

## Free library dedicated on the square

Design replicates TV time machine

BY JON STINNETT  
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

The design of the structure itself has a decidedly British feel, though the preparations that made the free library possible at All-America City Square in downtown Cottage Grove were completely homegrown.

In the spring of 2014, a group of about 40 members of the Cottage Grove and Creswell communities began a leadership program offered by the Ford Family Foundation, in tandem with Rural Development Initiatives. As part of their training to become more effective community leaders, the group chose a final project that would put the lessons they'd learned to action. From a list of almost 70 possible projects, the Little Free Library concept emerged, and on Friday, members of the leadership group gathered



courtesy photo

Members of the Ford Family Foundation's most recent leadership training program were on hand to help dedicate the library Friday.

downtown to unveil what will arguably become the most prominent library among the 16 installed in the two communities.

Reminiscent of an old-fashioned British "Police Box," the library actually replicates the TARDIS (Time And Relative Dimension in Space), the time machine used in the "Doctor Who" television series and

its spin-offs. As with many of the libraries, the TARDIS was planned and built by Kurt Blachnik, a graduate of the leadership program, though seven of the little free libraries were also put together by students at Kennedy High School.

The libraries work on the "take a book, leave a book" concept, and there is room

for additions in the form of children's books — especially sought-after in the lending libraries — in each of them. There are 12 lending libraries installed in Cottage Grove and four in Creswell. A map of their locations can be seen at <http://tinyurl.com/MapOf-SouthLaneLFLs>.

## Upcoming Art Walk billed as 'Bewitching'

Cottage Grove's Downtown Art Walk will bring "bewitching art" to Main Street this Friday, Oct. 30 from 6-8 p.m. Complimentary treats and live music accompany downtown visitors during each Art Walk. This Friday, the event takes place after downtown trick-or-treating. As always, Art Walk is a free event.

### Artist Listing

Apple Pie Antiques: Hosanna Gaines — Macabre  
Delight: Tessa Lehman — Paintings  
Kalapuya Books: Lesley Strother — Abstract Painting  
Coast Fork Feed & Brewstation: Open for dinner, live music  
Imagine It Framed: Erich

Schwartzwald — Paintings, live music and wine  
The Crafty Mercantile: Gina Tafoya — Paintings; Dani Clark and Heather Pennington — Mixed Media, and Nico Cornelius — Eclectic Sculptures  
Opal Center for Arts & Education: Original Theater production, "Rosemary Poppin's Baby," 8 pm; \$12  
Victoriana's: Noelle Ervin — Handcrafted creations for all occasions  
Bookmine: Arlene Taddei — Folk art, music by Harpist Mary Grace  
In front of Pandora's Box: Marilyn Wilber — Antt Farm Textiles  
Odd Fellows Hall, upstairs: Steven Cross — Wood prints from old IOOF costume catalog

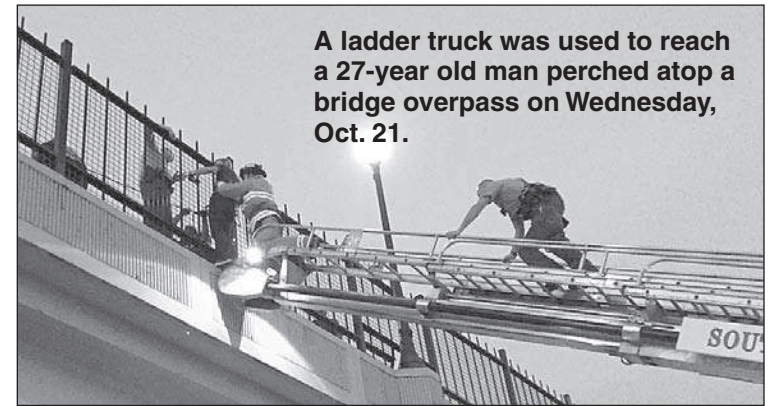
## Deputies, fire personnel extract man from bridge

The Lane County Sheriff's Office reported that a crisis negotiator was able to coax a man from the edge of the East Oregon Avenue bridge in Creswell over Interstate 5 last week.

According to a press release, on Wednesday, Oct. 21 just after 6 p.m., the Sheriff's Office responded to a white male standing outside the protective fence on the bridge, holding onto the fence. Deputies responded with Oregon State Police and South Lane County Fire and Rescue personnel, and together they were able to secure the man, later identified as 27-year old Richard Miles, to the fence while fire crews responded with a ladder truck from

Cottage Grove. A deputy that is a trained Lane County Crisis Negotiator responded and established communications with Miles. The Crisis Negotiator was able to convince Miles to get some help and climb down the ladder.

Oregon State Police and South Lane County Fire and Rescue stopped traffic southbound while South Lane County Fire and Rescue set up their ladder truck. Police say Miles was safely removed from the bridge and climbed down to the roadway, where deputies took him into custody on a 'Police Officer's Mental Health Hold.' Miles was transported for a mental health evaluation.



A ladder truck was used to reach a 27-year old man perched atop a bridge overpass on Wednesday, Oct. 21.

## Community Foundation hosts annual dinner

BY SAM WRIGHT  
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

The Cottage Grove Community Foundation hosted its annual dinner on Wednesday, Oct. 21 at the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish Center. The dinner is hosted every year as a community outreach program to accrue donations and spread the word of the foundation's role in the Cottage Grove Community. Executive Director of the foundation Travis Palmer explained the success the Foundation has achieved since its inception in 1991.

"Just this year the Foundation awarded 15 community grants

totaling over \$20,000," he said. In the past 14 years, the Foundation has recorded 216 grants for a total of \$162,508.

The dinner also saw Reaching Out Mentoring's South Lane efforts represented by Marc Bass and Jeff Williams. The mentoring program was awarded the Margaret Mae Anibal Mentoring Grant for \$33,000.

There was also a unique appearance from the mentoring program this year. Drew Blair, a 19-year old community college student who had a mentor for over four years, spoke during the dinner. Blair stated that he had been through over 23 different foster homes, and having his mentor was a great anchor

to have throughout his coming-of-age years.

The dinner also hosted an auction in order to raise money for the Foundation. The packages included a private air tour, a fishing excursion, and other various trips around Oregon. Every package was sold for over \$200, and some even crept towards the \$1,000 mark.

Sherry Duerst-Higgins purchased a wide variety of books for the community youth, and these were passed around and signed by everyone who attended the dinner.

Another large part of the Community Foundation is to raise money for scholarships for aspiring students. Throughout

2015, the foundation awarded a total of 92 scholarships with a total value of \$101,620. Students at Cottage Grove High School received 64 awards, and the renewable scholarship program has grown with 25 former students at CGHS receiving a total of \$25,100.

Palmer hopes that the dinner encourages community members to donate to specific causes.

"We host this to really connect with the community. We have such a generous and close-knit community, hosting these events is always great fun," he said. The foundation continues to seek support and reaches out to the community.

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