

Chehalem Cultural Center

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Grand Opening Celebration

March 2010

- History • Classes • Artists • Bios • Activities

A Special Publication of The Newberg Graphic

What's inside this issue?

Page Three - An artist's journey: From clay to cardboard

Page Five - Community leaders drive planning for cultural center

Page Six - CCC classes? The basics, with a twist

Page Six - Many events, starting March 22, set to help you meet the neighbors

Page 10 - Robin Anderson will captain ship that is the cultural center

Page 12 - Aging school building transformed into a community resource

Page 13 - Camellia Festival annual celebration set for April 10 at CCC

Page 18 - From Central School to Chehalem Cultural Center: A long history

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INDEX OF ADVERTISERS

Page 2: The Froogle Fox, Lewis Audio Video, Avamere Assisted Living and Memory Care, Subterra, A Wine Cellar Restaurant

Page 4: A-dec

Page 5: Perfect Picnics, Ushio, Pogy's Subs

Page 6: Janis Jewelry & Gifts, Attrell's Funeral Chapels

Page 7: Union Block Marketplace, Dave's Flowers & Gifts, Allegra Design-Print-Marketing, Willamette Financial Group-Jennifer Blake, Newberg Steel & Fabrication

Page 8: Mike's Medical Pharmacy/LaWauna Douglas-Prudential NW Properties, Ken & Daughter Jewelers, Time For Me

Page 9: Dormer's Embroidery, J. Willow Muhr, LMT, Newberg Gallery

Page 10: The Trolley, Cusick Picture Frame

Page 11: Rivermark Community Credit Union

Page 13: Boyes Janitorial, City of Newberg

Page 15: Distinctive Destinations, The Allison Inn & Spa

Page 16: Triplett Wellman Contractors

Page 17: Arborbrook Vineyards, The Block House Café, Fox Farm Cottage, Ray's Produce

Page 19: Let's Make Music & Dance

Page 20: Providence Newberg Medical Center

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An artist's journey: From clay to cardboard

Featured Chehalem Cultural Center artist creates massive sculptures out of cardboard

By AMANDA NEWMAN
NEWBERG GRAPHIC REPORTER

Tall, graceful sculptures will fill the Chehalem Cultural Center for its opening and the months to follow.

Reminiscent of spires or giant chess pieces, the works may elicit some surprise from visitors — not due to their interesting shapes or their impressive height (up to 16 feet tall), but more likely because of the unusual medium: cardboard.

"Infinite Possibilities" features the work of San Francisco Bay area contemporary sculpture artist Ann Weber. The cultural center's inaugural gallery exhibition will open March 22 and run through July 2.

The focus of the exhibit will be 10 or so sculptures, some including as many as 26 parts. The organic forms, made of recycled cardboard woven together, may resemble pods, gourds, figurative shapes — the interpretation is largely in the eye of the beholder.

"(The pieces) can read a lot of different ways. I don't want it to be just one thing," Weber said. "I like it when people have different ideas of what (a piece) is. I never say exactly

what it is."

It's fun to watch people react to her work, she said.

"Usually people are surprised that such large sculptures can be made from such humble material as found cardboard. It comes from the streets, from Dumpsters."

Weber began her art career in 1970 as a potter, after learning to throw at Purdue University in Indiana. She started a pottery shop in upstate New York, then moved to New York City in

1980 and continued her work there. But after 15 years in the business, mostly spent making "functional" pottery for her shop and other galleries, she needed a change.

"I just got sick to death of production — I'd thrown so many bowls, plates and vases," she said.

She moved to the West Coast, enrolled at California College of Arts and Crafts (now California College of the Arts) in Oakland, and began studying with Viola Frey, an artist known for her large figurative ceramic sculptures. "My eureka moment was when Viola said, 'Go look at some real artists. Go look at Kandinsky.'"

"Usually people are surprised that such large sculptures can be made from such humble material as found cardboard. It comes from the streets, from Dumpsters."

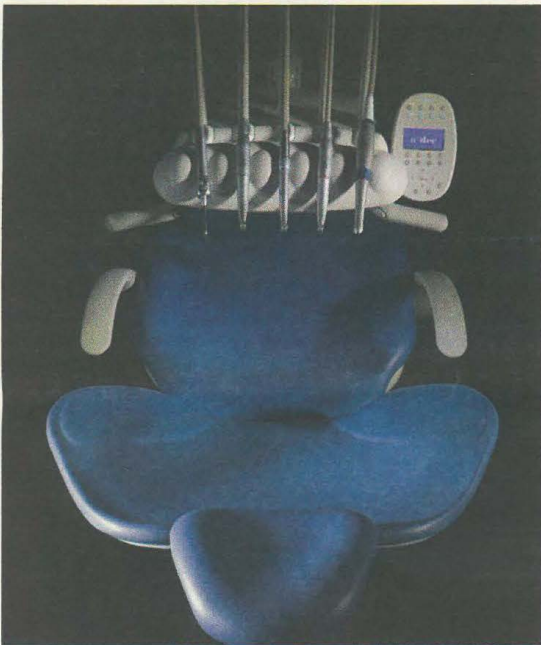
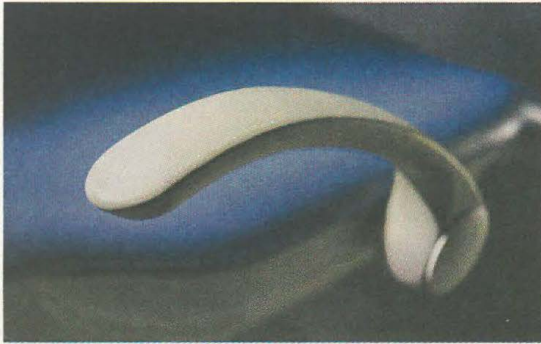
[Please see WEBER page five](#)



The focus of Ann Weber's exhibit at the Chehalem Cultural Center will be 10 or more sculptures, some including as many as 26 parts. (Photo courtesy of Chehalem Cultural Center).



Ann Weber's art is centered around creating massive sculptures weaving used cardboard into light but sturdy works. (Photo courtesy of Chehalem Cultural Center).



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A-dec has always been interested in ways to unite our community with the arts. So it is with great delight and pleasure that we applaud the grand opening of the Chehalem Cultural Center.

Certain to be a rare-gem of a resource, A-dec congratulates the founding board of the CCC, and wishes future teachers, students, artists and visitors all the best that comes with having such a resource in our community.

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Community leaders drive planning for cultural center

Dedication of volunteers key to raising millions of dollars needed to complete facility

By DAVID SALE

NEWBERG GRAPHIC REPORTER

The opening of the Chehalem Cultural Center marks the culmination of efforts by a dedicated group of volunteers, the Chehalem Center Association.

Now a registered nonprofit, the CCA began out of a confluence between the Chehalem Park and Recreation District, which organized an exploratory committee to discuss uses for the former Central School building, and the Chehalem Valley Chamber of Commerce.

"It's an empty building half a block from my house," said Kris Horn, one of the Chamber members who subsequently joined the CCA. "I felt it was a wasted resource and I wanted to see it used in a way that

benefited the region."

While the CPRD intended to use the property for public benefit, the exact form that would take required some discussion through open houses and public meetings in 2006.

"One idea at the time was to use it as the new city hall, but that fell through," said CPRD director Don Clements. "We had also debated using it as a family resource center — a sort of one-stop home for (Newberg) F.I.S.H., YCAP and other community service agencies."

The concept of an arts center, however, proved to resonate with the Newberg public in a series of surveys.

"We envisioned it as supplementing the

Please see BOARD, page eight

Weber: Left pottery behind after earning master's degree to pursue large sculpture

Continued from page three

Weber checked out a library book on Wassily Kandinsky, a Russian painter and art theorist who helped pioneer modern abstract art. And then, instead of her functional bowls, plates and vases, Weber began throwing shapes.

Inspired by Viola, she wanted to "work large." So after graduating with a master's degree in fine arts, she decided to leave clay, which is too expensive and heavy for large creations.

She began sculpting with plaster and canvas until 1991, when she ended up in a second-story studio. Plaster is lighter than clay but still on the heavy side, and plaster creations are fragile, making it difficult to transport them up and down stairs.

Weber was sitting in her new studio, surrounded by cardboard boxes from the move, when inspiration struck. "Who cares what it's made of?" she thought. "It's the form that matters."

And thus was born her signature method: creating sculptures out of recycled cardboard. She takes strips of cardboard and staples them together, creating massive pieces of art that take the shape of whatever is in her mind.

"Usually I just have a loose idea in my head, and I just go for it with my staple gun," she explained. After the sculpture has taken shape, she makes drawings from it.

Asked how long each piece takes to craft, she laughs: "I usually say it takes about 10 hours — and 40 years."

The "40 years" is for experience.

Weber will lead an informal discussion of her artwork at the opening reception from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. March 26 at the cultural center. She will also be on hand at the center's grand opening March 27, giving a presentation on her exhibit at 12:30 p.m.

For more information, visit annwebersculpture.com.

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CCC classes? The basics, with a twist

Education coordinator encouraged teachers to follow their passion

By LAURENT BONCZIK
NEWBERG GRAPHIC REPORTER

The Chehalem Cultural Center's education director decided that when it came time to select classes she would offer the basics, with a twist.

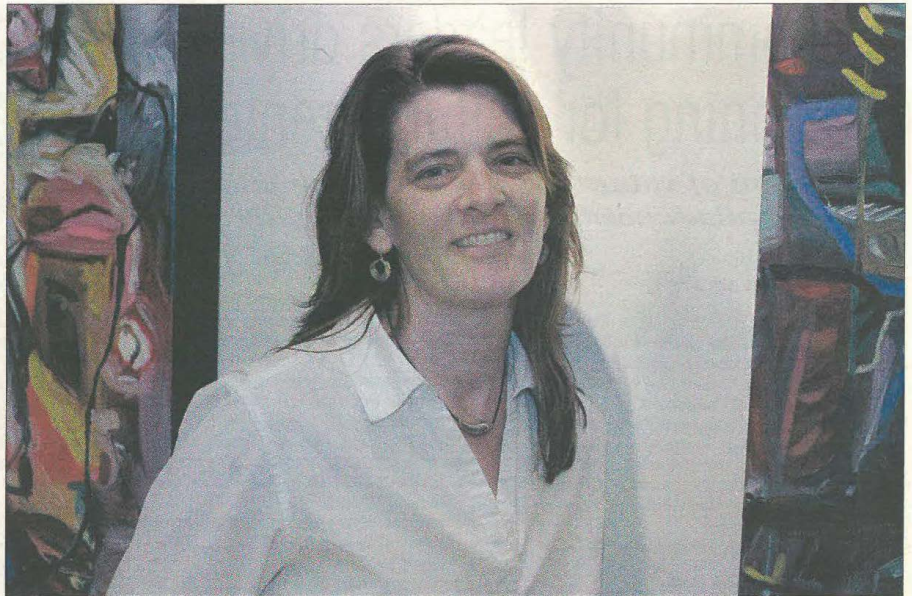
Karen White asked of each potential teacher she interviewed what they were most passionate about and encouraged them to develop their curriculum around that fire. Instead of trying to find teachers to fill positions she requested that teachers submit a class proposal for her to evaluate. She plans to continue that method as she develops class offerings for

future terms and to add a mechanism for community members to request particular classes.

The center's offerings are midway between hobby classes and the kind of fine art classes taken by students pursuing an art degree, said executive director Robin Anderson.

"I mostly look for somebody who has a really creative spirit," White said of teachers she interviewed. This term the center will offer classes in glass, ceramics, painting, drawing, paper and print, dance, music, photography, art history, art business, sculpture

Please see WHITE, page nine



Karen White is an artist in her own right and will have some of her works on display at the CCC. (Photo by Laurent Bonczik / Newberg Graphic).

Many events, starting March 22, set to help you meet the new neighbors

Grand opening to cap week of activities

By LAURENT BONCZIK
NEWBERG GRAPHIC REPORTER

As the grand opening date of the Chehalem Cultural Center approaches, potential patrons will have a plethora of activities to choose from to celebrate.

Starting March 22, the cultural center will be open from 1 to 4 p.m. offering vis-

itors the opportunity to visit the classrooms by following a self-guided tour. Executive director Robin Anderson said there would be projects going on in the classrooms and that potential students could visit with teachers.

The hallway will be used to display the teachers' artwork so that students can get a better idea of the different styles represented.

The ribbon cutting ceremony will be at 3:30 p.m. March 18 with self-guided tours

to follow until 5 p.m.

The following week, at 5:30 p.m. every day, there will be a guest speaker. March 22 will be Mark Terry, art department chairman at George Fox University; March 23, Karen White, education coordinator for the cultural center and artist; March 24 Shannon Ray, artist and curator of community creativity; March 25, historian Barbara Doyle will discuss the history of the Central School and artist Ann Weber's work will go on display.

The opening reception will be March 26 with Weber, the artist who created the "Infinite Possibilities" exhibit. Anderson said that Weber would be available to discuss her work.

The grand opening celebration will be from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. March 27. This event will feature live musical performances from 10 to 11 a.m. by Kathleen Price, Clarinet Trio and Gil Reynolds &

Please see ACTIVITIES, page nine

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Board: Funding for cultural center incremental after defeat of two bond measures

Continued from page five

arts education in the school district," Horn said.

"Once students graduate, they may not have anywhere to go to pursue their interests," added Claudia Stewart, spokeswoman for the Newberg School District and a member of the CCA board. "It's going to be a great resource for kids and adults alike."

Funding for renovation, however, remained another matter. CPRD attempted two bond issues to cover renovation costs, but both were defeated at the ballot box, leaving the park district to seek money through grants and donations.

"We felt it was because not enough people knew about the possibilities for the center," said Ann Dolan, former executive director of the Chamber, who would serve as co-chairperson of the CCA with Loni Parrish. "We were able to acquire some seed funding and begin work on a feasibility

study — once that came back positive, we decided to move forward."

"The building looked finished from the outside, so we started bringing in people for events — holiday parties, a scarecrow festi-

"It's not all been big bucks, not by any means.

It's been small contributions from people all throughout town that made it possible."

val," Parrish said. "It was a chance to show what we were trying to do. My daughter helped me put a PowerPoint presentation together to show to service groups all around Newberg."

Although aided by significant grants from the Ford Family Foundation, the Collins Foundation, the Meyer Memorial Trust and Oregon Cultural Trust, "fund-raising

was a long process," Horn said. "It's not all been big bucks, not by any means. It's been small contributions from people all throughout town that made it possible."

In all, some \$800,000 was raised through the community, in addition to a sizable gift from the Austin family.

As the efforts ramped up, the CCA hired in 2008 a development director, Mary Somerset, to coordinate grant writing efforts — until then the responsibility of member Lisa Rodgers. Somerset was joined last November by executive director Robin Anderson, who oversees day-to-day operations at the center.

With further phases of the center yet to be developed, however, the CCA's work is not complete. But as they will be the first to acknowledge, the Central School has come a long way already.

One future development is a membership-circle donation plan, offering perks such as invitations

and reduced fees in exchange for differing contribution levels.

"We'd wanted to do it all in one go, but with the present economy that's just not possible," Horn said. "Still, I hope people enjoy

their experience of the center enough to help us take it to the next level."

"It's been a dream come true," Parrish said. "I have to pinch my self."

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White: Each class has a little something different to offer than the typical school

Continued from page six

and creative writing. "I wanted a nice variety of classes," she said.

The little twist White was looking for comes in different forms. In the music and drama offerings, for example, is an acting class specifically geared for television and movies. Participants will learn skills to perform better for an audition.

Another classic art class with a twist is a ceramics class that will take students off site to perform wood firings instead of using a modern kiln.

Also in the ceramics curriculum will be a class on pushing pottery. This class will be for students with pottery experience, White said, and will encourage them to experiment with shape and function beyond the traditional forms.

White said that a minimum number of students is required in order to have an atmosphere conducive to artistic creation. White hopes that

not only teachers and students will be able to connect through the classes, but that teachers themselves will be able to develop relationships as well. She invited all teachers to attend a meet-and-greet before classes start and all but two were able to attend, which White said was a good sign.

"It's not all about being local," she said of the hiring decisions, but a good number of instructors do come from the area and many of them are already teaching part-time at other locations across the region.

White said that she encouraged the teachers to visit one another's classes to discover new techniques, something that she plans to do. "I really went for a personal touch," she said.

An artist herself, White likes to create ephemeral art using natural objects and placing them in a natural setting. She's also interested in community art projects and has led several.

Activities: Series of lectures will augment art shows, musical interludes, poets and food offerings

Continued from page six

Deep Blue from 11 a.m. to noon, and the Rendezvous string band from 1 to 2 p.m. Weber and White will help participants take part in weaving a large community sculpture made of cardboard. Food will be provided by NW Natural.

Lectures, held all day, include:

- * 10:30 a.m.: Barbara Doyle — Central School.
- * 11:30 a.m.: Alden Kasiewicz, architect

for the Chehalem Cultural Center.

* Noon: A drumming class with Sam Saxton will take place in the lobby for five minutes and move to upstairs classes or outdoors depending on the weather. People are invited to come with their own drums to participate and a few drums will be available as well.

* 12:30 p.m.: Weber will begin exhibiting her work.

* 1:30 p.m.: Gil Reynolds, contemporary glass art.

* 2:30 p.m. Barbara Drake, poet and writer.


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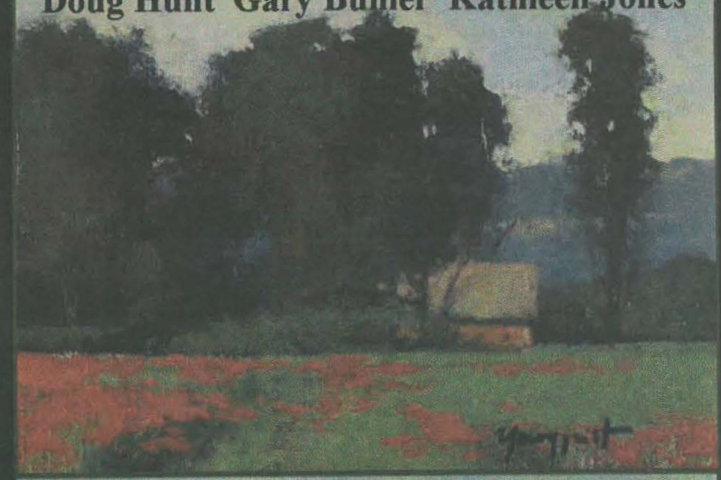
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Robin Anderson will captain ship that is the cultural center

The veteran of postings throughout the west, the executive director is enthusiastic about CCC

By DAVID SALE

NEWBERG GRAPHIC REPORTER

As the Chehalem Cultural Center opens its doors, Robin Anderson will take her place in the spotlight.

Anderson, appointed as the center's executive director in November, will be responsible for creating and managing programs, facility management, coordinating personnel and volunteers, curating exhibits and developing events.

"(Anderson) brings the background in the arts and the management experience we were looking for," said Loni Parrish, Chehalem Cultural Center board chairwoman. "We are impressed by her passion for the arts and her enthusiasm for developing a dynamic regional cultural center."

Originally from the San Francisco Bay area, Anderson earned a master's degree in fine art at the California College of the Arts, specializing in sculpture, and previously worked as the arts program director for the city of Lakewood, Colo., a Denver suburb.

"There is a tremendous amount of support and community energy propelling this project forward. I am excited to be a part of it."

"I started as a curator for the city government, which ran five galleries, and moved up to being the director of their cultural center — very similar to what I'm doing now," she said.

"I started as a curator for the city government, which ran five galleries, and moved up to being the director of their cultural center — very similar to what I'm doing now," she said.

She was one of 35 candidates attracted by the opportunity to develop a new art, heritage and cultural center.

"It's rare to see an undertaking of this scope," said Anderson of the Chehalem Cultural Center. "There is a tremendous amount of support and community energy propelling this project forward. I am excited to be a part of it."

A former resident of Ashland, she was also pleased at the chance to return to the Northwest. "I wanted to find a smaller town where my skills could be of use," she said.

Anderson's background includes experience in developing art programs, creating exhibitions, administration and facilities management. She has been recognized for producing award-winning art exhibitions and is known for community outreach to develop programs and events that serve both broad and diverse communities.



Chehalem Cultural Center executive director Robin Anderson poses at the Sheridan Street facility last fall while the finishing touches were completed on the former Central School building. (Photo by Gary Allen / Newberg Graphic).

"She has a real desire to work with the community and it showed in her approach to Lakewood's arts in schools programs — she developed a curriculum in collaboration with teachers," Parrish said. "She's interested in making art a part of everyone's life."

As director, Anderson said she hopes to continue to offer curriculum enrichment to local schools — including a summer arts camp — as well as drawing on the resources of George Fox University, Linfield College and the Portland

arts community to develop classes and exhibits for the center.

While in Lakewood, Anderson also worked to develop art and cultural events of interest to that city's Hispanic community, which she hopes to do in Newberg as well. Another area of interest is local history.

"I've been meeting with community groups and taking

Please see ANDERSON, page thirteen

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A preliminary artist rendering shows the cultural center facility, with a plaza on the Sheridan Street side, parking facing Blaine and Sherman streets and Rotary Centennial Park on the School Street side. (Courtesy of Chehalem Cultural Center)

Aging school building transformed into a community resource

Chehalem Park and Recreation District promotes energy-efficient renovation

By DAVID SALE
NEWBERG GRAPHIC REPORTER

Work on part of the interior of the Chehalem Cultural Center wrapped up Feb. 10, temporarily concluding a decade-long renovation effort at the former Central School.

In 1997, ownership of Central Elementary School was transferred from the Newberg School District to the Chehalem Park and Recreation District (CPRD) for one dollar to serve the greater Chehalem Valley by remaining in the public domain.

"That was the most expensive dollar they ever spent," said Kris Horn, a founding member of the Chehalem Center Association.

Truer words were never spoken as this phase of renovation of the building ultimately cost some \$9 million — much of it to seismically upgrade the brick edifice.

"It was a long process," agreed Don Clements, CPRD director. "We were able to get a federal grant for the seismic upgrades and to rebuild the facade, which had been removed in the '50s when they added the wings."

"The studios are really the anchor for us right now — I suspect that making pottery will be very popular."

Indeed, the building's main entrance was entirely restored after being stripped and walled off. "We still had the original plans, but had to update them to modern code requirements," Clements added. "There used to be a sunken entryway, somewhat like the Newberg Library building."

While one renovation obstacle — asbestos tile and insulation — had largely been dealt with by the Newberg School District before relinquishing control of the building, earthquake-proofing proved to be a major task.

"We basically had to strip it to the brick shell," said Jim McMaster, facilities manager for CPRD. "The walls needed to be set with metal studs to correct and reinforce them. Then we poured expanding foam into the space between the new studs

Please see FEATURES, page fourteen

Camellia Festival's second annual celebration set for April 10 at cultural center

Forgotten city flower, set in 1949, sparks revival of event

By DAVID SALE

NEWBERG GRAPHIC REPORTER

The city of Newberg will hold its second annual Camellia Festival by hosting the Oregon Camellia Society's annual show from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 10 at the newly-opened Chehalem Cultural Center.

In 1949, the Newberg Men's Garden Club proposed making the camellia Newberg's official city flower, which the city council unanimously approved on April 4 of that year.

The club designated April 21-23, 1949, as "Camellia Planting Days," holding a flower show and selling hundreds of the flowering, evergreen shrubs.

Intended to be an annual event, the decision was almost forgotten until last year, when Denis Dooley, president of the Oregon Camellia Society, inquired about the Newberg city flower.

City Groundskeeper Bryan Stewart, determined to revive the tradition, planted camellias on city-owned properties around downtown to create a "Camellia Trail" for visitors. The city council,



meanwhile, designated April 4 as "Camellia Day" in Newberg.

This year's free celebration will feature a flower show and floral arranging contest, as well as an ikebana (Japanese flower arranging) demonstration; camellia sales and giveaways, and a Yamhill County Master Gardeners clinic.

Those without green thumbs are also invited to enjoy a display of work by local photographers and artists, music from the Newberg High School string ensemble and a tea tasting (tea plants are actually a type of camellia).

A printable brochure listing the locations and varieties of camellia bushes around town can be found on the city's Web site at www.newbergoregon.gov/library/event/camellia-festival.

Anderson: Unusual fab with the elements in onespace

Continued from page ten

suggestions — quilting classes and exhibits, and a photography darkroom, are another couple of ideas people have recommended," she said.

Phase one of the Chehalem Cultural Center includes gallery space, glass and ceramic studios, classrooms, a recording studio and offices.

Anderson said the studios, with their vintage hardwood floors, can also serve as practice space for drama and dance lessons while renovations proceed.

"(This building) is one of the few places I've worked that has all these elements in a single space," she said. "We're still fund-raising and I hope that opening the first wing will encourage more people to get involved — once the entire center is open, it will be a destination spot for visitors to the region."

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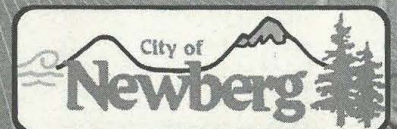
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The front entrance to the former Central School was restored several years ago to resemble the structure's former architectural design. (Photo by Gary Allen / Newberg Graphic).

Features: Process to upgrade seismic abilities of building has added benefit of insulation

Continued from page twelve

and the interior walls.”

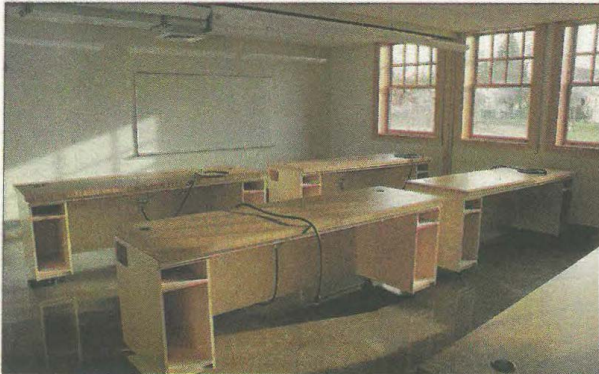
Adding the foam proved to be a slow and tricky process — too much, and the expansion would pop loose the interior walls.

“We had to wait on (federal) approval for that, because it was a new technique at the time, but it really boosted the ‘R value’ (insulation) and noise control,”

Clements said. “The contractors went on to do four or five other school buildings in Portland.”

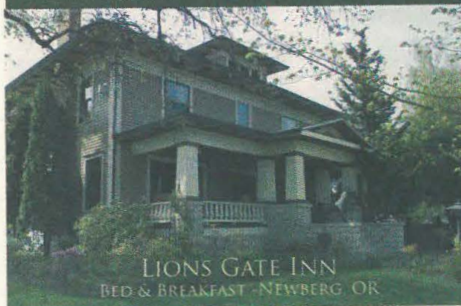
Local architect Dwayne Brittell carried out much of the planning in bringing the building up to code. “He was instrumental — we wouldn’t be where we are without him,” Clements said.

Please see FEATURES, page sixteen

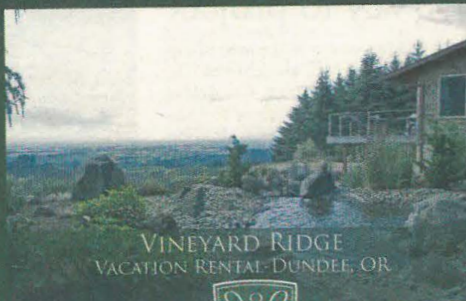


Photos, clockwise from left: A computer classroom is ready to accept students. Rotary Centennial Park now has a completed Chehalem Cultural Center as a backdrop at the corner of Sheridan and Schools streets. (Photos by Gary Allen / Newberg Graphic).

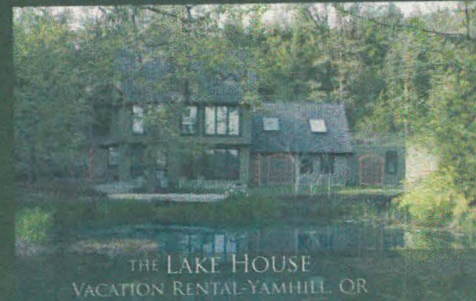
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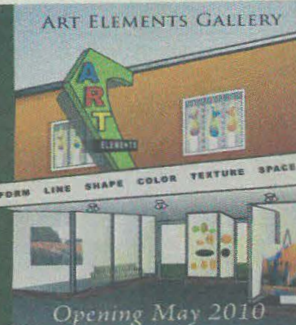


I wish to thank Chehalem Park and Recreation District for giving us the challenge to "Open the Building." And for providing the incredible opportunity to create a Cultural Center in such a magnificent space... THANK YOU FOR TRUSTING.

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Features: Former mayor, tradesman key to project

Continued from page fourteen

"Chuck Cox, who was mayor at the time, also played a big role in securing the grant funding."

Interior and systems design were handled by Scott Edwards Architecture LLC of Portland, who helped qualify the 70-year-old building for LEED energy efficiency certification.

"We've applied and hope to receive our rating soon," McMaster said. "We had to put in new plumbing and electrical systems so we decided to go green while we were at it. There's solar panels on the roof to heat water; high-efficiency, variable-speed motors to run the HVAC (heating and air-conditioning) systems; and a separate heat pump in each room — so you can turn them on individually when they're being used, or shut them off when the room's not occupied."

One detail not hidden away is the use of reclaimed wood, much of it old-growth fir, throughout the building as flooring, decorative elements or load-bearing beams.

The interior alone required a \$2.6 million fund-raising effort over a five-year period. After years in the planning, construction at the Chehalem Cultural Center kicked off in April 2009 with a groundbreaking ceremony.

The results, however, are nothing short of spectacular, featuring a sliding-panel gallery on the main floor, fully-equipped glass and pottery studios, and a five-booth musical room complete with recording studio.

"There's only one conference room open now — and I suspect we'll be leasing it to PCC," said Robin Anderson, executive director of the CCA. "The studios are really the anchor for us right now — I suspect that making pottery will be very popular."



The main gallery stretches around the corner and down the hall, lending space for paintings, photographs and pottery. (Photo by Gary Allen / Newberg Graphic).

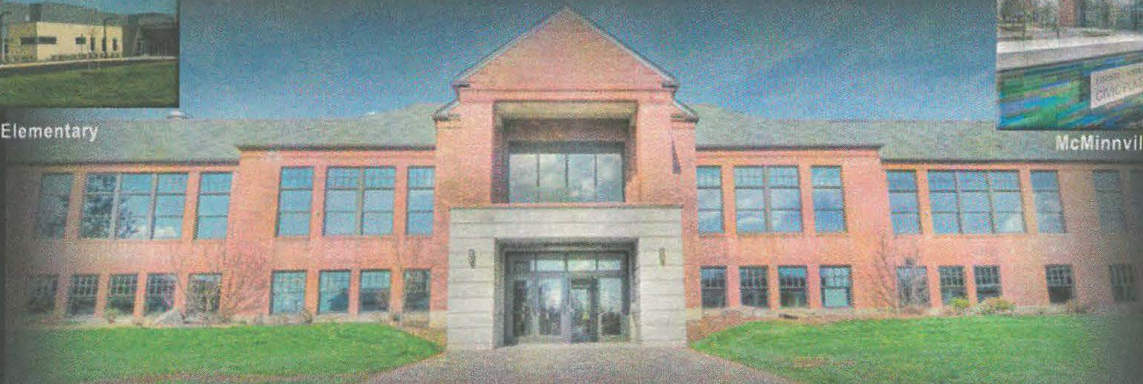
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Chehalem Cultural Center class offerings for spring 2010

Glass (Adults & Teens)

Youth Fusion
Ages 10-18: Mon. 4-5:30 p.m.,
April 5 - May 17

Glass Mosaics
Adult: Tues. 9 a.m.-noon, April 6
- May 18; Thurs. 1-4 p.m., April
8 - May 20

Introduction to Stained Glass
Adult: Thurs. 9 a.m.-noon, April
8 - May 20

Glass Fusing
Adult: Beginning: Tues. 1-4 p.m.,
April 6 - May 18; Intermediate:
Tues. 5-7:30 p.m., April 6 - May
18; Beginning: Thurs. 5-7:30
p.m., April 8 - May 20

Textures of Glass
Adult: Mon. & Wed. 9-11:30
a.m., April 5 - May 19; Mon. &
Wed. 12:30-3 p.m., April 5 - May
19; Fri. 9 a.m.-3 p.m., April 9 -
May 21

Fusing Pendants and Stumping
Adult: Sat. 10 a.m.-1 p.m., April
10 - May 22

The Intermediate Art of Glass
Fusing
Adult: Wed. 6-9 p.m., April 7 -
May 19

Ceramics

Ceramics Open Studio
Ages 18+: Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.,
April 9 - May 21

Beginning Ceramics
Adult: Mon. & Wed. 9-11:30
a.m., April 5 - May 17

Intermediate Ceramics
Adult: Mon. & Wed. noon-2:30
p.m., April 5 - May 17

Alternative Firing Techniques
Adult: Tues. & Thurs. 9-11:30
a.m., April 6 - May 20

Wood Fired Ceramics
Adult: Sat. 11 a.m.-3 p.m., April
10 - May 22

Pushing Pottery
Adult: Tues. & Thurs. 7-9 p.m.,
April 10 - May 22

Beginning Wheel Throwing
Adult: Tues. & Thurs. 1-3:30
p.m., April 6 - May 18

Intermediate Wheel Throwing
Adult: Tues. & Thurs. 4-6:30
p.m., April 6 - May 18

Painting

Seeing and Painting
Subjectively
Adult: Tues. & Thurs. 5-7 p.m.,
April 6 - May 18

Beginning Watercolor

Adult: Wed. 2-4 p.m., April 7 -
May 19

**Introduction to Acrylic &
Watercolor**
Adult: Thurs. 9-11:30 a.m., April
8 - May 20

Introduction to Oil Painting
Adult: Thurs. noon-2 p.m., April
8 - May 20

Drawing

Dare to Draw Differently
Adult: Tues. & Thurs. 2:30-4:30
p.m., April 6 - May 20

Soft Pastel Paint
Adult: Wed. 6:30-9 p.m., April 7 -
May 19

Aspects of Drawing
Adult: Fri. 10 a.m.-noon, April 9 -
May 21; Fri. 1-3 p.m., April 9 -
May 21

Budding Artists - Youth

Youth Fusion
Ages 10-18: Mon. 4-5:30 p.m.,
April 5 - May 17

Beginning Drawing
Ages 8+: Mon. 4:30-5:30 p.m.,
April 5 - May 17

Not Your Ordinary Paper
Pre-K with Parent: Mon. 9:15-
10:15 a.m., April 5 - May 17

Oil Pastel
Ages 8+: Wed. 4:30-5:30 p.m.,
April 7 - May 19

Simple Printmaking
Ages 9-12: Sat. 1-2 p.m., April 10
- May 22

Everyday Art
Ages 9-12: Sat. 10-11:30 a.m.,
April 10 - May 22

Creative Movement for Youth

Children's Theater
Ages 7+: Sat. 10 a.m.-noon,
April 10 - May 22

Music in Motion
Ages 5-10: Sat. 1:30-2:30 p.m.,
April 10 - May 22

Song & Dance
Ages 2-3: Wed. 4:30-5 p.m.,
April 7 - May 19

Ballet
Ages 3-5: Wed. 2:15-3 p.m.,
April 7 - May 19

Ballet/Tap
Ages 4-6: Wed. 3:30-4:45 p.m.,
April 7 - May 19

Ballet/Tap
Ages 7-10: Wed. 4-5 p.m., April
7 - May 19

Fusion Dance
Ages 9-12: Wed. 5-6 p.m., April
7 - May 19

Little One, Big One
Ages 2-3: Thurs. 4:30-5:15 p.m.,
April 8 - May 20

Creative Movement/Tumbling
Ages 3-5: Thurs. 2:15-3 p.m.,
April 8 - May 20

Dancing Princesses
Ages 4-6: Thurs. 3-3:45 p.m.,
April 8 - May 20

Ballet
Ages 7-10: Thurs. 4-5 p.m., April
8 - May 20

Hip-Hop/Jazz
Ages 9-12: Thurs. 5-6 p.m., April
8 - May 20

Paper & Print

Book Binding Sampler
Adult: Mon. 10:30 a.m.-1:30
p.m., April 5 - May 17

Pressless Printmaking
Adult: Mon. 2-5 p.m., April 5 -
May 17

**Calligraphy - The Well
Tempered Italic**
Ages 14+: Mon. 6-8:30 p.m.,
April 5 - May 17

Simple Printmaking
Ages 18+: Sat. 11 a.m.-1 p.m.,
April 10 - May 22

Music & Drama

Clarinet Lessons
All ages: Sat. 10 a.m.-3 p.m.,
April 10 - May 22

Drum Circle & Practice
Ages 14+: Tues. 6:45-8 p.m.,
April 6 - May 18

Acting for Television & Movies
Ages 18+: Thurs. 7:30-9 p.m.,
April 8 - May 20

Music Pedagogy
Ages 18+: Fri. 10 a.m.-noon,
April 9 - May 21

Photography & Film

Filmcrew Training
Age 18+: Fri. 1-3 p.m., April 9 -
May 21

Film History
Age 14+: Fri. 3:30-5 p.m., April 9
- May 21

**Introduction to Digital
Photography**
Age 18+: Tues. 3-6 p.m., April 6
- May 18

History of Art

Art History
Adult: Mon. 10-11:30 a.m., April
5 - May 17

Art as Business

Art as Business
Adult: Thurs. 6:30-8 p.m., April 8 -
May 20

Sculpture

Sculpture from Wax to Casting
Adult: Mon. noon-3 p.m., April 5 -
May 17

Everyday Art

Adult: Tue. 10 a.m.-noon, April 6
- May 18

Creative Writing

**Using Architecture to Enhance
Your Story**
Adult: Fri. 4-5:30 p.m., April 9 -
May 21

Life into Poetry

Adult: Tue. 7-9 p.m., April 6 -
May 18

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From Central School to Chehalem Cultural Center: A long history

The evolution of transforming a school built eight decades ago into a community resource

By AMANDA NEWMAN
NEWBERG GRAPHIC REPORTER

The stately brick building at 415 E. Sheridan St. has seen a lot of history, and not just on the chalkboards of the primary school classrooms it once housed.

From a wooden structure to the current brick edifice, from its original use as a school to its new function as the Chehalem Cultural Center, from a community landmark that attracted presidential candidates to one anticipated to draw artists, musicians, thespians and events of all kinds, the building has had a rich history.

The previous schoolhouse on the site was a large wooden structure that was declared structurally unsafe in 1934, said resident historian Barbara Doyle. Doyle was part of the original committee that launched conversion of the former Central School into the Chehalem Cultural Center, and she researched the building's history in preparation for this month's grand opening.

"The (school) district then was very different size-wise from where it is now — Central School was the district," Doyle explained. "(And) this was deep in the (Depression). There wasn't a lot of money."

The district learned that the federal government was offering construction grants as part of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal, and they applied and received \$15,500. But the district had to contribute some funds of its own — the total construction cost of the new school was about



Photos, clockwise from above: The original windows in the Central School building were replaced several years ago with more energy-efficient models that carry on the look of the original architecture. Outdoor basketball courts were once a Mecca for neighborhood kids when the building still housed a school. (Photo by Gary Allen / Newberg Graphic).

\$50,000 — so there was no money to spare for a new tract of land. Instead, they razed the old building in 1935 and quickly constructed the new one in its place.

"The Graphic thought that the design of the new building was just gorgeous," Doyle said, referring to newspaper articles of the time. "It's kind of interesting that the building was built by a combination of community money and a federal grant that was being dispensed by the government to create jobs — sounds a

lot like now."

The building was immediately put to use, as both a school and a community meeting place. In the 1940s, U.S. presidential candidate Thomas Dewey gave a speech at the school, captured on film by Newberg cinema pioneer Ted Francis. The footage is still played sometimes at the Cameo Theatre.

But two decades later, the building was outdated. "At some point, our school became nonstandard," Doyle said. The build-

"It's kind of interesting that the building was built by a combination of community money and a federal grant that was being dispensed by the government to create jobs — sounds a lot like now."

ing was one story with a basement and new regulations said classes couldn't be held in basements. The classroom sizes were also much too small for the new standards.



ing was one story with a basement and new regulations said classes couldn't be held in basements. The classroom sizes were also much too small for the new standards.

So the schoolhouse underwent another makeover. The "basement" was not completely underground and its ceilings were

just high enough to meet classroom regulations, so the district decided to make some changes over the summer of 1958. They moved the entrance from the "first floor" to the basement to make it legal to use and

Please see HISTORY, page nineteen

History: Very little remains of the interior of the original building after renovation efforts

Continued from page eighteen

moved all the interior walls to expand the classroom sizes.

"They basically had to change all of the interior," Doyle said. When the changes were complete, the principal moved his office from what was now the second floor down to the ground floor, and school resumed as usual. And throughout the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s, "it seemed like it just kind of moved along."

But around 1989, the district superintendent announced that some of the schools in the district didn't meet safety requirements or have the necessary assets, such as libraries. Central School was one of them.

In 1990, a task force was created to study what could be done about the situation. Melissa Van Bossuyt, who serves on the Newberg School District board of directors, spearheaded a bond measure effort to improve Newberg schools and replace Central School. The bond passed and in 1995, Antonia Crater Elementary School and Chehalem Valley Middle School were built, largely from bond proceeds.

The outdated Central School sat vacant for years and people wondered what to do with it.

Doyle said that toward the end of its use as a school and in the interim period before it gained a new purpose, Central School was characterized as an unwanted and unusable building ... but that wasn't always the case.

"Central School functioned as a school for almost 60 years, and people loved it," she said. "The parents and the kids and the teachers and the PTA are saying that it was a wonderful place, because it was the kind of school we don't have anymore! Almost

everyone could walk to it."

It was a real community school, a building that served and was a vital part of the community, Doyle said. And it wasn't long before the building began to reclaim that role.

In 1997, the Chehalem Park and Recreation District bought the property from the school district for \$1 so it would serve the greater Chehalem Valley by remaining in the public domain.

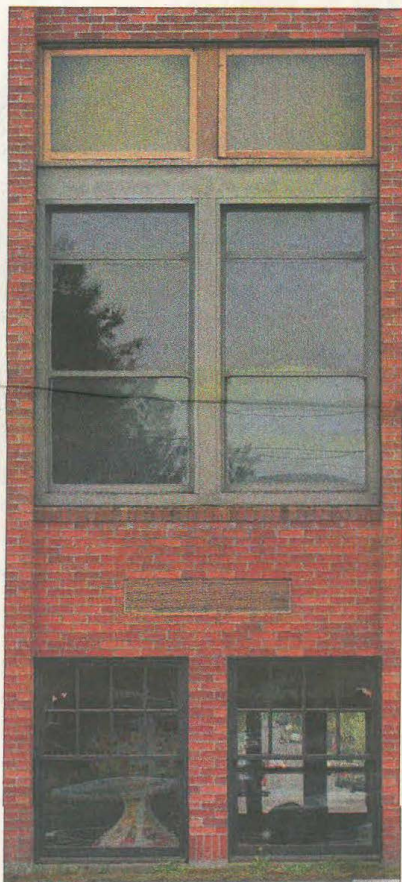
A committee decided to turn the building into a community cultural center and set about raising the money for the conversion. Two CPRD bond measure attempts in the 1990s were unsuccessful, but the park district obtained a series of state and federal grants that helped fund seismic upgrades and structural work. Inmates from the Yamhill County jail completed much of the early demolition work and the city of Newberg waived fees to help reduce costs.

The fund-raising effort was boosted by donations from the Ford Family Foundation, Oregon Cultural Trust, Collins Foundation, Meyer Memorial Trust and others, as well private donors such as Newberg's Austin and Parrish families.

This month's opening will make available the first phase of the project: art classrooms and studios, a music practice room, gallery

space, a technology room, and office and meeting space. A theater, conference center, ballroom, full-service kitchen and bistro are still to come, and all 38,000 square feet will eventually be available for the community to enjoy in a wide variety of ways.

And after 15 years sitting lonely and empty, the grand building will once again take its place as a vital community center.



Renovation of the upper floor of the north side of the building will be part of the next phase of construction at the Chehalem Cultural Center. (Photo by Gary Allen / Newberg Graphic).



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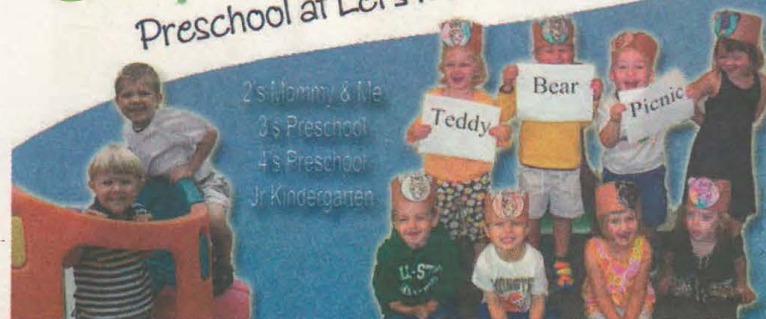
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