

At 98, an Oregon woman fashions recycling into, well, fashion

BY BETH NAKAMURA

The Oregonian

Ruthanne Moore is 98 years old and she is still creating. Mostly, she creates things from life's detritus.

A collection of old iced tea cans becomes a necklace. A collection of old bobbins, same.

Moore looks at piles of trash and sees possibilities.

A stack of newspapers?

"They should be in recycling," she says from her chair inside the art studio at Willamette View, a retirement community in Milwaukie where she has lived since 2001.

"They're just sitting there taking up space."

But, she asks as she considers that stack of newspapers, "What could I do with them that's fun for both me and them?"

Moore, who grew up in Portland, went to Oregon State University then returned to the city, married and raised three children. Briefly, before kids, she worked as an occupational therapist, so she knows some things about the rewards and benefits of working with your hands. She feels a connection with the materials, she says.

"I've always been interested in doing things by hand," she says.

She also feels a connection to Sally Giles and Kristen Larsen, licensed art therapists who operate Artworks Studio inside Willamette View. Moore says she goes to the studio every day, "until they close the door and kick me out."

Moore has made a few dresses out of paper, putting the pieces together using a glue gun and glue. She made a



Beth Nakamura/The Oregonian

Ruthanne Moore, 98, sits inside Artspace Studio at Willamette View retirement home.

dress from the post cards she received and saved over the course of her life. She crafted an elaborate wedding dress out of nine kinds of paper, all of it white, and gave the creation

to her granddaughter after her wedding in North Carolina.

A lifelong newspaper reader, she made a dress out of newspapers (including, yes, The Oregonian).

"I like to read them," she says. "I think that's why I grommed onto newspapers."

Moore "keeps up with current events and politics," Giles says. "She's brought a lot of great conversations into the studio."

Several of Moore's paper dresses have been proudly displayed at two of Willamette View's five galleries, WallWorks Gallery and White Oak gallery. After exhibiting, her family claimed two of them: the post card dress and the wedding dress. The dress Moore made from maps is on permanent display at Artworks Studio, where Moore spends her days.

The newspaper dress is currently up for adoption. Moore would like to see it go to a good home. (If you're interested, call Call Kristen Larsen at Willamette View at 503-652-6633.)



Ruthanne Moore made a dress from newspapers, including The Oregonian.

Expansion

Continued from A1

City estimates suggest up to 800 units of affordable housing could be built.

The area also has the potential to be the densest master plan for a community in Bend's history, Broadman said. The vision is to make it a "complete community" — meaning it wouldn't just be housing and nothing else — that is walkable and bikeable.

"It will not be an investment in sprawl," Broadman said in a committee hearing Tuesday.

The other half of the large parcel of land, which sits east of SE 27th Street in southeast Bend, already exists within the city's urban growth boundary.

The bill received bipartisan support in both the house and senate, but faced pushback from some lawmakers and land use advocacy groups like 1000 Friends of Oregon and Central Oregon LandWatch.

Critics who oppose the bill argue that not enough land is allocated to affordable housing,



Ryan Brennecke/Bulletin file

A parcel at the corner of 27th Street and Stevens Road in Bend is likely to be developed.

that it doesn't follow the process outlined in the state's land use law and that the public is not afforded enough public in-

volvement.

"HB 3318 is a bare attempt to exclude the people of Bend from decisions about the fu-

ture of our City," Rory Isbell, an attorney with LandWatch wrote in testimony. "It circumvents Oregon land use law and

in exchange offers a mere 7.6% of a 261-acre tract for affordable housing."

Broadman said he also thinks more land should be dedicated to affordable housing, but that negotiating for more was not on the table when the land owner, the Department of State Lands, already raised concerns about how much land was being conveyed to the city.

"Our Department staff has only had tangential discussions with City of Bend staff and has made it quite clear we have serious concerns about giving away 20-plus acres that would decrease the value of an asset for all Oregon's school children, as well as circumventing the normal land use process," written testimony from the department states.

But Broadman said the bill includes an even more robust public input process than the traditional urban growth boundary process does, and that time is of the essence to address Bend's affordable housing crisis.

"We need to move moun-

tains to make sure working people can live here," Broadman said.

Once officially adopted, the city must submit a letter to the Department of Land Conservation and Development, also known as DLCD, to express its intent to consider a conceptual plan for the land, and the owner of the land, Department of State Lands, must consent to the urban growth boundary expansion before the end of 2022.

A conceptual plan would be an ordinance or resolution adopted by the city council that explains intended uses and zoning of the land, which would be informed by input from the community. The DCLD would then have to approve the plan.

The intent is to complete the planning and have development underway in the next three and a half years, Broadman said.

The earliest development could be expected would be 2024, Broadman said, adding that 2025 "seems more feasible."

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