

New courthouse being explored as option by Lane County

A courthouse is essential to democracy in Lane County. It is where people seek justice and resolution to conflicts that range from small property disputes to custody battles or from personal injury cases to murder cases.

The current Lane County Courthouse, opened in 1959, is not sized to handle the over 33,000 cases filed each year. In addition, the way the building is designed makes it impossible to provide a secure, private setting for victims and opposing parties.

In addition, the design also restricts access to individuals with limited mobility.

In Oregon, counties are respon-

sible for providing the buildings in which the state circuit courts operate while the state is responsible for funding the operations. In response to the growing statewide need for new courthouse facilities, the Oregon Legislature will provide up to 50 percent match funding for the State portions of a courthouse building.

"A new Lane County Courthouse would represent our community's commitment to fair and impartial justice and strengthen the central element in our public safety system," said Lane County Circuit Court Presiding Judge Debra Vogt. "A new courthouse would bring together our community's heritage

and future in a building responsibly designed to serve Lane County for generations."

Lane County worked with Robertson/Sherwood/Architects and courthouse consultant DLR Group to conduct a scoping study to validate the former city hall lot as a viable site for the new courthouse and to refine the needed square footage to accommodate current and future needs.

The study includes a recommended program and potential floor plan diagrams that address the significant concerns regarding security and access for people with limited mobility.

The cost estimate — based on

detailed pre-design analysis — includes approximately \$94 million in matching state funds and an approximately \$158 million in local funds.

"The opportunity to leverage nearly \$100 million in State funds is critical to help us make space for justice in Lane County," said Lane County Administrator Steve Mokrohisky.

When the Board of County Commissioners reconvenes in 2019, commissioners will have the opportunity to discuss next steps, including local funding and placing a potential General Obligation Bond before voters.

The Lane County Courthouse is

home to the Circuit Court, District Attorney's Office, Sheriff's Office, and Victim Services. Since it was built 60 years ago, the population it serves has more than doubled and it was built for a vision of justice that no longer represents our community or our expectations for equal access to justice.

Today, the building can't support the use it receives and its physical systems are failing.

For more information about the Lane County Courthouse, including a brief video tour of some of the issues faced in the current building, visit www.lanecounty.org/courthouse.

Roots from A1

Empathy babies and he's there to teach as part of the program meant to explore empathy in children and shared across 11 countries.

"He has a little T-shirt that says 'teacher,'" Henderson says, sitting in one of the second-grade sized chairs in her classroom that's filled to the brim with colorful everything — papers, cubbies, projects, rugs, streamers.

She's just gotten her students on to the bus or handed them off to parents who will soon have their kids full-time for over two weeks. It's the eve of Christmas break.

"One student asked me on Monday if baby Paeson was coming and I said, 'No, we finished the lesson and we're taking a break until after the holidays.' And he said, 'But we can start the next lesson!'"

The next lesson means baby Paeson returns to the

classroom.

The visits are the core of the Roots of Empathy program that's being piloted in South Lane County by 90by30 and at two schools in the South Lane School District; Harrison and London.

It's the latest stand-out program offered by 90by30 — a nonprofit that aims to decrease child abuse by 90 percent by the years 2030. The group uses programs based in community outreach to help further its goal.

Roots of Empathy was developed by Mary Gordon and launched in Canada in 1996. It's since been implemented in 11 countries and became the second 90by30 flagship program introduced in South Lane County in the last three years.

"A testament of the program or something I think is great is that the lessons are in

groups of three," said London principal Bill Bechen. And

It's an opportunity for kids to think, 'How do you tell how a baby is feeling?'

—Scott Hoffman, second-grade teacher

while Bechen hasn't observed many Roots of empathy sessions, he said the feedback he receives from Henderson has been positive.

"When it's baby day, you can tell on their faces," Henderson said of her class.

Every month, a 90by30 trained instructor visits the classroom to conduct a "pre-baby lesson" revolving around that week's theme. Themes range across 27 les-

sions from crying to emotions to sleeping to communicating. Then, it's time for Paeson.

A green blanket is laid on the floor and the baby is placed on it while the class forms a circle. The second-graders make observations about Paeson's development, emotions and actions.

"Once, she put him on a roller and he was trying to reach a toy and you can see him really struggling and getting frustrated," Henderson said. "And the kids can see that in themselves because we always talk about having grit and trying hard."

Just over 10 miles away at the brand-new Harrison Elementary School, four second grade teachers echo Henderson's approval of the program.

"When they first enter, the baby goes around with the mom and they make eye

contact and that's part of the age there," said second-grade teacher Scott Hoffman. "The baby is making these little bonds and I think the other aspect is the kids know this is a year-long thing. It's not just one visit so they're more invested."

Spending the year with a baby who started its class visits between two and three months old means second-graders can track the baby's development and teachers can draw connections between what the students observe and their own experiences. While babies are teething, second-graders are often losing teeth. When the baby is sad, lessons ask the second-graders to think of a time they, too, were sad allowing them to express feelings of exclusion or incidents of bullying.

"I think what's interesting about a baby for empathy is that the baby can't tell you how he's feeling, he doesn't have the language," Hoffman said. "So, it's an opportunity for the kids to think how do you tell how a baby might be feeling?"

Each baby visit is fol-

lowed up by a return visit from the 90by30 instructor who walks the class through the lesson, often through drawing or reading a book.

Those lessons, some instructors said, are just as valuable but don't draw the same excitement as the baby visit.

"When I look back at the pictures of the family visit, every single child's eyes — there's never a child who's looking off or elsewhere. They're always watching the baby," said Sarah Loveless the project implementation manager for 90by30.

South Lane is only three months into Roots of Empathy so instructors say it's hard to tell if there is a marked difference between classes from years' prior who did not have visits from babies. However, they all agree that it's become a valuable tool in reaching their students who may not have been comfortable discussing issues they faced from insecurity to bullying.

"Hopefully," Loveless said, "it creates a safe space for students to share something that even the staff might not have even known."

Your Family Deserves The **BEST** Technology... Value... TV!...

Upgrade to the Hopper* 3 Smart HD DVR

- Watch and record 16 shows at once
- Get built-in Netflix and YouTube
- Watch TV on your mobile devices

Hopper upgrade fee \$5/mo.

Add High Speed Internet \$14.95/mo.

Subject to availability. Restrictions apply. Internet not provided by DISH and will be billed separately.

190 Channels

CALL TODAY Save 20%! **1-866-373-9175**

EARTHLINK INTERNET
HIGH SPEED INTERNET

Enjoy big-time internet speeds without spending big bucks!

Get Connected for as low as **14.95/mo.** HyperLink™ High-Speed Internet

Get Connected for as low as **\$49.99/mo.** Satellite Internet

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL AUTHORIZED RETAILER

855-977-9436

Authorized Dealer **EarthLink**

Get DIRECTV, THE ULTIMATE ENTERTAINMENT EXPERIENCE

For the 18th year in a row, DIRECTV has been rated higher in customer satisfaction than Cable.

INCLUDES: Over 155 channels Monthly fee for a Genie® HD DVR

CALL NOW and ask about Next Day Installation. **855-502-2578**

AT&T Preferred Dealer

WOW!

Deals so big, they'll make you say wow!

Every day!

Cottage Grove **GROCERY OUTLET** Bargain Market

200 Gateway Blvd. Cottage Grove, OR 97424 (541) 942-5400

Mon. - Sat. 8am - 9pm Sun. 9am - 8pm

Ed & Kori Sowa Independent Owner-Operators

facebook.com/CottageGroveGroceryOutlet

SAVE 40-70% ON GROCERIES. BEAUTIFUL, HUH?

TURNING 65 AND NEED HELP WITH YOUR MEDICARE CHOICES?

Call Paul to help simplify the complicated.

541-517-7362

Paul Henrichs ~ Local Independent Agent
coverage4oregon@gmail.com

15% OFF

Any service with coupon

Schedule your appointment Today!

Not Valid on any service Exceeding \$100 • Expires 12/31/18

Our People Really Make The Difference!

Brad's Chevy
COTTAGE GROVE CHEVROLET, INC.

541-942-4415 • 2775 Row River Road • bradschevy.com

BOYCE & SONS

LANDSCAPE AND BUILDING MATERIALS

Open 7 days a week!

79149 N. River Road

541-942-4664

Family owned and operated for over 47 years.

U-HAUL AUTHORIZED DEALER

Fall Heating Tune-Up **Only \$99***

We'll make sure your system is running effectively and efficiently. Call for details and an appointment today, and beat the winter rush!

Complete Heating & Cooling System Service Reasonable Rates • All Work Guaranteed

JAMES HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL

www.jamesheating.com
115 Lawrence St., Eugene, OR 97401
CCB #47396
Bus. (541) 461-2101 • Fax: (541) 686-4820

* Limited-time offer. Restrictions apply. Call for details.

HOME PRIDE Painting and Repair LLC

Over 30 years of experience

Thank you to all our wonderful customers your business in 2018.

Mark and the crew wish you all a happy and healthy New Year!

Serving Lane & North Douglas Counties

541-735-0089

ccb# 217560