

# Armory designs approved, cost estimate due next

BY JON STINNETT  
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

The vision held by many of the Cottage Grove Armory's transformation into a multipurpose community center took a leap forward last week with the City Council's approval of architectural designs for a refurbished structure.

The City of Cottage Grove purchased the building from the Oregon Military Department in 2010 for \$395,000 after the local unit of the Oregon National Guard relocated to Springfield. The Armory has seen sporadic use since, and a new roof over the main drill hall and the restoration of many of its windows have been the most notable improvements during that span.

The City has since conducted several tours of the Armory in the hope of inspiring others regarding the building's potential, in addition to convening meetings of a group of stakeholders to envision the best uses of the building going forward. The committee came up with a list of over 60 uses, including wrestling or boxing matches; archival and film storage; conferences and conventions; weddings; an emergency shelter and



courtesy graphic

**Plans for a refurbished Cottage Grove Armory include a new entrance/exist at the north end that is expected to see much of the foot traffic into and out of the 1931 building.**

commercial kitchen. Local architects Stan Honn and David McClean were charged with turning the community's vision for the building into a set of plans for its remodeling, plans that received unanimous approval from the City Council on Monday, March 23.

City Planner Amanda Ferguson explained that the Armory's steering committee decided against providing space in the Armory to lease to commercial enterprises to avoid

competing with other business endeavors downtown. The Armory's use as a homeless shelter was also nixed, as it was decided that providing the necessary amenities such as showers would not be feasible.

Much discussion involved the kitchen to be located downstairs, a kitchen designed to function as more of a prep kitchen than a location to prepare a 500-person banquet,

Please see **ARMORY**, Page 12A

# Interstate construction to resume next week

Lane restrictions can be expected south of Cottage Grove

Another round of construction on Interstate 5 south of Cottage Grove is expected to begin soon, according to officials with the Oregon Department of Transportation.

The \$18.5 million project to repair or replace much of the road surface between Cottage Grove Exit 170 and the Highway 38 junction began last spring and will resume in early April, according to ODOT spokesperson Dan Latham.

"Although most construction has been completed, the contractor still has some bridge work, corrective work, concrete repairs and striping to complete," according to ODOT's two-week construction update, which states that, "between April 6 and May 21, I-5 will be limited to one lane in each direction through most of the project area (milepost 162-170).

All interchange ramps will remain open."

The release cautions motorists to expect delays during peak travel times and to watch for workers on the side of the road and for construction vehicles entering and exiting the travel lanes.

Latham elaborated that about 400 feet of concrete next to the Exit 170 overpass needs to be removed and replaced, adding that traffic will have to cross over to one lane at that location in a similar fashion to last year. Much of the pavement in the 162-170 stretch must also be stripped.

Another interstate project will follow, Latham said, which will involve the replacement of asphalt between Exits 154-162 with concrete.

"The contractor is leaning toward putting off the bulk of that project until next year," Latham said. "The plans aren't settled, but a lot of it looks like it might be behind the guardrails or barriers so there shouldn't be too many lane closures."

# New Bohemia Mining Days director settling in

BY JON STINNETT  
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The new director of the Bohemia Mining Days festival is no stranger to Cottage Grove, though before she could re-acquaint herself with the community, Nancy Glines had to re-acclimate herself with her home country.

Glines departed Cottage Grove for Corvallis five years ago after serving as executive director of Community Sharing. In November, she returned to Oregon after a 2 1/2 years in the Republic of Macedonia on the Balkan Peninsula, where she served as a community development officer, working with non-government organizations and teaching English. Coming back to the States offered a fair bit of culture shock.

"They tell you you'll have issues with re-entry, but you never believe it until it happens," Glines said. "The biggest thing is the crowds; I was just not used to all that. I came back at Christmastime, and it was hectic. Which was interesting, because I'd never had that kind of an issue."

Throughout her time overseas, Glines



courtesy photo

**Nancy Glines (far right) with Nada and Viktoria of her Macedonian host family.**

said she kept in touch with former BMD director Sharon Jean, and upon her return, the two started talking about the Festival's need for a coordinator.

"She knew what was going on with BMD, and she thought it might be a good fit for everybody," Glines said. She said she's been involved with the festival since coming to Cottage Grove 15 years ago.

"I love the festival; it's a good fit for me,"

she said. The work is enjoyable; it's not difficult for me."

In recent weeks, Glines has gotten settled into the new position and is staying with her son in Eugene while she looks for a new local home. Bohemia Mining Days is currently finalizing its music schedule and searching out vendors and volunteers, and Glines is excited to work with Claire Sylvian, the festival's new volunteer coordinator and a Community Sharing veteran.

"Nancy is the ideal person to take the helm of the Bohemia Mining Days Festival," said Cindy Weeldreyer, BMD Publicity Coordinator. "For years she was a BMD volunteer and is familiar with our organization. As the former executive director of Community Sharing, she is well respected in the community. We are fortunate to have someone of such high caliber who has years of experience in both nonprofit management and event planning. We welcome her to our leadership team and have great expectations for BMD's 56th year."

Glines said BMD is in good shape despite a period of turnover at its highest position.

"It will always need more money, but I really think I can work with the Board and can provide the continuity that's kind of been lacking in the last few years. We don't anticipate making any great changes to the festival. It will be what everybody is used to, and it should be a great one."

# County Administrator coming for conversation

The Cottage Grove Blackberry Pie Society will host a community conversation with Lane County Administrator Steve Mokrohisky at 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 2 at Hard Knocks Brewing, located at 1024 E. Main Street in Cottage Grove.

According to Chairperson Leslie Rubinstein, the conversation will include an informal question-and-answer session with Mokrohisky as part of the

Blackberry Pie Speakers Series. Mokrohisky, who has been the county administrator since May of 2014, will address local and county issues and answer questions from the audience.

The event is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be available for purchase.

Those seeking more information about this event may contact Rubinstein at 541-521-2887 or blackberrypie@gmail.com.

# Organizers: This year's Home Show may be the last

Plans for this year's Home and Garden Show in Cottage Grove are coming along nicely. Next year's event, though, is rather up in the air.

Scheduled for April 11 and 12 at Cottage Grove High School, the Home Show will feature demonstrations including sustainable landscaping and fruit tree pruning, in addition to Native American drumming, raffles and contests. Its organizer, radio station KNND, will also broad-

cast live from the event for the first time.

Still, according to KNND owner Cameron Reiten, the 2015 edition of the Home Show may be the last.

"It used to be the only home show in this part of the county, but with three shows in Eugene already, the bigger ones are likely going to attract the vendors," Reiten said. "We're contemplating a grand finale, but it's still in the air."

# EASTER HAPPENINGS

## April 5, 2015

**Delight Valley Church of Christ**  
33087 Saginaw Road East, Cottage Grove  
541-942-7711

**9:30 am** Breakfast in the improved Fellowship Hall

**10 am** Donuts and Hot Chocolate in the Gym

**10:30 am** Worship Service starts in the Gym

**11 am** Kids leave for a Special program in the Chapel

**11 am** One man play "Peter's Second Chance"

**After the Worship Service, there will be a 5,000 Egg Easter Egg Hunt! Please join us!**

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