

Eugene's downtown mall gets new look

A two-block section of West Broadway Street on the downtown mall is undergoing renovation work that city officials hope will contribute to the revitalization of Eugene's city center.

Meanwhile, the Eugene Downtown Commission on Tuesday approved a plan to reopen Willamette Street to automobile traffic between Eighth and 10th avenues. The commission also recommended reopening part of Broadway Street.

This would leave only the two-block portion of Broadway currently undergoing renovation as a pedestrian mall. Officials will hold a public forum Feb. 26 to discuss downtown development, including the commission's recommendations for the mall.

The renovation project includes the removal of public restrooms, a mini-post-office station and a children's play area on Broadway Street between Willamette and Charnelton streets.

Eighteen new street lights

will increase safety and visibility in the area, and the existing electrical system will be replaced and expanded, said Jan Bohman, project manager.

The addition of new trees, flower pots, benches and a more open play area will remove the physical and visual barriers that some business owners on the mall complained kept customers from entering their stores.

"We want to make it work better as a retail area while still keeping it a nice pedestrian area," Bohman said.

The \$658,000 project will be mostly complete by May, with a grand reopening scheduled for June, she said. During construction, the project will be fenced off, but pathways will remain open on both sides.

Bohman sees the construction as a cooperative effort between the city and the 55 store owners on the mall. "As we put investment back into retail areas... property owners become more willing to invest."

Officials hope to have a final recommendation on the fate of the downtown mall ready for City Council action by May.

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'Outrageous Fortune' inane, predictable attempt at humor

By Mary Courtis

Of the Emerald

Hell hath no fury like two women scorned.

Especially by the same man. Lauren (Shelley Long) is an aspiring actress with a talent for ballet and fencing and no luck when it comes to landing either a man or a substantial career.

Sandy (Bette Midler) is a street-wise fast-talker who is not afraid to put her money where her mouth is. Or vice-versa.

Predictably, the two women take an immediate dislike to each other. Predictably, they end up in the same acting workshop, and oh yes, predictably they end up in the arms of the same man, Michael (Peter Coyote).

This Romeo seems just a little too good to be true. And he is. Not only do the two women find out he has been two-timing them, but their zany and sometimes ingenious efforts to

track him down get them mixed up with the KGB and the CIA as well as drug dealers, some cheerful Mexicans, a rough and ready whorehouse madam and a whole lot of luggage at an airport baggage claim.

Amusing stuff? Yes! Impossible? Of course! Pointless? Unfortunately.

Funny as "Outrageous Fortune" is at times, it also suffers from a lack of heart, not to mention common sense and psychological depth.

Why would two semi-sensible women take off on a madcap and often dangerous cross-country trek after a man who is obviously worthless? Love and revenge are the only motivations offered us, and neither seems convincing.

Long and Midler are out on a romp, and while it is enjoyable

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