

Missy Raines to perform at Axe & Fiddle in August

On Aug. 24, beginning at 8 p.m., bluegrass instrumentalist Missy Raines is performing at the Axe and Fiddle, 657 E. Main St., in Cottage Grove.

Tickets for the performance can be purchased for \$10 to \$12 at brownpapertickets.com by searching “Missy Raines at the Axe and Fiddle.”

According to her website, Raines has played with The Claire Lynch

Band, Eddie Adcock, Josh Graves, Jim Hurst, Kenny Baker and Jesse McReynolds. Her new album, “Royal Traveller,” is her third album and features members of her live band, along with other bluegrass artists such as Stuart Duncan and Tim O’Brien.

The album is composed of songs written by Raines that reflect on her upbringing and family life in West Virginia.

CGHS Class of 1979 to host 40th reunion July 19

The Cottage Grove High School Class of 1979 will host its 40th reunion on Friday, July 19, and Saturday, July 20. Friday will be a mixer and a chance to revisit old classmates at Stacy’s Covered Bridge.

The evening begins at

6 p.m. Then, on Saturday, there will be a dinner held at the Cottage Grove Armory beginning at 5 p.m. Cost is \$15 per person.

For more information, contact Christie at 541-344-8166. Feel free to leave a message.

New exhibit now on display at Cottage Grive Historical society

The Cottage Grove Historical Society is presenting its exhibit, “The Row That Named a Valley.” This exhibit outlines the events that gave the Row River and Valley its name.

While many outside the area assume the name is pronounced “rō” like row your boat, newcomers quickly learn from locals that the name is pronounced “rou” as in a fight or ruckus.

Using transcripts of grand jury and trial testimony, as well as other historical resources, this exhibit provides a comprehensive outline of the events that led to the death

of George Clark. After seeing the evidence and testimony, you be the judge.

Each year, the Partners in History — made up of several local historical non-profits and supporting groups — organizes a series of historical displays and exhibits for the community.

This exhibit is designed, researched and created by volunteers with the Cottage Grove Historical Society. The cost of material is paid for by member dues and donations.

This exhibit will be up through July at the Cottage Grove Public Library, 700 Gibbs Street.



DAMIEN SHERWOOD/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL FILE PHOTO

The airport welcome center was a project years in the making and has turned the city into a popular pit stop for fly-by visitors. Fencing along the perimeter is intended to further enhance the airport’s integrity.

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Fencing along the perimeter has been part of the airport’s master plan since 2017 and the announcement of the grant may indicate a decision to finally move forward.

“It’s [the Federal Aviation Administration’s] 2024 project,” said Shawn Kelley, aero-volunteer for the Oregon Department of Aviation at the Cottage Grove State Airport. “They want to get all the airports and make a new way of navigating across the United States by 2024.”

A timeline on installation could not be confirmed as of press time.

“We don’t know if it’s going to be going in this or next year,” Kelley said.

The safety update will provide protection for the facility that has noticeably been lacking. Currently, nothing exists to separate residential housing boundaries from the airport along the airport’s western side. The ease of access allowed for a significant amount of unwanted foot traffic.

A cul-de-sac on Lloyd Ave., for in-

stance, has served as a popular entry point.

“They can walk from that cul-de-sac straight into the airport,” Kelley said.

Trespassing and theft issues have arisen from the lack of a fence.

“We’ve had a lot of problems with campers,” said Kelley. “Last year we had three camps that ... the city police department had to get contractors to come and clean it up.”

Kelley still makes regular patrols along the airport’s perimeter to check for signs of camping, drug use or theft of various equipment.

It’s hoped that the security improvement will be enough to prevent similar problems in the future and maintain the integrity of the airport.

“And also for the community around us,” Kelley said. “We’re trying to help everybody.”

Besides safety issues, securing funding for the airport has been instrumental in increasing its role in the community.

“As Chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I’ve pushed for increased investment in Oregon’s rural airports,” said DeFazio in a statement to *The Sentinel*.

“Not only will these investments help keep passengers and airport workers safe, they will help to keep rural airports and supporting facilities in good working order to maintain access to air service, which will lead to increased economic development for the region.”

Since the airport’s welcome center opened in 2017, traffic at the airport has markedly increased. Fuel sales have increased by at least 21 percent and the airport seems on track to see that number rise.

In addition to a comfy welcome center, visitors are given access to bicycles and a courtesy car to explore to the town.

“I’d say about 80 percent of the people who land here go into town,” Kelley said.

With the increased attention, hopes are that aviation tourism will become a consistent revenue stream for Cottage Grove.

“I’m glad that our airport has had a lot of improvements,” said Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Travis Palmer. “It’s getting busier because people enjoy the facilities and what Cottage Grove has to offer once they’re here.”

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