

CYCLE OREGON CANCELED

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Cottage Grove was not on the list of destinations but bikers were expected to camp in Schwartz Park just a few miles outside of the city in Dorena, Oregon. The city of Cottage Grove has been ramping up tourism efforts in preparation of Cycle Oregon's ride near town.

"About 18 nonprofits and groups were set up to volunteer as a fundraiser," Travis Palmer, executive director of the Cottage Grove Chamber of Commerce said. However, according to Palmer, Cycle Oregon has agreed to pay those organizations around the state that had signed contracts with the biking group despite the cancellation.

As of press time, it was unknown if Cottage Grove and its volunteers would be included in that contracted group.

Wildfires continue to burn around Oregon with areas outside of Springfield near Blue River, Sisters and in Douglas County have been either asked to evacuate or put on notice to be ready to evacuate.

Air quality continues to be reported at unhealthy levels around the valley including Eugene and Cottage Grove. Lane Regional Air Protection Agency rated the air quality over the Labor Day Weekend as just under 250 and in Eugene at 306 out of 300.

RFP

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Growth Boundary that could take up to two years."

An Urban Growth Boundary is a regional boundary set up to control housing and urban development mandating that the area within the boundary be used for urban development.

Several other factors have slowed housing development including construction cost and demand as well as System Development Charges (SDC) fees. The fees are meant to offset the impact of a new development to the area. However, the Cottage Grove City Council has taken on the issue in the last year and councilman Mike Fleck has cre-

ated a group designed to look at the challenges of building in the city, including SDC fees. Moreover, a construction boom in the state of Oregon has drive up costs due to the low availability of construction crews and materials. Construction on the new Harrison Elementary School has faced rising costs due to the shortage in Oregon.

"This is a few years away," Ferguson said. "So hopefully, if there is building, construction costs will have gone down."

Hayden Homes is currently constructing a community on Hwy. 99 near the firehouse complete with single-family homes.

Fairs

er than B M D but unlike Cottage Grove's biggest tourism attraction of the year, W.O.E. charges for individuals to attend the fair—\$3 for those 12 years of age and older. "We haven't been free for quite a few years," Geiger said.

Then again, W.O.E. owns the land that the fair takes part in. During the year, it earns money by renting out parking for the races at the speedway and its board is not paid for its service unlike some positions within

the BMD.

While Geiger did not speak in numbers, she said the W.O.E. hit its financial mark for this year's festival though mentioned each year the cost of putting on the fair varies.

"It depends on what type of entertainment you have," she said, noting that the \$50,000 it costs to put on BMD seemed high in comparison to the W.O.E. which does not offer a carnival or dozens of food vendors. It does however, have a traditional lumberjack show and contests that mirror the Oregon

State Fair's offerings including contests for farm animals.

W.O.E., according to Geiger, is not looking to downsize but it is—like BMD—looking for volunteers.

"I'm president until someone else steps up to do it," she said. "We have a few young people on our board but we can always have more," she said.

For BMD, the challenge remains to keep the quality of the fair up without charging.

"We looked at having it be pay but then you need to construct a facade all the way around the

park which costs money and you need people at every entrance to make sure only paying people get in," Simmons said.

Geiger's organization will continue putting on the fair, though it's hoping to complete some projects around the grounds. It recently requested money from the city to complete a lighting project and several buildings on the grounds could use some TLC.

"We don't whine about what we don't have," Geiger said. "We do what we can with what we have."

Armory

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governing body had suffered a stroke, rendering him unable to perform the work on the exterior of the building—though he had not yet been contracted by the city of Cottage Grove to do so.

Since then, a process has been in place to ensure that the work done to the armory falls within the parameters of being properly historic and the RFP will seek out those firms who are capable of doing the work within those parameters.

City Planner Amanda Ferguson—who wrote the RFP—said the firm chosen would be responsible for a slew of work including plumbing and elec-

tric. According to the RFP the scope of work spans three sections—Design Development and Contract Document Phase of Services, Construction Bidding Phase Services and Construction Phase Services—each section housing at least 10 separate responsibilities. Those responsibilities include attending meetings to develop goals, options and research consensus on final plans, assisting to evaluate bids, develop recommendations to the city, ensure documents meet all applicable provisions of Oregon's Public Contracting Code and a dozen others. Currently, the armory is the subject of a massive fundraising

effort. According to Ferguson, the project listed in the RFP has a budget of approximately \$250,000. However, fundraising began prior to the release of the RFP with consultant Christina Lund manning the push for community dollars.

Plans to update the armory include the installation of handicap entrances which would create a need to alter the exterior of the building slightly.

Lead concerns within the armory slowed fundraising after reports of improper testing emerged. However, those reports were put to rest after additional testing by the city which found all the areas that were

tested during the initial lead investigation of the building had decreased. The only area that had increased—by the stairs in the often-utilized drill hall—was thought to have tested higher due to the lead-painted stairs. The stairs then became subject to a construction projects which utilized dry ice to remove the paint at a cost of approximately \$28,000. The city will test the areas again after that construction is completed.

The RFP opened on August 28 and is set to close on September 25.

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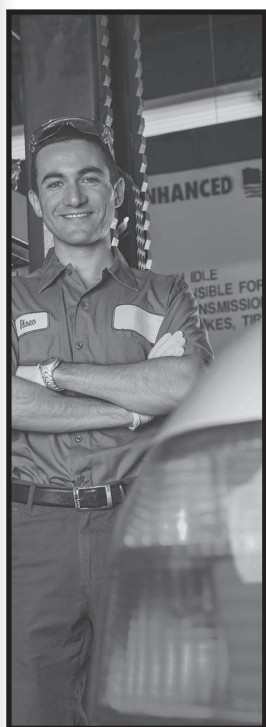
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