

# Sunday's celebration

Members of Cottage Grove's First Presbyterian Church congregation gathered to celebrate Easter with a special service featuring a cross made of flowers assembled by the church's youth, an Easter Egg hunt for the kids and a diorama contest featuring Bible scenes depicted using marshmallow Peeps. One church member said it was the biggest crowd he's seen for services at First Presbyterian in 20 years.



photos by Jon Stinnett  
Pastor Bruce Cameron dressed to impress.

# Alder Street plans fun for the Fiddle

BY JON STINNETT  
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

The members of Eugene-based contemporary bluegrass outfit Alder Street use a simple formula to book their shows in local venues.

"It's mostly about fun," said guitarist Ian Royer. "When we decide to take gigs, fun is the number one factor."

Alder Street will bring their brand of fun to the Axe & Fiddle Pub in downtown Cottage Grove on Saturday evening, April 11, and they'll have help that's familiar to many here in the form of singer/songwriter Alex Salcido, half of the duo The Harmed Brothers along with Ray Vietti, a band that got its start in Cottage Grove and has toured the nation nearly nonstop since. Alder Street will also welcome Three Times Bad on Saturday's bill, an Oakland and San Francisco-based string band that proudly defies easy categorization.

Alder Street first organized as a group drawn together for a benefit in Eugene's Campbell Club Cooperative located (where else?) but Alder Street. Formed amidst a flowering of string bands in Eugene, the band has undergone several lineup changes and currently features Chris Kelley on banjo, Aaron Nelson on bass, Jake Beckwith on fiddle, Jesse Lawton's mandolin and the drums of Emily West.

Many of the string bands that have flourished in Eugene's underground scene have since relocated.

"It's coming back," Royer said of the Eugene scene. "For a while there were a ton of bands, but they're not around anymore. It's hard to sustain any kind of musician's lifestyle in Eugene. We've been able to last because we all have side gigs."

Alder Street counts two high-school teachers among its ranks, and they're about a year past the recording of their album "Americannibal," recorded at Portland's Fluff and Gravy Studios, an outfit that's also currently producing the Harmed Brothers' latest release. The album showcases a more polished sound, Royer said, and has allowed the band to market a pristine effort online.

It's been about a year since Alder Street played in Cottage Grove, and Royer said the group is unsure if locals will recall their particular brand of bluegrass with a rock edge. Still, if Alder Street's typical modus operandi is any indication, Saturday's show will certainly be up-tempo.

"Between the five of us, we try to be very high-energy," Royer said. "Even a lot of our slow songs end up being fast when we play them live."

Saturday's show begins at 8:30 p.m. and has a \$5 cover charge.



Above: Grandma Rhonda Miller helps Levi and Jaxx Peone scour the garden for eggs.



At left: Isabela Hermanson shows off her Easter dress and an impressive stash of eggs.



courtesy photo

Alder Street will be joined by Alex Salcido of the Harmed Brothers and Three Times Bad Saturday.

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