, stove, and large sink. They also plan to remodel the small bathroom.

Wendt discussed some of

Bill said that the upstairs apartment is in rental-ready shape now, but the downstairs will probably take about two to three months. He hopes it will be

they consider the Dunlap community a progressive town.

"There's a lot of things going on in Dunlap right now," said Bill Wendt, "The Silver

Beverly also pointed out the new Sullivan Supply warehouse on the south edge of town, which she considers a huge asset to the community.



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**Mike Pitt works on the floors in the former Dunlap Reporter office.**



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**The 150-year-old cottonwood tree on the former Dunlap Reporter property that is now owned by Ed and Beverly Wendt.**



# Cottonwood Event Center celebrates opening with Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



PHOTO BY BRAD SWENSON

Dunlap Community Development Corporation held a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on Friday, Nov. 16, for the newly opened Cottonwood Event Center in Dunlap. Pictured at the ceremony are, from left to right, Julie Hanigan, Sue Cogdill, Elizabeth Heistand, Cottonwood Event Center owners Ed and Bev Wendt, Lisa Gross, and Austin McDonald.