

# Local WWII veterans catch their Honor Flight

BY MATT HOLLANDER  
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

Three Cottage Grove-area World War II veterans have returned home after taking the Honor Flight to visit the nation's capitol.

The Honor Flight Network works to fly veterans of World War II and the Vietnam and Korea conflicts to Washington, D.C. to visit the memorials built to honor their service, and on May 15, Glen Bricker, Roy Haymes and Carl Woodard, along with 43 other veterans from Lane, Linn, Lincoln and Benton counties, took their turn to be recognized.

During their overnight trip, they visited 10 memorial sites, all the time accompanied by a full police escort, which allowed their buses to travel from point to point without delay.

"It was truly exciting," said Haymes, who served with the U.S. Army 718 Amphibian Tractor Battalion from 1943-46 and participated in the Leyte Invasion on Oct. 20, 1944 and the Okinawa Invasion on April 1, 1945. "Us old guys don't move around so fast anymore, so to see so many monuments up close on a quick trip was a once-

in-a-lifetime experience."

Bricker served as a Radioman 3rd Class in the Navy in Guam from 1944-46 and on the USS Los Angeles during the Korean War, and Woodard served as a First Lieutenant in the Marine Corps from 1941-45.

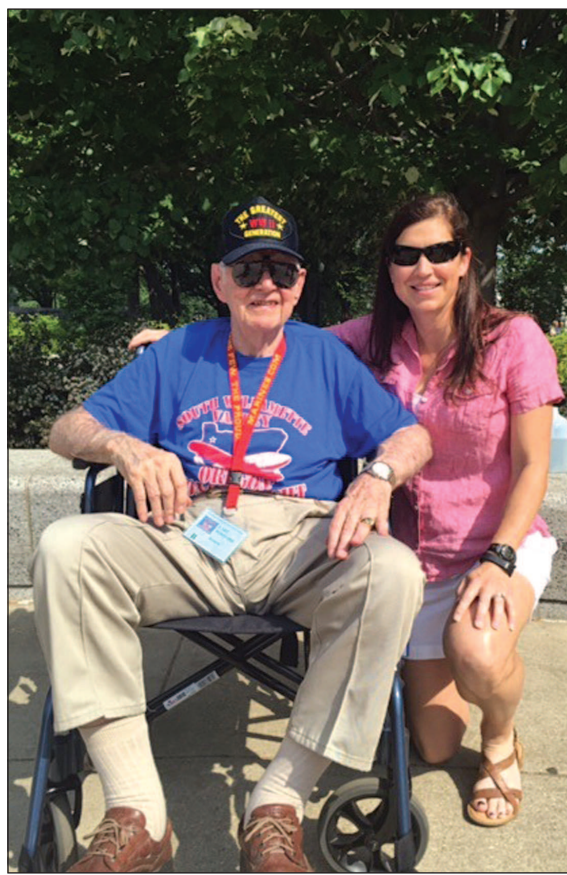
Haymes said that he did not know of Bricker or Woodard prior to the trip and that it was a neat experience to discover new connections with people in from Cottage Grove.

Along the way, the Honor Flight veterans were greeted by hundreds of well-wishers who thanked them for their service and sacrifice to the country.

"It's very nice to be remembered," Haymes said. "It was a long time ago, and you can forget what it was all about. But this reminded me that there was a real reason to go."

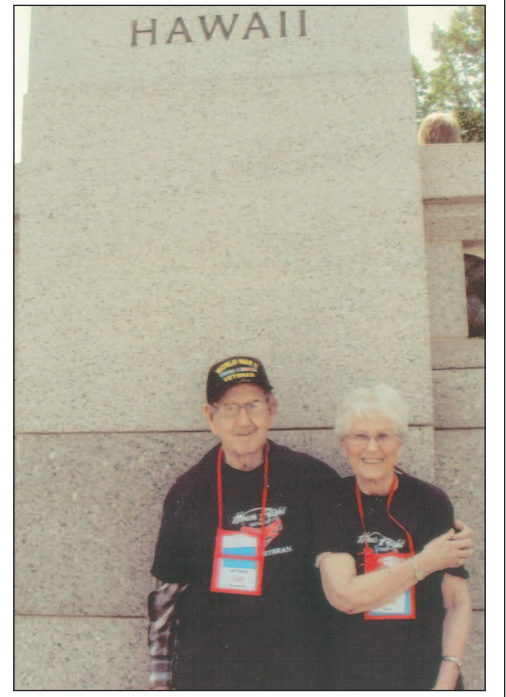
The South Willamette Valley is one of five Honor Flight hubs in Oregon. There's no cost to the veteran to participate, and those interested may apply at <http://swvhonorflight.org>. The next Honor Flight is scheduled for October.

Additional pictures and video clips of the Honor Flight can be viewed at the KVAL-TV web site.



courtesy photo  
Carlton Woodard with Lt. Col. Kirsten Palmer at the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C.

## ALONG FOR THE RIDE



courtesy photo  
Cottage Grove's Carol Wood recently returned from an Honor Flight herself, having accompanied Pendleton's Gib Brandstetter, who flew with the Honor Flight Network of the Bend Heroes Foundation.

## BMX track idle, city seeks interest

BY JON STINNETT  
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

Passersby may have noticed recent activity at the BMX bicycle track in Cottage Grove, though it's not the type of activity most commonly associated with the venue.

Public Works employees with the City of Cottage Grove have been working to clean up the track, which has "basically been abandoned" by area riders, according to City Manager Richard Meyers.

"We're still trying to figure out what to do with it," Meyers said of a facility that has hosted regular events and local organizations in the past but has struggled to maintain its momentum. "Right now we're cleaning the place up, trying to get as much of the junk out of there as we can. But there's nothing scheduled there now at all. There are still some people using it, but the riding club went away last year," he said.

The challenge to keeping the track up and operating, Meyers believes, is that over the years, groups of young people and their



photo by Jon Stinnett

Activity at Cottage Grove's BMX track has waned in recent years, and the City of Cottage Grove is considering its options for the venue.

parents have utilized the track and invested in its success. Then, as those young people grow up, graduate from school and often move on to other concerns, interest and activity at the BMX track wanes.

"There isn't sustainability to it," Meyers said. "If we can get an organization interested in keeping up and operating the track, we'd be all for it."

Ideas for mountain biking on the track and outfitting it as a track for radio-con-

trolled cars have also been bandied about, and a group of RC car enthusiasts visited the site but decided that the track wasn't suitable for just their endeavor. But Meyers said the City is open to other ideas.

"We're willing to see what we can put together," he said.

Those interested in forming a group or scheduling events at the BMX track can call City Hall at 541-942-3325.

## Art Walk to shine spotlight on youth

Cottage Grove's Downtown Art Walk will feature the work of the community's young artists this Friday, May 29 from 6-8 p.m. Guests can peruse local art in historic downtown Cottage Grove on the last Friday of every month from April to October. Complimentary treats, tastings and live music accompany visitors throughout the Art Walk, which is a free event.

The artist listing for this month includes:

Bohemia Rose — Cottage Grove Artist Hannah Brown

Buster's Main St. Cafe and Bottle Shop — open

Delight — Maya Ahara: drawings, patches and acrylic paintings; Maisey Folb — block prints and photography

Apple Pie Antiques — Lincoln Middle School artists: handmade wood and acrylic pens; Joe Burrus — vintage bicycles

Big Stuff BBQ — open for dinner

Axe & Fiddle — open  
Kalapuya Books — Child's Way Charter School student art  
Coast Fork Feed and Brewstation — Heather Pickett, photography

Analogue Barbershop — Don Rich, stencil techniques series 1: street art/spray paint on canvas; DJ music and refreshments

Imagine It Framed — Local art, music and refreshments

Timeless Treasures — open

The Crafty Mercantile — Nico Cornelius: Eclectic art; London School artists: kids workshop

Opal Center — Chalk art

Victoriana — open

Shampoo Dolls — Mckayla Martindale, painting and paper art

Stacy's Covered Bridge — open for dinner

The Bookmine — Penny Schaack, jewelry; Rod Williams, author; Ron O'Keefe — music; clarinet and flute music performed by Jon Douglas and Spencer Mort



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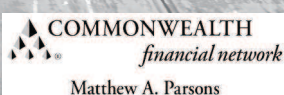
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