Museum mortgage goes up in flames

Now debt-free, Siuslaw Pioneer Museum plans further expansion projects

By Jack Davis Sinslaw News

iuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue was called to the Siuslaw Pioneer Museum parking lot to oversee a controlled burn on June 20 as more than 40 people, including board members, local dignitaries and friends of the museum, witnessed the burning of the museum's mortgage.

The museum is now officially debt free.

Thanks to the generosity of Jean Chapman, a loyal Siuslaw Pioneer Museum supporter and volunteer, the museum's \$180,000 mortgage was paid off. Chapman stipulated that the museum would be the beneficiary of her home, furnishings and vehicle upon her death.

"We were all heartbroken when she died, but she really did a great thing for the museum," board president Del Phelps said. "When we got through probate, we held estate sales to take

care of the furnishings. After we sold the house, bell tower above the front the museum probably netted a total of

In addition to paying off the mortgage, the museum was able to put on a badly needed new

"One door closes and another door opens," Phelps said. "We closed the door on the last 10 years with the money that paid off the mortgage. We are opening the next door with the addition of a two-story, 16-foot-by-32-foot expansion on the south side of the building."

The expansion project will be broken down into two phases, according to Phelps.

"After the mortgage was paid off," he said, "there was money left to pay for an addition to the library. With the pledges that are still to come in from the Legacy Fund, there will probably be \$150,000."

The library expansion is scheduled to start

The building, originally built in 1905, had a

entrance that burned down in 1953. The board decided that as part of the second phase addition, the museum would rebuild the bell tower with an elevator so people with disabilities will have access to the museum's second floor exhibits.

Phelps estimates the new addition and elevator will cost approximately \$350,000.

'Some of the funds have already been raised," he said. "The Legacy Fund that was originally created to pay off the mortgage is being repurposed to pay for the addition and elevator tower.

"We will keep on with the Legacy Fund pledge project, but now it will be geared toward the expansion. The elevator project is still four



Siuslaw Pioneer Museum board president Del Phelps (center) torches the \$180,000 museum mortgage as museum supporters look on.

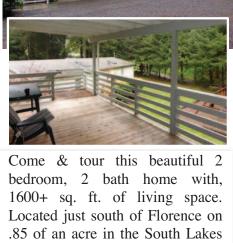
to five years out because we are going to do it different this time. We are going to have the money in our pocket before we do it," he

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from 1A

Mariiuana

"There can be no sales of it, period, until after at least January 4, 2016. And that's just when you apply for licenses," FarleyCampbell said. "People won't be able to purchase recreational marijuana until fall 2016."

According to Reynolds, Oregon is still deciding laws on distribution, growth, retail outlets, products and how the recreational marijuana industry will interact with the medical marijuana industry.

At this point, Florence will not make any separate decisions until the state reaches a consensus and finalizes regulations.

FarleyCampbell said, "The state law is our law."

"Refer to state law for anything else," Reynolds advised, "Our process is dependent on the outcomes of what's in legislation right now."

Before any decisions are made on a local level, the city will undergo a public hearing process, similar to the one held earlier this year regarding the land-use for medical marijuana

"You determine through land use and business license regulations how this city wants to interact with the recreational marijuana market. Like any land use decision, and any city council decision, there will be a public process for this. There will be time for feedback, to understand the tone, temperament, and tolerance level of this community," Reynolds said.

With the Independence Day holiday the following weekend, Reynolds, FarleyCampbell and Pitcher hope that recreational marijuana users respect the law.

"We're concerned for the fourth because it's a holiday and a lot of public spaces have events. ... We're still going to enforce and take care of things that we need to," Reynolds

"I don't expect it to be a issue, but we will issue those citations. We'll enforce that section of the law," Pitcher

For more information about recreational marijuana, go to www.oregon.gov/olcc/mari juana or follow Oregon's "What's Legal? Educate Before You Recreate," campaign at www.whatslegaloregon.com.

screening the entrance on

The main thing, according to

The planning team still has to

Davison, is that no decisions

consider liability, pursue further

conversations with ODOT and

The next meeting will present a finalized trail improve-

According to English, that

Honeyman State Park

Manager Dan Schewlakow

said, "We have an opportunity

to do some very good things in

meeting will take place in July

Canary Road.

have been made yet.

finalize the plan.

ment plan.

Trails from 1A

Mark Davison, planning manager for Oregon State Parks, added, "What we're trying to do is reach out, recognizing that ODOT told us they can't put a formalized cross there. ... Together between us tonight we can work out a few options and bring those back to the next meeting."

Next, Davison and English presented some of those options for Honeyman and the commu-

One thing they hope to do is increase pedestrian wayfinding on current trails.

English pointed out five zones within the park: North Cleawox, North Woahink, South Woahink, the campground and the "central park."

A proposed trail plan would add a loop trail to North Cleawox, reinstate a historic trail around Woahink Lake, formalize a trail in the East Woahink day-use area, add a trail around the campground and along the campground road and improve the Overpass Trail.

Some of those additions or modifications would help keep

pedestrians off main roads and allow for greater mileage for

"In addition to adding more trails to the park, we also recognize that there are some wayfinding needs," English said.

Improved campground maps and more signs at trail heads, trail markers and intersections would help show official trails, but could also include the Social Trail and other unofficial, unmaintained trails.

English said, "The hope and goal with this wayfinding improvement is to help find the safest, easiest route to the destinations, especially for campers, that they are aiming for and direct them to the paths we would really like to see them

The plan would call for signs using historic designs to match current Honeyman markers.

As for the Social Trail, English didn't have one set plan

"We have a couple options we'd like to look into in more

detail," she said. These include putting up a sign with the message "Cross at your own risk," or marking the

trail as unmaintained and

the park with the possibility of more resources to upgrade facilities and improve our access for various users." More information

Honeyman State Park's trail system and the public input process is available online at honeymanstatepark.com.

The public is invited to comment by contacting English at jaime.english@oregon.gov; at 503-986-0723 or by mailing written comments to Jaime English, OPRD, 725 Summer St. NE, Suite C, Salem, OR



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