

Airport welcome center readying the welcome mat



The Cottage Grove Airport Welcome Center is close to completion and will welcome tourists from around the state and beyond to the city. Photo provided by Nadine Kelly.

By Caitlyn May
cmay@cgsentinel.com

Imagine soaring through the sky, over the Willamette Valley, rivers, forests and spanning landscapes headed for Cottage Grove. You've heard it's a charming little community with restaurants, parks, museums and covered bridges. As you come in for a landing, gliding to a stop you're greeted by...a port-a-potty.

That's all the Cottage Grove Airport Welcome Center was comprised of. Until now.

Coordinator Nadine Kelly is working on improving the space at the air field to make it more welcoming and lure visitors off the tarmac and into town.

"My husband and I went to a meeting about promoting

tourism and I told him, 'We really need a bathroom for the airport.' And it just grew from there," she said.

The Oregon Aviation Historical Society is constructing the building that Kelly raised \$100,000 for. "I needed \$105,000 for everything," she said.

Donors stepped into to help including the Woodard Foundation, Faye and Lucille Stewart Foundation, Doyle and Donna Shepherd, the Cottage Grove Chamber of Commerce, the City of Cottage Grove, Busters and EBID.

"People were flying in, seeing a port-a-potty and never coming back," Kelly said.

Her husband Sean has encountered pilots who note their

wives don't make the trip to Cottage Grove with them because of the restroom situation and she tells a story of bikers who may have taken their business elsewhere if not for Sean.

"He caught them and they were going to fly somewhere nearby but he told them about downtown and they ended up visiting Buster's and getting a repair on their bikes done at the bike shop," Kelly said.

Plans for the new airport welcome center, slated to be completed in mid-July, are aimed at getting pilots to stay, shop and eat in Cottage Grove.

Kelly said she plans on keeping the unmanned building stocked in brochures about the city, restaurant menus, hotel information and a binder full of the activities individuals can

find within the city.

"The city is also going to be providing a courtesy car," Kelly said.

In theory, incoming pilots would fly in, have a code to a lock box inside the building and be able to access the car to travel downtown to a restaurant, ho-

tel or local store. The specifics, though, haven't been ironed out just yet.

The car won't be the only means of transportation, however. Kelly also houses two bicycles on the property that she's hoping will provide an easy ride into town for tourists.

"Creswell, Florence, Newport, they all have a car. People see that and they will come back," she said.

"We want people to see how much we have to do here in Cottage Grove. We're more than just a little town," Kelly said.

Firework reminders

June 23 opened the season for fireworks sales in Oregon. Legal fireworks may be purchased only from Oregon permitted fireworks retailers and stands. The Office of State Fire Marshal has issued more than 709 retail fireworks permits, and 211 display permits. Oregon law prohibits possession, use, or sale of any firework that flies into the air, explodes,

or travels more than 12 feet horizontally on the ground, without a permit issued by the OSFM. Fireworks commonly called bottle rockets, Roman Candles, and firecrackers are illegal in Oregon, without a permit. All fireworks are prohibited on all Oregon beaches, in parks, and campgrounds.

Illegal fireworks can be expensive. Under Oregon law, illegal fireworks may be confiscated and offenders fined up to \$500 per violation for possession of illegal fireworks and endangering life and property. Offenders may also be arrested. Any fireworks causing damage, or misuse of fireworks carries a liability for the offender, who may be required to pay for resulting fire or other damage. Parents are liable for fireworks-caused damage by their children. Costs may include assessed fines as well as the cost of suppressing fireworks-caused fires.



HB3030 Continued from A1

cision to move the bill forward and the Governor's support but they will continue to work on restricting nitrous oxide.

Munsell said she intends to push the legislation to the federal level while Meyers noted that HB3030 restricted the age of purchasers but not the location of where the nitrous can be

purchased. Moreover, the current legislation reads that the state prohibits the sale of nitrous oxide canisters from which individuals may directly inhale the gas. However, with the use of a cracker, individuals inhale the gas from a balloon, not the canister.

"It's great. It's neat," Meyers said of the passing of HB3030.

"In 90 days when it becomes a law, it will be enforceable." He noted that the youth advisory council is considering sending out notes to neighboring towns to inform them of the law's effective date.

"Having a YAC member in the house, they never pass up an opportunity to say they had a bill passed," he said.

Rash of local crimes solved

By Caitlyn May
cmay@cgsentinel.com

The restrooms at Bohemia Park are up and running and stolen boxing equipment has been returned after Cottage Grove Police closed two high profile cases in the last month.

Cottage Grove City Manager Richard Meyers reported that park-goers in need of a restroom would be out of luck after city employees discovered a damaged toilet. A review of video surveillance showed two juvenile males in the act.

"We caught them on camera," Meyers said. "One of them held open the door so a girl could see what they were doing but they should be worried because law

enforcement will be knocking on their door."

Meyers said the decision on whether or not to allow the boys to go through peer court had not been made.

"It depends on their prior record. It depends on your past if you're eligible for peer court," he said.

Juveniles who are permitted into the peer court system are judged by a jury of their peers and if they complete their sentence, can petition the court to have their record expunged.

The restrooms remained closed for a period of time with Meyers urging the public to report crimes that occur during the day and in plain view.

Peer court will not be an option that won't be available to Ian McKinnon.

McKinnon, 32, confessed at the start of the month to being responsible for the theft of stereo and boxing equipment from the armory in May of this year. According to former Cottage Grove High School Principal and boxing club founder Iton Udosenata, McKinnon got away with competition boxing gloves worth "a few hundred dollars" as well as the club's stereo.

"He had been in our work crew program," Meyers said. "He stole one of the uniforms and once he was out, he used it to get back into the building."

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