

Animal House celebration set for 8•18•2018



PHOTO BY COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

The "Death Mobile" was featured in the film "Animal House" and a replica is now owned by the Cottage Grove Chamber of Commerce and will be used during the organizations planned 40th anniversary of the movie next summer.

By Caitlyn May
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If you have a desire to don a toga in the middle of Main St. next summer than mark your calendars for August 18. The party is headed to Cottage Grove.

They call themselves the Double Secret Society and they have plans for the anniversary of the cult classic, "Animal House." The film's iconic parade scene was filmed on Cottage Grove's Main St. and the group plans to capitalize on that fact to lure tourists into town for the celebration.

In collaboration with the Cottage Grove Chamber of Commerce, the group is pulling out all the stops. The crown jewel of the event will reportedly be an effort to break the Guinness Book's World Record for the largest toga party.

"For the 25th anniversary, Cottage Grove had a big event," said Cottage Grove Chamber CEO Travis Palmer. "We actually got the Guinness World Record for the largest toga party."

The city has since lost the title (to a university in Australia that boasted 3,700 togas) but Palmer, along with the Double Secret Society is determined to get it back by asking residents to make their own togas and meet the party on Main St.

The Double Secret Society isn't stopping there. It plans to show the movie in town, perhaps twice--once as a PG version and once in its original format. Plans for tours of filming locations may also be apart of the celebration as well as a food fight that has yet to be decided.

The group is hoping to break a second world record by hosting the world's largest food fight but details of the proposal haven't quite been ironed out yet. The main sticking point? what are 30,000 people going to throw at each other? Popcorn? Pasta? While the idea is still on the table, the matter of who would clean up the mess is still up in the air. Cottage Grove City Manager Richard Meyers previously said of the plan to have half the city throw food at the other half that it's been done before during a city celebration of "Animal House." As for who's going to clean it up and what type of food will be throw he said the city and chamber would have to have a discussion.

A toga party, movie showings, a recreation of the parade scene (complete with reconstructed floats), a food fight and the various other ideas being pitched for the 40th anniversary celebration don't come cheap. Palmer estimates the festivities to come in at approximately \$50,000. He says the group has reached out to Universal Studios to help fund the event and will continue fundraising and courting donors.

The University of Oregon was also used to film the movie and the school regularly uses the famous soundtrack at its sporting events. As of press time, there was no decision by the university on whether or not it planned to host an event for the 40th anniversary of "Animal House."

The day Jerry Lewis came to CG

By Caitlyn May
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Comedy icon Jerry Lewis, 91, passed away on Sunday, August 20 at his home in Las Vegas.

But for a day in 1970, Lewis was the talk of the town in Cottage Grove.

Decidedly known for his comedy, Lewis also drew attention for his work with ill children, particularly those effected by muscular dystrophy. His telethons aimed at raising money for a cure were a staple of TV guides before coming to an end before the turn of the century.

Lewis' ties to Cottage Grove

stem from a car ride down Main St.

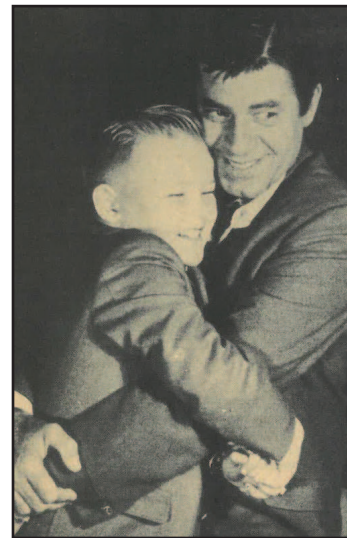
In the summer of 1970, Lewis took part in the traditional Bohemia Mining Days Parade with official grand marshall Scotty Swift, a local boy chosen as the poster child for the illness.

The Sentinel reported on the visit: "A few weeks ago, Mr. and Mrs. Swift asked the head of the muscular dystrophy organization if it would be possible for Mr. Lewis to come to Cottage Grove for the Bohemia celebration. He said no, Mr. Lewis' time was booked up for months in advance.

Then, the manager of Mr.

Lewis was asked and he gave the same answer, naming the taping of a television show with Sammy Davis Jr. on the same day as the grand parade as the reason. What made it worse was that Mr. Lewis was appearing as a guest on the show and had no say in the shooting schedule. But when Scotty asked Mr. Lewis if he could come, he said yes and he has kept his promise."

Lewis was born March 16, 1926 to show business parents and by the time he was 16, he had dropped out of school and was seeking work in the industry.



Jerry Lewis with Scotty Swift, 1970, from the Sentinel archives.

Elks team up to fight hunger in SLSD schools

By Eric Schucht
For The Sentinel

It's an early Sunday afternoon when a few dozen volunteers stream into Elks Lodge #1904 in Cottage Grove. Bags filled with Pop-Tarts, Ramen, oatmeal, granola bars and applesauce

get packed into large zip locked bags on an assembly line. Their intended purpose: to provide meals for 75 students in the South Lane School District on weekends this year. It's all a part of the Elks' new snack pack program launching this year.

Sixty five percent of the district's students live below the poverty line. The program plans to give away 6,000 weekend meals to qualifying students throughout the South Lane School District. Each student will be provided with enough food for two lunches over all weekends this school year.

"These students are going to be our foundation one of these days. They're gonna be running for office or they're gonna be lawyers or doctors but they're our foundation for when we get older. If we don't take care of them, they slide through the cracks," Marie Ammon, the chair for the snack pack program at the Elks Lodge, said.

The program was funded by the Promise and Becan grants awarded by the Elks National Foundation, totaling \$4,500. The rest of the funds were raised by members of the Lodge through donations and other fundraising events, such as raffles. The program was able to increase the number of meals available to local children after Grocery Outlet partnered with the program, providing a discount on supplies.

"I understand how important it is that we feed our children," Beverly Adams, a member and past leader at the Lodge, said. "They're fed during the week, but on the weekends, they defiantly need a little bit of help."

At the beginning of last school year, Ammon approached the superintendent of the school district, Dr. Krista Parent, about providing meals to students most in need. The school that would benefit the most from the program was identified and selected students are to receive meals anonymously. Meals will be distributed by teachers for students in need beginning this year.

"We feel good that there's gonna be a child out there that isn't gonna go hungry on the weekend," Ammon said

Some, like Adams, said that she hopes the program will show the community that the Lodge isn't just about social activities. The organization has helped funded other programs in the past, such as the South Lane Childrens Dental Clinic.

"I think [the snack pack program] shows that we are a fraternal organization that takes care of its people in its community, that we care," said Adams.

Once news started to spread of the program, many relatives of the Lodge's members and people not affiliated with the Lodge soon called Ammon wanting to help, she said.

"I've had a lot of people call that I don't even know who heard about the program and wanted to come in and help us do this," Ammon said.

The program hopes to expand to potentially support around a dozen other students at a second school. Ammon said that she hopes to see the program live on long after she's gone.

"I would like to see it to go on. I'm probably not gonna be able to do it the rest of my life but I'm sure that we have enough people that are so enthusiastic about this program that it will probably be one that will carry on as a Lodge function," Ammon said.

The Lodge is currently trying to raise funds to provide meals to kids when school is not in session. The group currently has enough funds raised to provide meals throughout all of winter and Thanksgiving break. Learn more about how to donate or volunteer on the group's website and Facebook page.



Labor Day or Any Day

... this is a bad combination.

Labor Day is a well-deserved holiday for everyone. And like most holidays, it's a day to relax and celebrate with family and friends. These sponsors would like to remind you that if you celebrate this weekend, please do so responsibly. That means not drinking and driving, using a designated driver, or best of all, being one for those you care about. With your help, everyone can have an enjoyable Labor Day weekend.

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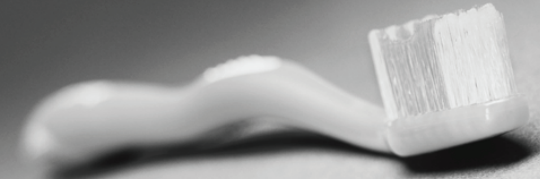
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