

Day of Caring means aid to several area nonprofits

BY JON STINNETT AND SAM WRIGHT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

Area volunteers rolled up their sleeves to aid several area programs as part of United Way's annual Day of Caring on Thursday, which featured local aid for projects in five cities in Lane County. Brandy Rodtsbrooks, Director of Marketing and Communications for United Way, said via press release that Day of Caring included 36 nonprofit partners, 43 participating companies, 783 volunteers and 2984 total volunteer hours. "This year's Day of Caring is a true testament to the power volunteers have to transform our community," said Julie DiBiase, Volunteer Engagement Coordinator at United Way of Lane County. "Local nonprofits have reported in with a record level of project needs and our community is stepping up to make an even larger impact."

Day of Caring is an annual day of volunteering facilitated by United Way of Lane County since the early 1990s. In Cottage Grove, volunteers aided efforts at the Opal



photo by Jon Stinnett

Mason Antram sorts items for an outdoor sale at the Habitat for Humanity Restore. A part of United Way's Loaned Executive program, Antram helped out with several volunteer efforts on Thursday.

Center for Arts and Education, the Habitat for Humanity Restore, Community Sharing, the Community Center and an effort to restore riparian habitat on Carolina Creek.

Habitat Restore

Mason Antram had a very busy Thursday. Active in United Way's Loaned Executive Program, Antram, who works for

Oregon Community Credit Union, stacked firewood at Community Sharing and helped paint the Community Center before spending the afternoon at the Restore in the Cottage Grove Industrial Park. There, he and other volunteers helped move and price items for an outdoor sale held over the weekend.

"It's quite the life-changing experience,"

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Muralist Mike Janisch touches up an outdoor vignette in the former square dance caller's enclave at the Boots and Sandals Square Dance Barn.



photo by Jon Stinnett

Square Dance Barn's getting back into business

BY JON STINNETT
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Cottage Grove youth recently put the 'dance' back in 'square dance barn.'

On Sunday, Sept. 11, South Lane Ballet Academy welcomed its first class of dancers to the refurbished Boots and Sandals Square Dance Barn. Director Mandy Conforth said the facility has been full ever since, welcoming SLBA's biggest crop of dancers in years. The Academy hosts classes in the barn's upstairs facility, which now fea-

tures a separate dance studio in addition to a gathering place for parents and an area dedicated to the school's older dancers.

Downstairs in the barn, the transformation is ongoing. Personnel with the Cottage Grove Historical Society and Bohemia Gold Mining Museum are busy moving their operations into the first floor, which has been extensively renovated and now features three new beams holding up its second floor, a system of support designed by local architectural firm Geomax.

Historical Society President Holli Turpin said that, while it's difficult to determine a date after which the society might be open for regular hours, guests are being allowed to access its library by appointment. Due to its collection of artifacts, which are quite heavy and must be expertly arranged, it may be longer before the Gold Mining Museum is ready to welcome the general public.

The renewed activity, though, is welcome for Faye Stewart, whose Faye and Lucille Stewart Foundation purchased the barn from the Square Dance Club in 2014.

After starting work, Stewart realized the renovation would need to be much more extensive and entail the redesign of the barn's support system — hence the new supports downstairs.

"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."

Friday's Art Walk set to get cultural

In conjunction with Lane Arts Council's Fiesta Cultural, Cottage Grove Art Walk is excited to present an evening of cultural art and music on Friday from 6-9 p.m. Thanks to grant money from Lane Art's Council, the band Lo Nuestro will perform from 7-9 p.m. at All-America City Square (a/k/a Opal Whiteley Park), and Florabelle Moses will teach a salsa dance from 6-7 p.m. at the Square. The Opal Center is honored

to be hosting Samuel Becerra. Becerra is a sculpture, musician and historian who has worked for Lane Arts Council for seven years sharing the pre-Columbian history of the Americas in Lane County. Becerra builds replicas of the ancient clay flutes from central Mexico and will offer a free bird flute workshop. Participating Art Walk businesses also include: Buster's Bottle Shop — open Delight — Noelle Ervin,

flaunts Apple Pie Antiques — Gloria Campuzano, Mixed Media Maribel Mendoza, Fiber Arts Studio Tattoo: open Bookmine — Music provided by Sierra Kofoid Kalapuya Books — Cada Johnson, Painting Coast Fork Feed and Brewstation — Music by 'Flies with Honey' Imagine It Framed — Nancy Watterson Scharf, Painting Hawaiian Music

Carousel Deli and Ice Cream — open Big Stuff Barbeque — open The Crafty Mercantile — Omar Wright, Surrealistic Painting, Music Provided by Geoffrey Mays Five Flying Monkeys — Stephanie Kornman, 'Art to Inspire a Sweeter, More Positive, Joy-Filled Life' Stacy's Covered Bridge — open



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