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By Alysha Beck, The World

Tim Galten, an employee with the Egyptian Theatre Preservation Association, sweeps dirt away from the sidewalk in front of the Egyptian Theatre on Tuesday afternoon. With two recent \$150,000 grants, the total funds raised to restore the theater is up to more than \$550,000. Galten did janitorial work inside the theater and hopes to get his job back when it reopens.

Re-crunching the numbers

Recent grants may get theater repairs going

BY TIM NOVOTNY
The World

COOS BAY — City officials are greeting news of Egyptian Theatre grant funding with excitement, but also are tempering their overall enthusiasm until construction costs match.

“The great news is that they raised a lot of money,” said City Manager Rodger Craddock on Tuesday. “The next step is to see if they have enough to begin work.”

Bob More, the capital campaign coordinator for the Egyptian Theatre Preserva-

tion Association, said over the weekend that the group recently received grants putting funds over the \$550,000 needed to complete necessary repairs.

But, Craddock warns, sometimes preliminary numbers can change. For example, the goal of \$550,000 doesn’t cover two bathrooms required by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Craddock says staff are busy reviewing drawings, and the bathroom designs are due to come in as early as this week. Once staff have those in hand, they can go to the bidding process. Proposals for the project

may be ready within the next two weeks.

“Based on what we receive back, that will tell us if we can start now or if we need a few more grants to come in,” Craddock said, noting that there are still some big grants out there pending.

In a best case scenario, construction could begin as soon as mid-July, according to Craddock.

“It is really exciting that they have done so much locally to raise the funds and awareness to get the theater back open,” he said. “There is no question now that it will open again; the question now is: when?”

Egyptian reaches a goal for funding

BY GAIL ELBER
The World

COOS BAY — Two \$150,000 grants made last week to the Egyptian Theatre Preservation Association put the group over the threshold needed for the city to start restoring the historic building.

Bob More, the group's capital campaign coordinator, said Saturday that the grants — one from the Ford Family Foundation, the other from the M.J. Murdock Trust — increase the association's funds to more than \$550,000.

That's enough to get the building up to code so that it can be reopened to the public, More said.

But the association hopes to raise another \$250,000 or so to fix more things in the theater, increasing its usability for community events.

The two big grants will make the project more attractive to other funding sources, More said, since they increase the likelihood that the project will be completed in a timely way.

Now that the \$550,000 mark has been hit, More said the city would likely start preparing this month to solicit bids for the initial repair work.

City officials were unavailable for

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comment because of the Memorial Day holiday.

"Provided we don't hit any major speed bumps, our goal is to open next spring, in March or April," More said.

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