

Veteran *from A5*

"The big things are the electrical because we're talking fire hazards," said Bush. "And plumbing is a concern for sanitary reasons."

Furthermore, Bush learned that the contractor was unqualified for the work he did.

"He's a licensed contractor, but not licensed for electrical or plumbing," said Bush.

Based on the workmanship, Bush didn't think the subcontractors seemed to have the skills for the jobs they were assigned to, either.

"I was so flabbergasted," said Bush, who began sharing the story with others in the construction field.

Before long, the Southmayds' story had rallied several contractors around the idea that the building could be fixed and made safe for the family.

Professionals began committing to donating their services.

"The next thing I knew, I had a whole team of experts," said Bush. "I got engineers, I got other building officials, I got plumbers, I got everybody."

After an extensive home inspection report, however, it became clear the house was beyond repair.

Bush said the house met several components of "dangerous building" code.

"It gives you 15 components. Any combination of those 15 components and I can declare this a

dangerous building," he said. "I've probably got 14."

The report convinced Bush and the Southmayds it was time for another strategy.

Bush then took it upon himself to lead the project of building the Southmayds a new house.

A New Beginning

Tapping into his extensive Rolodex, Bush has been able to secure commitments from a number of professionals including: a complete plumbing installation from Brothers Plumbing; a complete fire suppression system from Harvey and Price; a complete electrical installation from Superior Electric; a home design to meet the disabilities of our veteran from Robert Coryell Designs and River's Edge Engineering; and a complete interior and exterior painting from High Cascade Painting and Construction.

Bush has also enlisted a commercial general superintendent and a basic construction crew through Bridgeway Contracting while securing site preparation by R&H Construction and gravel supplied by Dave's Loam And Topsoil.

In all, Bush estimated commitments to be worth around \$80,000 in themselves.

The new building is being designed with Jayson's in mind as well. Due to the nature of his injuries, the veteran expects to eventually be in a wheelchair and the current restrictions due to COVID-19 have complicated his treatments.

"Before COVID hit, I had doctors' appointments, usually two to three a day, every day of the week," said Jayson. "There's only one day I didn't have any appointments: physical therapy, [neuro] feedback, acupuncture, hyperbaric chamber, a pain counselor."

Since the pandemic has restricted many of the therapies he had access to, Jayson said he's gone from 197 from 151 pounds in the past six months due to muscle atrophy.

Thus, the family's new floor plan is ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) adaptable and includes wider doorways, hand bars and therapeutic rooms which will allow Jayson to continue his physical therapy at home and have access to treatment he lost due to the pandemic.

The plan is ambitious and while many have already rallied to see the project toward completion, Bush and the Southmayds acknowledge there is a ways to go financially.

As such, Bush has organized a fundraising effort to finance construction of the home.

A GoFundMe account, titled "Iraq Veteran and Family Face Homelessness," has so far raised just shy of \$14,000 of its stated \$400,000 mark.

Bush is also relying on more material and labor donations and hopes to reach at least a 20 or 30 thousand before launch-

ing the project. The current aim is to get the family into a new home before Christmas, but barring that, before snows put the roof at risk of collapsing.

Bush believes the structural integrity of the house wouldn't allow it to withstand a heavy winter.

"We may be a little short on cash money when it comes to some of the accessories, but the main thing is getting him in a safe house so we can get him out of stress and anxiety and worries and uncertainty," he said.

And should donations exceed the cost of the project, Bush and the Southmayds plan to put the funds to use to help others such as donating to the Veterans Treatment Court.

"I don't want to give off the impression that we're building him a castle a socking away half a million in the bank," said Bush. "If we end up getting more than we need, then we've got plans to donate, pay it forward and do whatever it takes to make us transparent."

The current house will also serve its own purpose in the process. Once the Southmayds are in their new home, Bush plans to forensically bring down the old building, using it as a cautionary tale for others in the field.



"We're going to try to create a humungous training opportunity for all the building departments in Oregon," he said. Ultimately, Bush said

he hopes to see that the Southmayds receive the quality of life they deserve.

"Somebody who goes and does what he's done, fights for our country, comes home and donates his whole life to his community, he deserves a house," said Bush. "He deserves some place to live that's safe and sound where he can focus on himself and his family. And that's my biggest

goal." The project's GoFundMe account can be found online at www.gofundme.com/f/southmayd-veteran-home-repair and an account has been set up with First Community Credit Union under the title Misty Southmayd Rebuilding Fund.

Jason Bush can be reached by phone at 541-952-1456 or by email at wwguarddog@gmail.com.

MCCOY'S PHARMACY IS BACK!

- ✓ Immunizations
- ✓ Medication Synchronization
- ✓ Rx Compounding
- ✓ Prescription & OTC Medication Counseling
- ✓ Convenient Drive-Thru

Free Delivery Within Cottage Grove City Limits

McCoy's Pharmacy Open M-F 9AM-6PM
Saturday 9AM-1PM

1205 N. PACIFIC HWY #3, Cottage Grove, OR
541-942-7799 • mccoyspharmacy@mccoyspharmacy.com



Licensed Bonded Insured
CCB #121272

541-726-7689 Eugene/Springfield
541-942-9635 Cottage Grove



ELKS #1904 CRAFT FAIR & FLEA MARKET

November 7th - 9am-4pm
November 8th - 12pm-4pm

Cottage Grove Elks Lodge, 775 N. River Road
Handmade Items, Bake Sale, Ceramics, Lighted Bottles, and lots of Jewelry

Lunch Will Be Available Saturday 11am-1pm



DON'T JUST KINDA TV. DIRECTV.

EVERY LIVE GAME EVERY SUNDAY

Get the 2020 NFL SUNDAY TICKET season included at no extra cost.

1-888-524-0639

AT&T Preferred Dealer



WE DELIVER!

PALETTIZED DRY FIREWOOD IN STOCK!

Clean Burn Wood Pellets

Stock up before they're gone!

Family owned and operated for over 50 years.

844-739-5874

BUY 1, GET 1 40% OFF



Renewal by Andersen
WINDOW REPLACEMENT an Andersen Company
The Better Way to a Better Window

GROVE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

"BUILDING A HEALTHY COMMUNITY"

YOUR LOCAL PROVIDER OF HOME MEDICAL EQUIPMENT!

Sales & Rentals, Insurance Billing, CPAP/BIPAP, Home Oxygen, Mobility, Walk Aids, Bath Aides, Power Chairs, Power Scooters, Aids to Daily Living.
Friendly & Knowledgeable Staff

148 Gateway Blvd (Bi Mart Plaza)
Cottage Grove, OR 97424
541-225-5443

grovemedical@outlook.com Find us on Facebook
Join us on Facebook



LANDSCAPE AND BUILDING MATERIALS

Tuesday-Saturday 9am-5pm
7919 N. River Road
541-942-4664



The Flower Basket and Gift Boutique
"A Flower Shop and so much more"

Fall Fashions & Florals have arrived.
Stop in today!

Deliveries Locally and Worldwide
Locally owned and operated since 1984
Quality and Satisfaction Guaranteed

119 South 6th Street • 541-942-0505
www.cottagegroveflowerbasket.com

COVID-19 TESTING AVAILABLE

Schedule your screening today.
Call 541.225.4997 or visit NovaCovidTest.com



Caring in Action

BATTERY POWER

SAVE \$20 OFF MODEL MSA 140 CB



An affordable battery-powered chainsaw delivering excellent cutting performance for tree maintenance in large suburban yards.

HORNER'S INC.



79132 Hwy 99N. Cottage Grove, OR 97424
(541) 942-5781 Fax (541) 942-5404
Email: horners@epud.net