



COURTESY PHOTOS

## Honoring a local veteran with a 'Quilt of Valor'



At age 100, Cottage Grove resident Robert Grimes, a veteran of World War II, received a quilt from the nonprofit group Quilts of Valor on Tuesday. The ceremony took place at Grimes' home. "[He] was very touched by being honored with the award of a Quilt of Valor made for him," said Quilts of Valor State Coordinator Bobbie Sanford. The group's mission is to offer comfort and healing to service members and veterans touched by war with its high-quality quilts.

## South Valley Resource Alliance moves to new location in Cottage Grove

South Valley Resource Alliance (SVRA) announces that the Friday Food Share, serving South Lane county residents who experience hunger or food insecurity, will begin distributing food from its new location in Cottage Grove today, Aug. 21.

The group will join other community-minded organizations operating from the Rural Organizing Project building at 632 Main Street.

The ongoing Covid-19 pandemic forced SVRA from its location at the Community Center and since April the group has

served the community from an outdoor location at the Health Hub on Main and 11th streets.

The next Friday Food Share is scheduled for today, Aug. 21, at the new location on Main and Seventh streets.

SVRA and its dedicated core of volunteers

sorts and packages about 4,000 pounds of food received from Food for Lane County every other Friday, feeding about 180 people during each Friday Food Share.

Individuals and families with incomes up to 300 percent of the poverty level are welcome to

take advantage of the free program.

Prior to March of this year, Food for Lane County estimated that nearly 42 percent of Lane County households suffered from some sort of food insecurity.

That number has grown dramatically since

the outbreak of the pandemic along with business closures and mass layoffs.

SVRA relies on the generous support of our community to provide the Friday Food Share.

Contact us at svra4cg@gmail.com to volunteer or donate.

### Move from A1

be on Main Street."

Neigh herself was motivated to move to Cottage Grove when she first passed the intersection and caught sight of downtown.

"Driving by right here is what sold me on moving to this town," she said. "So that was my reasoning for wanting to be here."

The new location includes a large space for parking in the back, which Neigh hopes will encourage visitors to take a stroll through the area.

Along with the move, Neigh is interested in upgrading the technological

working on finding a new location for some time, said Neigh, and she was an advocate for moving the chamber to the bustling corner as she felt it was the best return on investment — especially in terms of tourism.

"I thought the chamber needed to be more visual so that we could really represent the businesses in a place that would have more eyes on us," she said. "And I always thought the tourism portion of the chamber should definitely



DAMIEN SHERWOOD/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

The new Cottage Grove Chamber of Commerce office is located at the entry into the city's historic downtown district, with an official ribbon-cutting ceremony scheduled for early September.

side of chamber, including the website.

"With the website up-

grade, it's going to include a lot more advertising possibilities for our mem-

bers," she said. "It's just going to be an easier way for them to advertise."

Already, she said, people are frequently using the visitor center and picking up pamphlets for businesses and activities around town. It's a trend Neigh would like to help along.

"We're lucky enough to live in an area where there's so much to do and remain socially distanced," she said.

Using funds from last year's Concerts in the Park, Neigh intends to create videos based off tourism pamphlets. Five are currently scheduled, which should come out within the next few months.

"So instead of people coming in to get a pamphlet, people can access it from their phones and do the tours," explained Neigh.

The chamber is also looking into establishing

youth mentoring programs in partnership with local businesses.

"It would be interesting to work with the kids and businesses and show them what it's like to work in a trade," said Neigh, adding that she is interested in breaking stigma and helping youth who may prefer learning a skill to receiving a college education.

"They can earn a good living and it's not something to be ashamed of," she said.

The idea, however, is dependent on the future state of public health restrictions due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The chamber is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, though public health restrictions for volunteers has slowed the process of moving in and a ribbon-cutting ceremony is tentatively planned for the beginning of September.

## 6-day weather forecast

<p><b>FRIDAY</b> 78°   55° Partly Cloudy</p>	<p><b>SATURDAY</b> 84°   51° Partly Cloudy</p>
<p><b>SUNDAY</b> 85°   53° Sunny</p>	<p><b>MONDAY</b> 87°   53° Sunny</p>
<p><b>TUESDAY</b> 85°   53° Sunny</p>	<p><b>WEDNESDAY</b> 87°   53° Sunny</p>

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