

Manzanita Tour of Homes celebrates 20 years Aug. 29

MANZANITA — The Kiwanis and Women's Club of North Tillamook County invite the public to the 20th annual Manzanita Tour of Homes.

It will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 29.

Tour six charming homes at your leisure, and enjoy refreshments. All proceeds will go toward local children needs.

Tickets are sold day of the tour starting at 8:30 a.m. at the Kiwanis booth located in Howell's Square located on Laneda Avenue. Tickets cost \$10. For more information, call Mary Brophy at 503-368-7002.

Clatskanie Cultural Center holds grand opening Historic IOOF Hall renovation to enhance civic, cultural opportunities

CLATSKANIE — After a successful \$3.18 million capital campaign and 18 months of interior renovation work, the new Clatskanie Cultural Center is nearing completion. The Clatskanie Foundation invites the public to view and celebrate the opening of the cultural center at a public open house, scheduled from 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 30. The center is located at 75 S. Nehalem St.

For decades, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows Hall was a prominent center of community life in Clatskanie. The building, which was added to the National Registry of Historic Places in 2012, was designed by prominent Oregon architect Ernst Kroner in 1926 and opened in 1927. Nearly every adult who grew up in Clatskanie remembers going to movies, dance classes, public celebrations and civic meetings at the I.O.O.F. Hall. Watch-

ing movies at the ground floor Avalon Theater was a popular activity, but by the 1990s the building became an eyesore. After it was sold by the dwindling membership of the Odd Fellows Lodge, it fell into disrepair through neglect by a series of private owners.

Renovating the I.O.O.F. Hall began to emerge as a dream of community members in the late 1990s. Yet, the concept did not move forward until late 2005 when the Clatskanie Foundation received a significant bequest from the estate of C. Keith Birkenfeld, for whom the building's new theater is named.

With the Birkenfeld bequest, the foundation was able to purchase the building, complete restoration of the facade and the first phase of earthquake retrofitting. The Clatskanie Foundation then launched a capital campaign to raise funds to renovate the

building's interior. To date, the project has raised over \$3.18 million — enough to cover the \$3.15 million construction costs and create a needed longterm maintenance fund.

The successful fundraising campaign has earned widespread support from regional foundations, including major grants from the C. Keith Birkenfeld Memorial Trust at the Seattle Foundation, The Ford Family Fund of The Oregon Community Foundation, Meyer Memorial Trust, M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust, The Collins Foundation, and The Wollenberg Foundation. More than 100 other foundations, businesses and individuals have donated to the project.

"We are grateful for the widespread support of this project. The depth of generosity, locally and regionally, testifies to the need and commitment to restore this building and create a new cultural center in Clatskanie," says Clatskanie Foundation board member and Capital Campaign Chair Deborah Hazen. "Thanks to our dedicated volunteers and generous donors,

the building will once again become a center of community life and culture."

Transforming the I.O.O.F. Hall into the Clatskanie Cultural Center has been largely a volunteer effort led by Clatskanie Foundation board members and community volunteers, including: Mike Engel, a retired general contractor serving as construction manager; Dave Hicks, a retired Wauna Mill engineer serving as project engineer; Hazen, retired publisher and editor of The Clatskanie Chief serving as capital campaign chair; Elsa and Dee Wooley, founders and directors of the Clatskanie Arts Commission, providing support throughout the project; Rich Larsen, foundation president; Teresa Wemmer, foundation treasurer, and Christal Hood, foundation director and marketing chairperson.

Whenever possible, the Clatskanie Foundation has hired local contractors and suppliers. The finished interior features both modern and vintage elements. Highlights include the original restored maple

ballroom floor and refurbished theater seats, which are originally from Portland's Baghdad Theater. Local artisan Jeremy Furnish was commissioned to design and build 50 lighting fixtures for the cultural center. His creations, which range from wall sconces to chandeliers, are designed in the Art Deco style, paying homage to the building's 1926 origin.

Clatskanie Arts Commission performances and other events are already scheduled in the restored building. Combined, the 165-seat Birkenfeld Theatre and 2,400-square-foot ballroom will accommodate a range of programming including musical performances, readings, lectures, recitals, movies, community theater, forums, talent shows, dances, art and dance classes, weddings and more.

In addition to its primary purpose as a cultural center, the building includes a suite of offices for the city of Clatskanie, office space for the Clatskanie Arts Commission and the Clatskanie Foundation, and a retail space occupied by the Quilted Dandelion quilt shop.

The Clatskanie Foundation is currently selling theater seat naming sponsorships. Approximately 50 seats remain available for sponsorship. Dollars raised through the remaining seat sponsorships and other planned fundraising events will go toward additional equipment and furnishings, and to the longterm maintenance fund.

For information about the Clatskanie Cultural Center contact Hazen at 503-338-8268 or Elsa Wooley at 503-338-9770.

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