

Cottage Grove Theatre to remodel

The community theater also revealed its new season

By Caitlyn May
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Cottage Theatre's looking to break a leg next year in the traditional theatre sense of the phrase and announced its intentions last week during a private gathering for donors that revealed next season's line-up.

"We're going to be doing four shows instead of six," said executive director Susan Goes.

The pared down schedule can be attributed to the second-half of the theatre's good news: the building will be undergoing an expansion for seating, a remodel of the exterior and a sprucing up of the lobby.

The remodel, while welcomed, will mean Cottage Theatre's stage will be dark from May through September, cutting two of the traditional six shows per year. However, the remaining four shows were chosen with the audience in mind with Goes explaining that all of the shows are well-known.

First on the schedule in

February is "Romeo and Juliet," the classic Shakespeare play that will serve as a Valentine's showcase under the direction of Tony Rust who has spent years interacting with the Bard's work.

The play was front and center last week when donors were given the opportunity to guess the season's shows with excerpts performed from each play.

However, the more famous scenes, Goes said, were left out making it more difficult.

"We didn't do the balcony scene from 'Romeo and Juliet,'" she said.

And the famous tragedy will not be the theatre's only attempt at Shakespeare next season. In October, three actors will attempt the "Complete Works of William Shakespeare, Abridged," a play that sees its characters attempting to cram all 37 of the famous plays into a 90-minute performance.

"It's actually very physical and very funny," Goes said, noting that it would be the first play performed in the new space after the renovation.

"We chose it on purpose because it's a cast of three...

We wanted a show that was still ok if we had any construction delays and that could rehearse in someone's living room if they had to."

While Shakespeare will reopen the theatre in October, something a little more family-friendly will close it out in April — with a little luck.

The theatre plans to stage "The Sound of Music," the classic musical detailing the Von Trapp family's escape from Nazi Austria in World War II. However, the theatre hasn't secured the rights yet, which could prove difficult with a national tour currently on stage.

"We think it'll be ok because the closest stop on the tour is in California," Goes said, noting that the theatre does have a back-up plan for April's show should "Sound of Music" not be an option.

The 2019 season will close out with "Oliver" as the holiday show and mark the end of the first season after the remodel which, according to Goes, is set to cost approximately \$1.5 million.

The project is expected to add an estimated 50 new seats to the theatre, replacing the current five sections of seats with three sections.

The middle bank, that currently has five rows made up of used seats purchased from a church 20 years ago, will grow to seven and the floor plan will be tweaked slightly so that audience members can see fully to the back wall of the stage.

"We lose a little of the stage up front but we gain some in the back," Goes said. "We gain usable space because the audience will be able to see."

The audience will also be able to help choose the theatre's new seating. During this season's showing of "Shrek the Musical" this October, the theatre will hold a "Goldilocks" event that will showcase approximately four seat choices and allow audience members to try each one and issue feedback to the theatre.

While construction is set to begin in May, the theatre hasn't quite secured the total funding for the project.

Earlier this year, it was awarded \$40,000 grant funds which added to existing grant funds from last year. Several donors have also contributed bringing the estimated total already raised to \$400,000.



Pet tips 'N' tales

By Mary Ellen
"Angel Scribe"

Splish! Splash! Success!

What happens when you put 17 dogs in a 100-foot-long-by-50-foot-wide pool? Well, listen! "Bark, Bark, Yap, Splash, Bark, Ruff-ruff, Splash, Splash, 'No Ted E. that is not your ball!' Splash, Splash."

The mayhem went on for two fun filled hours as pet parents tossed balls and dogs flew in the pool to retrieve them.

The Barking Mad puppy pool party was organized by Lynn Boe and Christi Hill for Tucker's Cupboard, a non-profit organization that helps financially care for canine households in the South Lane School District. The group assists with vet bills, pet medications and medical equipment.

The local vet clinics refer candidates to them and they are endorsed by the Humane Society of Cottage Grove.

"The dogs must be exhausted!" laughs Lynn after the event, while sipping a well-deserved glass of wine. "We had 17 dogs: 11 from town, five from the Eugene area and one from Veneta. Then there were the folks who arrived without a dog, just to spend time watching happy dogs having fun. They were not disappointed!"

"Initially, some dogs were leery about jumping into the pool, even ones who normally have no problem with a lake or river, but once they got the idea there was no stopping them. There was tail wagging and doggy smiling going on, that's for sure. Other than occasionally stealing each other's balls or toys, all the dogs got along."

"They were totally engrossed in playing and swimming."

Laurie's Rottweiler, Ted E. Bear, was the second dog in the pool and the last to leave.

"Ted E. was in the water the full two hours. We had a blast. He was so happy," said Laurie. "We would go ev-

School district launches new website for 2018

By Caitlyn May
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South Lane School District will look a little different when school starts in September.

A new Harrison Elemen-

tary School will stand at Taylor and 10th Street and the students at Al Kennedy High School will start their second year at Delight Valley — but this time they'll do it with a remodeled building that they don't have

to share with HeadStart preschoolers.

Parents will also notice an update to the school district's website, the first since 2015 when the site went through a transition to educate the public about the efforts to pass a \$35 million bond.

"Well, we are certainly in the process of trying to redo some things. Now that bond items are starting to wrap up a bit we have removed the big button we had at the top," said communications coordinator Garrett Bridgens.

The removal of the bond information at the top of

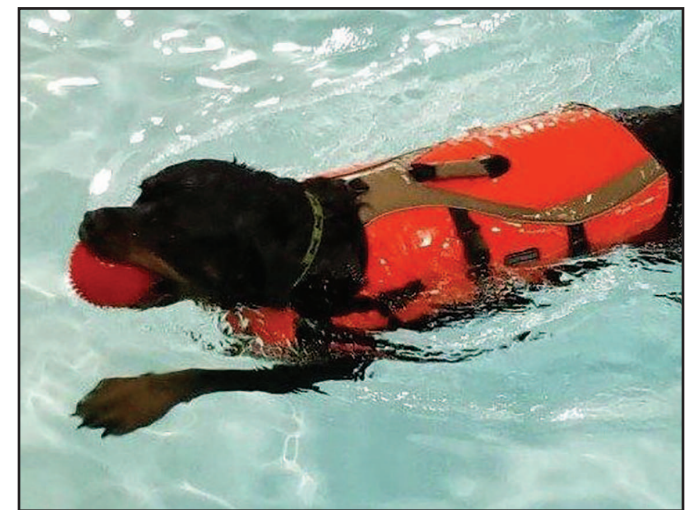
the site, he said, will allow the district to feature pictures and information on the homepage.

The district's social media will also now be featured on the homepage.

However, bond information will still be available on the website even if it's no longer on the homepage.

The district passed the bond in 2016 to construct a new elementary school and improve technology and security throughout the district.

The new website can be found at www.slane.k12.or.us.



Ted E. Bear wore his life jacket at Cottage Grove's Pool Puppy Party. It gave him the opportunity and endurance to grab another dog's ball and swim with it for two hours.

ery week if we could. He was taking his green ball to any available strangers to toss for him. He didn't care, he was all about fun in the pool. He wore his orange life jacket and soon dropped his green ball in favor of another dog's red ball.

"His first pool party was as exciting for him as a child's first birthday party," Laurie continued. "I was sure he would crash after all that swimming, but instead when we arrived home he was still so energized that he brought me his squeaky toy to play."

Terri's dog, Diesel, was cautious when he arrived at the pool, but eventually he took the plunge and had a great time. Danny's dog, Coco, eschewed the free tennis balls and his own toy and went straight for the semi-deflated basketball.

Tom's rescue dogs, Lulu a Pit/Doberman mix and Iris, a Pit/Lab mix, "Had a blast!" according to Tom. "Even I thought it was a blast. It was incredible! I wish it was a yearly event or an extension of the dog park. My dogs are socialized every day at the dog park and they were excited to see their dog friends at the pool. It was Iris's first time in water. She would fetch her ball, then swim to me for a hug. Lulu had so much fun. Me too! When we arrived home I told my neighbor, 'You missed it man. It was awesome!'"

"Every person enthusiastically thanked us and said they had the best time," said Lynn. "We want to thank Chuck and Debbie at the Old Mill Farm Store for supporting our event with gift bags for each K9 swimmer."

"I won't be surprised that when the Warren H. Daugherty Aquatic Center in Cottage Grove, Oregon reopens after being reFURbished that a dozen black Labrador water-loving dogs don't run away from home and line up at the door to enter for another swim," I (Mary Elen) laughed. "Also, what happens when you have 17 soaking wet dogs at a pool?"

"All those shaking dogs got me wet," reports my five-year-old grandson, Yossa, as he shook his body like a dog.

TIPS:

Never miss a dog pool party!

Share your fun, amazing or crazing pet tips and tales at angelscribe@msn.com or Follow Pet Tips 'n' Tales on Facebook at www.facebook.com/PetTipsandTales. Adopt loving pets online at www.PetFinder.com. For spay or neutering, call the Humane Society at 541-942-2789.

NOTICE OF CITY OF COTTAGE GROVE PLANNING COMMISSION VACANCY

The City of Cottage Grove Planning Commission has one vacancy. The commissioner appointed to this volunteer body by the City Council in this position will hold the term for the remainder of a three year term beginning January 2018 (2018-2021). Applicants must complete a Planning Commission application (available at the Community Development Department at City Hall and on-line at www.cottagegrove.org). The deadline for receiving applications is **September 28 by 5 p.m.** For further information please contact the Community Development Department at 541-942-3340.

6-day weather forecast

THURSDAY 77° 50° Partly Cloudy	FRIDAY 78° 49° Partly Cloudy
SATURDAY 80° 49° Sunny	SUNDAY 75° 49° Sunny
MONDAY 78° 50° Sunny	TUESDAY 78° 50° Sunny

Flood policies must be in place at least 6 weeks prior to a claim.

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