

Local

Crossroads holds second outreach meeting

BY GINA K. SWARTZ
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Tuesday morning a second of three planned outreach meetings was held at Crossroads Art Center to get insight into a plan to expand the center.

The current idea in the feasibility study being conducted by architect Larry Abell is to expand into the Welch building, a space that is directly across from the current home of Crossroads at the Carnegie Library on the corner of Auburn Street and 2nd Street.

It should be noted that Crossroads has no plans to move from the recently renovated Carnegie Library space, only to expand in an effort to offer a greater variety of services.

The outreach meetings are to give Abell an idea of what the community is wanting or lacking that new space might be able to provide.

The first meeting cultivated ideas that included creating a media center that would allow an area to record voice overs, produce commercials or create a radio station—this idea was geared toward our community youth. It was mentioned also that a media center might encompass some online art school opportunities.

That group discussed expanding culinary arts programs and perhaps including a bistro with the addition of a rooftop garden to support that endeavor, support of an artist in residence program allowing for on-site living quarters, expanding outdoor activities since the area being proposed has abundant outdoor space and expanding performing arts space.

The second meeting began with a bang, as ideas were being tossed out before even being asked for, just as the meeting was beginning.

The second group consisted of a more core group that included current and former board members, current and former instructors and Crossroads staff, whereas the first group was made up mostly of interested citizens.

The second group tossed out ideas that also talked about use of outdoor space by creating a “plaza” that could be used for extra parking when needed but



Gina K. Swartz / The Baker County Press

The Welch building into which Crossroads is considering expansion.

could also be optimized for things like a hosing a rotating sculpture showcase and other art festivals, outdoor classes and demonstrations like blacksmithing, Raku firing for pottery or plein painting, painting done outside rather than in a studio focusing on the changing light on color.

The group mentioned using outdoor space to bring the farmers market back to the “core” of the City and possibly even hosting events such as the highland games.

The rooftop garden was brought up by this group as well however their idea included having plants and flowers that could be used to create natural dyes for fiber arts, which was a much talked about point.

Ruth Boyd, who has taught classes with Crossroads in the past and then moved to a local fabric shop when space was no longer available, talked about the extensive looms including a large loom table and other materials she has that she would like to donate to the center as she prepares to downsize her home and possibly move.

That brought up the issue of storage.

Their current location has very little to no storage and with all of the different arts they cater to they have lots of “stuff.”

Ginger Savage, Executive Director for Crossroads told the group that the Welch building provided a large area in which they would be able to store equipment and if they were able to secure the Welch building across the street

the convenience alone was incredibly desirable.

The idea of moving the dance classes, which can be noisy, was suggested and with that suggestion it was noted that by moving the dance studio the gallery and exhibit space could be expanded allowing for the display and sale of more art, which could be beneficial to the Art Center financially.

Savage noted by taking the dance studio out of the current location that could solve some issues she has concerning young children and the space that is not as kid friendly as it needs to be.

She stated, “I dream of a space where I don’t have to be constantly telling kids to be careful. Just let kids be kids.”

Savage cited the historic yet dangerous wavy glass the building has for windows that shatter terribly if broken. With the mention of moving the dance studio, it was also brought up to have someplace quiet for meeting space.

“The only place to go now where you can close a door and have some privacy is the kitchen and it is not very big,” Savage said.

Also brought up was having defined office space.

“I know Ginger could use somewhere quiet to get things done,” said board chairman Brian Watt.

Creating space in a new location for some of the messier arts was also thought to be a good idea since it would be possible to design it with a floor more suited to those types of things.

The floor in the current

location is historic hand-scraped wood flooring. Savage said with a smile, “A sloped floor with a drain you could just spray down would be lovely.”

Space for music classes was mentioned as was having a space for rehearsals and performances, a stage that allowed better privacy for the performers to enter and exit as well as have dressing room type space. Acoustics and specialized lighting were added as necessities for such an endeavor.

Having better ADA accessibility was another topic discussed.

The current location has only one ADA bathroom and it is located upstairs. If an after-hours event is happening in an area downstairs the persons requiring access to those bathrooms must ride the elevator upstairs into the “closed” portion of the building thus bringing up security questions regarding valuable items in the gallery, not that there have been any issues but it is a cause for concern.

One final outreach meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 19 at 6:00 p.m.

Abell says the feasibility study needs to be completed by December 31, 2015, so that he can prepare a presentation to the board.

Those unable to attend any of the meetings but have ideas Abell encourages you to let them know so they can be considered. Please contact Crossroads at 541-523-5369 with any ideas, questions or concerns.

Museum starts plan for next five years

BY SUNNY WERNER
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The Baker Heritage Museum / Leo Adler House Commission met at for an hour at noon on Wednesday, November 18, to review and discuss their plans for the coming five years.

Hal Huntington, the Commission Chair, opened the meeting by greeting the members and welcoming visitors Ginger Savage, Executive Director of Carnegie Crossroads Art Center and Timothy Bishop of the Tourism Board.

Huntington asked if there were any suggestions or additions members had to the handout, the working draft of the Strategic Plan for the coming five years.

Secretary Mindy Sherrieb wrote down ideas and suggestions as they were offered.

Lea Hoover, Director of the Heritage Museum, explained to the assembled members and guests that the Commission’s goal was for both Baker Heritage and Leo Adler Museums to become accredited by the American Association of Museums. One of the steps necessary to accomplish this is for the Commission to have a five-year Strategic Plan in place.

Commission members talked about various points in the Plan, mainly focusing on how to engender more public interest in both museums and how to increase volunteerism. A number of suggestions were offered, including collaboration with other events in Baker during the year, as well as reaching out to schools and designing new programmes to increase attendance.

The Heritage Museum’s new hours were discussed; previously the Museum was open only during the months of March through October, but now is open on Fridays and Saturdays this season. In addition, the Museum opens for special occasions like the Community Choir performances in winter and the well-renowned “Night at Old Auburn,” which brought in \$4,000 and had 91 attendees in 2015.

Discussion continued on the subject of curation, which is a major part of the work at the Museum. Commissioner Steve Bogart suggested developing a check list to help those who gave objects to know if they would fall into the Heritage Museum’s areas of interest.

Mindy Sherrieb recommended further research when objects are donated. As she explained, “There’s a big difference between having a veteran’s belt on display with no other information, and knowing that the veteran actually went missing over Hungary and nobody knows if he was killed or captured.”

The meeting ended at the appointed time, with agreement that further work would be needed on the Strategic Plan before it was declared a finished project.

Birch Creek Ranch Road closed for the season

Beginning on December 1, 2015 the Bureau of Land Management’s (BLM) Vale District will close the Birch Creek Ranch Road leading to the Historic Birch Creek Ranch, a popular recreation destination. The closure will be in effect until February 15, 2016.

Signs will be posted announcing the road closure in the coming days. While the road remains open until that time, it is advisable that visitors take extreme caution when using the road regardless. The gravel road is steep in many places and a small amount of rain, ice or snow can render it impassible.

Even during the warmer months, the BLM’s Vale District advises that only high-clearance, four-wheel-drive vehicles be used to traverse the Birch Creek Ranch Road. “Those advisements are in place for a reason,” said Pat Ryan, Field Manager at the Vale District. “Those roads are tough to get through even in the best conditions. “Safety is always our top concern, it’s just too risky for anyone to be using them during the wettest, coldest part of the year,” Ryan added.

For more information on the status of the Birch Creek Ranch Road and access to the Historic Birch Creek Ranch Area, contact the BLM Vale District Office or visit: http://www.blm.gov/or/resources/recreation/site_info.php?siteid=313

‘Dirty Rotten Survival’ filmed near Sumpter airs on NatGeo

On Tuesday evening, the National Geographic channel aired the episode entitled “Fool’s Gold” of the show “Dirty Rotten Survival,” which was filmed in the Sumpter area as reported in *The Baker County Press* earlier this year.

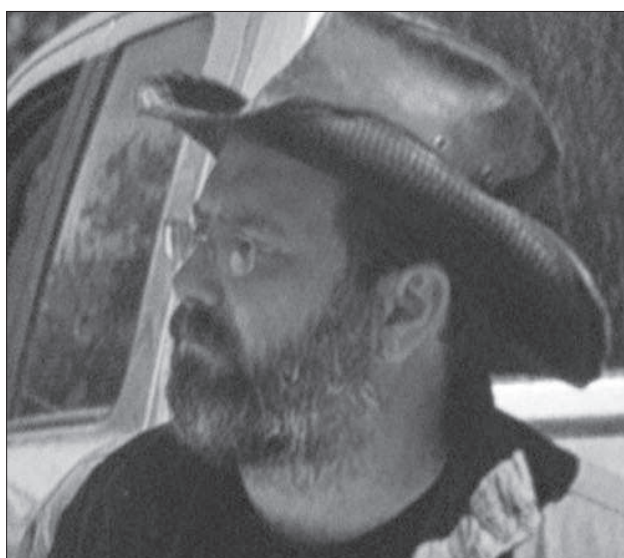
The premise of the episode was, “(Former military colonel) Dick (Strawbridge) takes the guys to Oregon, one of the forgotten frontiers of America’s gold rush, for a mid-1800s-style prospecting adventure. Base camp is a mountain peak, crisscrossed by histori-

cally gold-baring streams and overlooked by a mine shaft.”

From there, the cast and crew meet up with Larry Overman, who many locals may recognize as the owner of the former Crescent Mine outside Sumpter, now dubbed the “Ghost Mine” due to it also being the setting on that SyFy Channel television show.

Overman and the cast eventually divvy up the gold the cast pans from his claim.

The cast and crew spent time in Sumpter during filming, including a stay at The Depot Inn.



Submitted Photo.

Larry Overman, formerly of ‘Ghost Mine’ appears on ‘Dirty Rotten Survival.’

Artist and curator to appear at EOU

Visiting artist and curator Michelle Grabner will give a free lecture at 6 p.m. Monday, Nov. 23 in Huber Auditorium in Badgley Hall at Eastern Oregon University.

Grabner’s work is widely shown and well known, encompassing drawing, painting, video, sculpture and writing. She was a co-curator of the Whitney Biennial 2014 at the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York and is the sole curator of the Portland 2016 Biennial of Contemporary Art opening July 9 at the Disjecta Contemporary Art Center in Portland.

Her current solo exhibition is on display through November at the Indianapolis Museum of Art. Other solo exhibitions of Grabner’s work have been held at INOVA, The University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, Ulrich Museum, Wichita, and University Galleries, Illinois State University.