

## Square Dance Barn renovation continues

BY JON STINNETT  
The Cottage Grove Sentinel



photo by Jon Stinnett

**Faye Stewart said he hopes that renovations on the Boots and Sandals Square Dance Barn are completed this fall.**

dampen sound and some insulation, which also worked to hide deep rot and aging in its structure.

Upon entering the barn, those who remember its previous condition might now recognize three new beams holding up its second floor, a system of support designed by local architectural firm Geomax.

"They had to design a whole new support system," Stewart said. "It was the most economical repair; otherwise, we might have had no other option but to tear the building down." According to Stewart, the added costs uncovered in the renovation process could have proven quite prohibitive for someone without substantial resources.

"If somebody else had purchased it and gone through what we went through, if they'd realized they were going to have to produce an extra \$75,000 or so, it could have been quite a hardship," he said.

But with many of the major structural repairs now out of the way, Stewart said construction should be on track for completion this fall.

"We're feeling good," he said. "It's to

the point where we can really start moving with electrical and plumbing. Things will move quickly now."

Which should be good news for the local organizations that hope to one day call the barn home.

"I still believe we're on track to host the Gold Mining Museum and the Historical Society," Stewart said. "They're itching to get in here."

Upstairs, repairs are also taking place quickly, and the space is set to host several offices and a conference room in addition to the dance studio that should one day be used by South Lane Ballet Academy. Stewart said the ballet school hoped to move into the barn by Sept. 1 but signed another lease at its current location when the barn wasn't completed on schedule.

But whoever uses the barn in the future, Stewart said he's most happy that it will remain in the community.

"Our intent was to restore it and keep it here," he said. "A lot of people would like to see it in use again, and it's in a great location across from Bohemia Park. It has a lot of good use left in it yet."

## Humane Society's spay/neuter program marks 15 years

Program has covered procedures for over 1000 cats, 700-plus dogs

The Humane Society of Cottage Grove is celebrating a milestone for one of its key programs.

Representative Janetta Overholser stated that the Humane Society's Low Income Spay/Neuter Assistance Program, which works to help reduce the number of unwanted pets in the community, turns 15 years old this month.

The program started in August of 2000 and serves low-income residents of South Lane and North Douglas counties. Since its inception, Overholser said the program has financially assisted with the cost of spaying/neutering 1,103 cats and 731 dogs. The Humane Society has spent \$80,127.29 on this

program, which Overholser said has prevented the birth of thousands of unwanted puppies and kittens.

She pointed out that a female dog can have 2-3 litters a year, and a cat can have 4-5 litters a year.

"Considering that a female dog and cat can have their first litter by 6-7 months of age (babies having babies), and have many offspring — some dogs have well over a dozen offspring, and a cat can have up to eight or nine young in one litter, one can realize how vitally important it is to have them altered to reduce the pet overpopulation problem," Overholser said.

The Humane Society utilizes a number of veterinary clinic options for its programs, including Creswell Veterinary Hospital, which Overholser said just performed its 300th service for HSCG.

## Friday's Art Walk going 'Freestyle'

Live music at All-America City Square, portraiture on tap

Cottage Grove's Downtown Art Walk series continues with a "freestyle" theme this Friday, Aug. 28 from 6-8 p.m. Participating downtown businesses can be spotted by a yellow "Art Walk" flag on their premises.

Artistic offerings on tap for the evening include the portraiture of artist James Hodson and guitar stylings of Michael Rose on Main Street. Marilyn Wilber of Ant Farm Textiles will be stationed in front of Pandora's Box, and "Restless Souls," a Cottage Grove-based acoustic rock four-piece featuring Don

and Carrie Woolsey and Sean and Jared Alls, will perform at All-America City Square.

Other offerings include: Delight — Bronze sculpture and youth art  
Apple Pie Antiques — Barbara Anheluk, vintage shadow boxes  
Kalapuya Books — Hannah Brown, acrylic paintings  
Imagine It Framed — Pam Dennis, acrylic paintings, live music  
The Crafty Mercantile — Dani Clark and Heather Pennington, mixed media  
Opal Center for Arts and Education — theater production of "The Illiad, the Odyssey, and all of Greek Mythology in 99 minutes or Less," 7:30 p.m.; \$10  
The Bookmine — Arlene Taddei, folk art; Michelle Avanti, paintings, books and jewelry

## Planning begins for 90th anniversary of 'The General'

Preliminary plans are underway to mark the anniversary of one of Cottage Grove's major milestones in the world of film.

Last week, the City of Cottage Grove announced that Mayor Tom Munroe, Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Travis Palmer, film and Buster Keaton buff Lloyd Williams and City Manager Richard Meyers met

with Tim Williams of the Oregon Film Office, Doug White from the Hollywood Theater in Portland and Erik Johnson, Economic Development Director from Pacific Power, to discuss the 90th anniversary of the Hollywood Theater and 90th Anniversary of "The General," a cinematic masterpiece filmed in and around Cottage Grove in 1926.

The year 2016 will mark the 90th anniversary of the theater and the release of Keaton's "The General," now considered one of the best films of all time.

The film was inspired by the "Great Locomotive Chase," which took place during the Civil War in 1862. "The General" was poorly received by audiences and was a disappointment at the box office, though

its worth has since been reevaluated.

It tells the tale of Johnnie Gray (Keaton), who attempts to enlist in the Confederate army before Union spies steal the train carrying his love, Annabelle.

The group discussed ideas and possible promotions to celebrate the history of both the theater in Portland and the filming of "The General" in Cottage Grove.



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