

Taking a look around

Spring Break found Cottage Grove High senior Victoria Fullerton heading outdoors to capture photographs of locals enjoying a picturesque spring weekend. Fullerton spent the week as an intern for the Sentinel, seeking shots for the paper's upcoming Recreation Guide, in addition to photos of government and community leaders. The Sentinel appreciates her contributions and plans to showcase her work in future editions.



At right: Ethan Kelson lands his seventh fish of the day at the ponds at Row River Nature Park.

Below, far right: A pair of geese glides away from the bank.

Below, right: Fullerton captures a rare smile from Police Chief Mike Grover.



Below: Carson Streeter tackles the trail.





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ARMORY

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according to Ferguson. The Armory's entrances and exits received quite a bit of scrutiny, and a new entrance planned for the back side of the building will see a lot of use, despite the committee's decision to keep the Armory's main iconic entrance on Washington Street intact. The plans also call for a better boiler for the building's heating system.

Early estimates for the cost of refurbishing the Armory came in at about \$1 million, though Ferguson said she believes it may take \$2 million to get the job done.

"It's a bargain, because a building like this would take about \$7-9 million to build," she said.

City Manager Richard Meyers said that, if the City's timing with regard to grant cycles is good, the Armory could find grant funding for the remodel and be functioning within two years. Progress will depend on funding, however, and Meyers said the funding or lack thereof could alter the plans in the future.

Meyers and Ferguson believe the Armory's historic designation and the community use it could provide make it a prime candidate for grant funding.

The next step for the Armory involves a cost estimate for the remodel. The ongoing maintenance and operations at the Armory will be another topic of interest, as Meyers and Ferguson stated that the scope of operations in the building mean that hiring someone to oversee operations is likely necessary.

"It's probably going to lend itself to an expansion; whether it would be a full-time position or a shared one, we don't know," Meyers said.

Meyers said that groups using the Armory will contribute to its operating costs, though they may not cover them completely.

"The other goal is to use the Armory to help get people downtown," he said. "We don't always cover our costs with something like that."

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