

New school Continued from A1



PHOTO BY CAITLYN MAY/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

Right, construction continues on the new Harrison Elementary School. Above, superintendent Krista Parent points out progress to school board chair Alan Baas.

Superintendent Krista Parent. Parent is a regular fixture at the site on Taylor Ave. where life-sized Tonka Trucks crawl and roll through mounds of gravel, piles of dirt and outlined spaces that will eventually become an 80,000 square foot elementary school. It will sit beside what used to be Al Kennedy Alternative High School. That building—currently undergoing asbestos renovations—will be used as an early education center for students who are preparing to enter kindergarten. The tennis courts are gone and it took several district employees jumping down into a ditch and pooling their institutional knowledge to determine if a staircase existed under the mounds of dirt but things are taking shape at the site.

There are currently three excavators on site and soon, concrete will be poured. Two by fours standing straight on their ends mark the elevator shaft and rebar and orange flags peek through the dirt to signal a class-

room, a kitchen, a gymnasium. “We could be weeks away from walls.”

The kindergarten pods already resemble buildings—bricks form their foundation and with the help of a hydraulic scaffold, more will join them. It will mean workers can stop hauling the bricks and the walls go up faster.

The wood-framed library that abuts 10th St. is beginning to look like a building as well. Once the plumbing, electric and other utilities are set, cement trucks will come in and make it official.

“It’s a nervous part of the project,” Allen said. “You don’t get too many chances at it.”

The school is expected to be ready to receive kids for the fall of 2018 and is currently on budget according to Allen and the district. “We’re being creative,” he said, noting that sub-contractors are hard to come by as projects continue to spring up around the state of Oregon. “We’re making it work,”

he said, noting that the project is still on schedule for its 2018 opening.

And when students hop off buses that pull into a specially designed bus lane that avoids parent drop off lanes and head into the new school under a covered patio they’ll pass a 14-foot wall that will double, intentionally or not, as a handball court. They’ll walk by a covered playground and into a school that will house four classrooms for each grade level, an “owl’s nest” for autistic and special needs children, a new library, gymnasium and a project room that will house a kiln and other equipment for the messiest of projects. And its construction will have an added meaning with workers like John Partlow, Gary McDonald and Allen, all local graduates, on site.

“It’s great to see,” Allen said, “People who went to school here are coming back as part of the community and working on this project.”

Welding shop gets new life



PHOTO BY CAITLYN MAY/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

Bear Diriwachter stands with the old owner (Harry) of his new shop, Bear Iron.

By Caitlyn May
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In March of this year, Harris Machine and Design wasn’t quite out of business and Bear Iron wasn’t quite open but they were operating out of the same space on 10th St. in Cottage Grove.

“It was a bit of an overlap,” said Bear Iron’s owner, Bear Diriwachter. “But we’re ready and open and working now.”

The shop, that sits just across from Bohemia Park, focuses on blacksmithing—a profession Diriwachter has had his eye on

since he was a child. After 20 years in Springfield, he started looking for a space to operate his business out of that was closer to his home in Cottage Grove.

Now, he’s just finished moving his machinery in and his dog Orca with her bright blue eyes and casual attitude towards visitors, guards the front office while he works.

“We do architectural blacksmithing but we will fix anything,” he said. Diriwachter makes everything from railings to gates to car parts but he’s also hoping to build a reputation as a shop open to fixing anything that needs fixing.

“There’s not another place where someone can get something small fixed,” he said. “People can bring in garden art that’s falling apart and we can fix it. If it’s broken and it’s only a \$20 bill for us, we don’t care, we’re going to fix it. No job is too small.”

There isn’t a job that’s too big either. His strangest request from the community, he says, was an order for 100 manhole cover openers.

“You know, the tool that you use to open the manhole covers,” Diriwachter said. “This company ordered them and we made them.”

Diriwachter has been a resident of Cottage Grove for 10 years, making the trek into Springfield to work before renting out the old Harris building, but he says he’s fallen in love. And in the fall, he’ll be starting welding and blacksmithing classes for the community.

“I love everything about Cottage Grove,” he said. “I just, I love the community.”

It’s part of why he opted to open the welding and blacksmith shop. With the ability to weld steel to aluminum, he said he wanted to provide a place for locals to come.

“Eugene is a far way, you know,” he said. “People can get things repaired here, made here and I have steel available for sale to the public. I just wanted to do something for Cottage Grove.”

Worship Directory

DRAIN:
HOPE U.M.C.
131 W “A” St. Drain, OR
541-315-1617
Pastor: Lura Kidner-Miesen
Fellowship & Song: 11:30am
Potluck Lunch: 12:00pm
Worship: 12:30pm

COTTAGE GROVE:
6th & Gibbs Church of Christ
195 N. 6th St. • 541-942-3822
Pastor: Aaron Earlywine
Youth & Families Pastor: Seth Bailey
Services: 9am and 10:30am
Christian Education
Nursery for pre-k - 3rd Grade
www.6thandgibbs.com

Calvary Baptist Church
77873 S 6th St • 541-942-4290
Pastor: Riley Hendricks
Sunday School: 9:45am
Worship: 11:00am
The Journey: Sunday 5:00pm
Praying Thru Life:
Wednesday 6:00pm

Calvary Chapel Cottage Grove
1447 Hwy 99 (Village Plaza)
541-942-6842
Pastor: Jeff Smith
Two Services on Sun:
9am & 10:45am
Youth Group Bible Study
Child Care 10:45am Service Only
www.cgcalvary.org

Center for Spiritual Living
Cottage Grove
700 Gibbs Ave.
(Community Center)
Rev. Bobby Lee
Meets Sunday 3:00 p.m.
cslcottagegrove@gmail.com

Church of Christ
420 Monroe St • 541-942-8565
Sunday Service: 10:30am

Cottage Grove Bible Church
1200 East Quincy Avenue
541-942-4771
Pastor: Bob Singer
Worship 11am
Sunday School: 9:45am
AWANA age 3-8th Grade,
Wednesdays Sept-May, 6:30pm
www.cgbible.org

Cottage Grove Faith Center
33761 Row River Rd.
541-942-4851
Lead Pastor: Kevin Pruett
www.cg4.tv
Full Children’s Ministry available
Two Services 9am & 11am

Delight Valley
Church of Christ
33087 Saginaw Rd. East
541-942-7711
Pastor: Bob Friend
Two Services:
9am - Classic in the Chapel
10:30am - Contemporary in the Auditorium

First Presbyterian Church
3rd and Adams St
541-942-4479
Pastor: Karen Hill
Worship: 10:00am
Sunday School: 10:00am
www.cgpresbynews.com

Hope Fellowship
United Pentecostal Church
100 S. Gateway Blvd.
541-942-2061
Pastor: Dave Bragg
Worship: 11:00am Sunday
Bible Study: 7:00pm Wednesday
www.hopefellowshipupcc.com
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Living Faith Assembly
467 S. 10th St. • 541-942-2612
Pastor Rulon Combs
Worship & Children’s
Church 10:00 am
Youth 180 Mondays 5:30-8pm

Non-Denominational Church of Christ
1041 Pennoyer Ave
541-942-8928
Preacher: Tony Martin
Sunday Bible Study: 10:00am
Sunday Worship: 10:50am & 5:30pm
www.pennoyeravecoc.com

Old Time Gospel Fellowship
103 S. 5th St. • 541-942-4999
Pastor: Jim Edwards
Sunday Service: 10:00am
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Our Lady of Perpetual Help and St. Philip Benizi
1025 N. 19th St.
541-942-3420 / 541-942-4712
Pastor: Roy L. Antunez, S.J.
Euch. Liturgies; Sat. 5:30pm
Sun. 10:30am
St. Philip Benizi, Creswell:
552 Holbrook Lane
541-895-8686, Sunday: 8:30am

St. Andrews Episcopal Church
1301 W. Main • 541-767-9050
Rev. Lawrence Crumb
“Church with the flags.”
Worship: Sunday 10:30am
All Welcome

Seventh-day Adventist Church
820 South 10th Street
541-942-5213
Pastor: Kevin Miller
Bible Study: Saturday, 9:15 am
Worship Service:
Saturday, 10:40 am
Mid-week Service:
Wednesday, 1:00 pm

Trinity Lutheran Church
6th & Quincy • 541-942-2373
Pastor: James L. Markus
Sunday School & Adult Education
9:15am
Sunday Worship 10:30 am
Comm. Kitchen Free Meal Tue & Thur 5:00pm TLC Groups
tlccg.com

United Methodist Church
334 Washington • 541-942-3033
Pastor: Lura Kidner-Miesen
Worship: 10:30am
Comm. Dinner (Adults \$5, Kids Free)
2nd & 3rd Monday 5-6:00pm
cottagegroveumc.org

“VICTORY” Country Church
913 S. 6th Street • 541-942-5913
Pastor: Barbara Dockery
Worship Service: 10:00am
Message: 11:00am
“WE BELIEVE IN MIRACLES”

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