

Armory hosts Veterans Day ceremony

BY SAM WRIGHT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

It was an exciting week of celebration in Cottage Grove as veterans, citizens and servicemen saluted our country's heroes. The celebrations kicked off with a U.S.O. show on Saturday, Nov. 7 with a hearty dinner and various performances.

Then on Wednesday, Nov. 11, a formal Veteran's Day celebration was held at the Cottage Grove Armory. It was a special year for the celebration, as State Representative Cedric Hayden attended and also gave a speech. Hayden, a politician who supports reform for better care of veterans, took the opportunity to honor all Cottage Grove-residing veterans and raise awareness of some of the hardships faced by vets retiring from active duty.

"Sometimes [veterans] don't always get what they deserve," said Hayden. It's something we need to push in the state of Oregon and in Washington to help those who have served this country honorably."

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photo by Christie Johnson

Local Scouts (with flags) and the Lincoln Middle School Choir (on stage) assisted with the Veteran's Day Ceremony on Wednesday, Nov. 11 at the Cottage Grove Armory.



Sentinel file photo

The City of Cottage Grove began installing its fiber optics network in 2009. Here, crews are shown installing fiber into a downtown fiber hut. The City Council recently voted to expand the network.

Zen Paws offers added options, without the kennel

Pet portraits, treats also available

BY SAM WRIGHT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

Cottage Grove recently welcomed a new business at the Gateway Shopping Center that is more unique than it appears. Sam and Heather Barrett opened up their pet spa "Zen Paws" about three weeks ago, and they provide more than just a bath and a haircut for dogs.

The new business is not only a pet spa, but also a place where dogs can have their photographs taken professionally. Heather Barrett has been grooming dogs for over 15 years, starting in high school in Huntington Beach, California. She also worked as a veterinary assistant and consistently works with animal rescue programs. Sam is a well-equipped professional photographer and has been for the past six years. He studied photography at Monterey Peninsula College

and has mostly done freelance work and a few exhibitions. Zen Paws features an area in which dogs can be photographed with proper lights and portrait backgrounds.

Aside from getting a bath, haircut and perhaps a pretty picture, dogs can be treated quite literally at Zen Paw's treat bar. The bar features a large variety of different treats from big biscuits to bit-sized nibblers for owners to mix and match for their pets. Above and around the treat bar are novelty toys for sale.

In the back of the spa is the grooming area where all the magic (and sometimes chaos) happens. The area is kennel-free, which Heather Barrett says helps a lot with dogs that may have separation anxiety.

"We want the dogs to feel as comfortable as possible," she said. The back also has a more enclosed bath station, and a station in which the dogs are held



photo by Sam Wright

Heather and Sam Barrett and Echo are happy to have opened Zen Paws at the Gateway Shopping Center.

while their teeth get cleaned.

"I think what makes us unique are things like our treat bar and novelty toys, along with a kennel free grooming area," said Heather.

The Barretts have lived in Cottage Grove for about a year with their 11-year old miniature bull terrier named Echo after moving from the Monterey Bay area in California. They met at a coffee shop and share a love for animals.

"The funny thing is, I was always more of a cat person and Heather was more of a dog person," Sam Barrett said. "But

after I met Echo, I started loving dogs a lot more."

Heather's primary focus has always been compassionate care.

"That's why we chose a kennel-free environment with expedited services, natural products and aromatherapy."

The Barretts are active in animal rescue in Cottage Grove. On the day of their grand opening, they held a benefit raffle for the Humane Society of Cottage Grove.

City to expand fiber optics backbone

BY JON STINNETT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

The Cottage Grove City Council voted at its Monday, Nov. 9 meeting to extend the City's fiber optics network to the Industrial Park south of town and the Village Shopping Center, in addition to adding additional strands to further capacity at other stages along the route.

The Council approved a motion to award Coburg-based C-2 Utility Contractors, a telephone and television cable contractor, the project in the amount of \$220,941.58. The City received a \$400,000 loan in April of 2013 to extend the fiber network at a time when a call center was reportedly interested in relocating to the Village Shopping Center on Highway 99, though the call center's owner was reportedly concerned about the lack of Internet capacity there. The City Council green-lighted the exten-

sion of the fiber optics network to the center, though the center eventually relocated to Veneta, its owner citing the high cost of renovating the building it would have inhabited in the shopping center.

Fiber optics technology sends information at lightning speeds across colored glass fiber and is viewed as the future of digital information transmission. Cottage Grove's own foray into fiber began over a decade ago and is to this day undergoing continued speculation and development.

The City will also place additional strands of fiber in a section of the network downtown but has decided to wait on a plan to add strands in a section from Fifth Street to Villard, according to City Manager Richard Meyers, who said that the Villard section, which was installed and is owned by the Lane Council of Governments, will not be augmented because LCOG is concerned about the danger that may be posed by placing an additional 288 strands of fiber in the two-inch conduit that currently only holds 48 strands.

"We're excited to extend the fiber to the Industrial Park, since there's not much going on out there," Meyers said. "And with King Estate expanding into the park, it will be nice to have the fiber there if they want to use it."

Meyers, who helped spearhead the project to design the fiber optics backbone in Cottage Grove, in addition to adding the wireless Internet transmitters throughout town, said the fiber project has already been a success, as it's currently in use by South Lane School District, the City of Cottage Grove, PeaceHealth Community Hospital in Cottage Grove, Territorial Seed and Charter Communications.

"We're going to inch along with it until we can get it everywhere," he said. "Hopefully we can get some Internet providers to carry more stuff on fiber and continue to expand."



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COTTAGE GROVE
Cottage Grove City Hall
400 E. Main St., Cottage Grove
December 4 • 10:30 AM
December 21 • 10:30 AM

CRESWELL
City of Creswell
Community Center
99 S. 1st St., Creswell
December 4 • 2:30 PM
December 21 • 2:30 PM

FLORENCE
Florence Events Center
715 Quince St., Florence
November 23 • 11:00 AM
December 2 • 11:00 AM

EUGENE
Veterans Memorial Assn.
1626 Willamette St., Eugene
November 19 • 10:30 AM
December 7 • 2:30 PM

Countryside Pizza & Grill
645 River Road, Eugene
November 30 • 10:30 AM

Campbell Senior Center
Elsie's Room
155 High St., Eugene
November 30 • 2:30 PM
December 3 • 10:00 AM

Papa's Pizza
1577 Coburg Rd., Eugene
December 1 • 2:30 PM

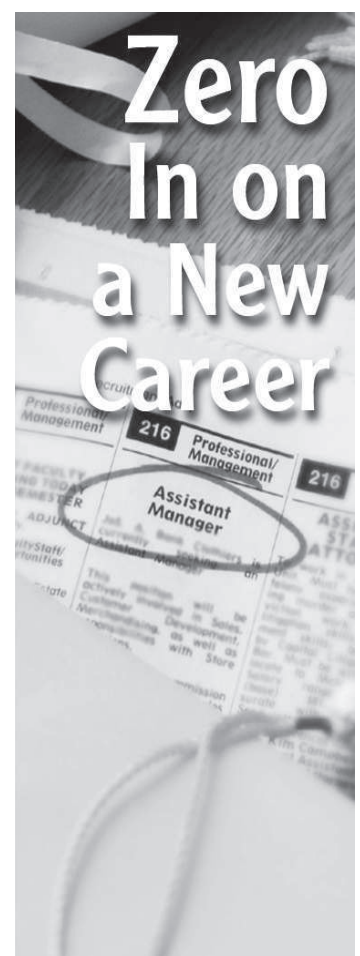
JUNCTION CITY
Junction City
Community Center
175 W. 7th Ave., Junction City
November 18 • 10:30 AM
December 7 • 10:30 AM

SPRINGFIELD
Papa's Pizza
4011 Main St., Springfield
November 20 • 2:30 PM
December 3 • 2:30 PM

OAKRIDGE
City of Oakridge
47674 School St., Oakridge
November 25 • 10:30 AM
December 23 • 10:30 AM

VENETA
City of Veneta
Community Center
25192 E. Broadway, Veneta
November 24 • 2:30 PM
December 2 • 2:30 PM
December 9 • 11:00 AM

EVENING SEMINARS
Trillium Community Health Plan
Cascade Rm.
1800 Millrace Dr., Eugene
November 19 • 5:45 PM
December 3 • 5:45 PM
December 10 • 5:45 PM
December 17 • 5:45 PM



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