

Community News

Methodist Church to host community supper

On Monday, Feb. 10, the United Methodist Church will host a fundraiser dinner beginning at 5 p.m.

The dinner will include meatloaf, mashed potatoes and gravy, corn, bread and butter, and a cookie for dessert.

A \$5 donation is requested, but kids age 12 and under eat free.

The church is located at 334 Washington Ave. in Cottage Grove.

Rosie the Riveters to meet Feb. 14

There will be an American Rosie the Riveter Association Chapter Meeting of the "Rosies" on Feb. 14., from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

The Rosies are women who served our country during World War II, when the country needed them to fill jobs for the men that were at war. The American Rosie the Riveter Association recognizes and preserves the history and legacy of World War II era working women, including volunteer women, and promotes fellowship among these women and their descendants. All interested people are welcome to attend.

Meetings are held at the Willamalane Adult Activity Center, 215 W. C St. in Springfield.

Tykeson gift helps transform Bohemia Park

Once a 14-acre, vacant brown field, Cottage Grove's Bohemia Park has undergone a remarkable transformation into a beautiful multi-use park and a hub of community activity.

Located near the community's historic downtown, the park's evolution has gained steam in the past five years. Its progress is largely due to a \$250,000 gift from the Tykeson Family Foundation, a Eugene-based family foundation that primarily funds

hospitals and health organizations, in addition to arts, education and social services initiatives.

Over the five-year period of the Tykeson gift, Bohemia Park's 2,000-seat amphitheater has been improved. Parking spaces have been added at the park's south end and new benches made of railroad car axels, which recall the area's former use as a railroad depot, have been added.

The gift has also helped

fund general park operations, according to Faye Stewart, President of the Bohemia Foundation, which manages the park, and head of Cottage Grove's Public Works Department.

He added that the contribution from the Tykeson Family Foundation has allowed the park to benefit from the help of other organizations to finish several improvement projects.

"It's been really good for us," Stewart said. "It's allowed us to complete proj-

ects that gave us opportunities to partner with other organizations. We used the funding to take advantage of other opportunities that we wouldn't have been able to secure otherwise."

The site that became Bohemia Park housed a railroad yard from the mid 1930s until 1991. For several years the Bohemia Foundation worked quietly on plans to transform this vacant lot into Cottage Grove's "Community Living Room."

In the spring of 2009, the

central and north ends of the park opened for public use. Now, it draws visitors whenever the weather permits; its amphitheater has become home to the Chamber of Commerce's weekly Concerts in the Park series in the summer months, and countless parties and other community events have been held at its pavilion.

For more information about the park and its transformation, contact Faye Stewart at 541-942-3340.

Master Food Preservers gearing up for 2020 program

This will be the 40th anniversary of the popular Extension Master Food Preservers which strives to help Oregonians learn to preserve foods safely.

"Lane County has the most active programs in the state and has been involved since its inception in 1980," says Nellie Oehler, OSU Lane County Extension Faculty and program coordinator.

The Lane County group of dedicated volunteers of last year answered over 2,000 consumer calls on the statewide hotline, of

which 65 percent had food safety implications.

They also presented workshops and classes to over 10,000 individuals at community events.

Seventy-seven Certified MFP Lane County Volunteers reported over 7,500 volunteer hours of service to the community.

"If you ask volunteers why they think the program is important, saving lives and eating healthier are two statements that always pop up," said Oehler.

Applications are now being accepted for the

2020 eight-week training program. The full day classes will be held every Monday starting April 6 and continue through graduation on June 1.

The course provides in-depth, research-based training in all areas of food preservation including food safety.

The classes are taught in a practical, hands-on manner appropriate for people of different educational backgrounds, learning styles and previous food preservation experience.

As part of the program, volunteers also develop skills in critical thinking, public speaking and building self-confidence while increasing their expertise in food safety/preservation.

Most importantly, volunteers make an enormous contribution to the health and welfare of people throughout Lane County as part of an active OSU Lane County Extension Service.

To apply to be a part of the 2020 training program, applications are

available on the Lane County OSU Extension website at <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/lane/events/master-food-preserved-volunteer-training-lane-county>, or at the Lane County Extension office at 996 Jefferson in Eugene.

Cost of the program is \$175 plus a minimum volunteer payback of 70 hours in the year following the training, or the course can be taken for \$375 without the volunteer payback.

Deadline for applications is Friday, March 27.

CG Genealogical society to celebrate 45th birthday with community open house Feb. 12

The community is invited to join the Cottage Grove Genealogical Society on Wednesday, Feb. 12, for its 45th Birthday Open House.

Cake and coffee will be served and guest speaker Kuri Gill from Oregon Parks and Recreation will be talking about Pioneer Cemeteries.

The open house will be held in the Shepard Room at the Community Center, 700 Gibbs Ave., with Gill's presentation beginning at 1 p.m.

The group's library, also at 700 Gibbs, will be open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., during which volunteers will be available to help answer questions

or assist with tips on how to research family history.

For more information, call 541-942-9570.

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