

Outdoor School for Oregon's kids

By Jim Anderson
Correspondent

Last Tuesday was Outdoor School Day at Brand 33 Restaurant at Aspen Lakes. Jullian Johnsen (Camp Name: Waikiki), head of the Oregon Outdoor School Coalition, gave members of the Rotary Club of Sisters the latest news on attempts to provide the Outdoor School experiences to all Oregon fifth- and sixth-graders.

Educational leaders throughout the nation have said over and over again there is a huge need to bring children back into having exciting and positive experiences with the natural world around them. Outdoor School has been recognized as the way to do that.

Johnsen reflected on her experiences at Outdoor School, and how it opened her eyes and heart to the natural world around her and spurred her on to become the active leader she is today in education.

One story she told the audience revolved around a young, elementary-school-aged girl who came from an extremely abusive home environment. Her father again and again told her she was useless, would never amount to anything, no matter what she tried to do.

At Outdoor School the young lady not only discovered the natural world around her, but she found out who she was, what she could do, and who she would really grow up to be. So much so, that today

she has a master's degree in mental health and is a leader in her profession.

Johnsen told her audience that only half of Oregon kids today can afford to attend Outdoor School. Locally, without outside financial support, students have to pay \$175 to attend a three-day/two-night experience at Camp Tamarack. With the help of community grants and local parent and teacher fundraising efforts, Camp Tamarack has been able to reduce the fee, resulting in an increased student participation from 25 percent to 75 percent.

Recently, the Oregon Legislature voted overwhelmingly to pass SB 439 to support the concept of Outdoor School for all Oregon fifth- and sixth-grade students. This bill directs Oregon State University Extension Service to assist school districts and education service districts in providing outdoor school programs — but no money was set aside to do so.

The Outdoor School For All Coalition, made up of over 100 organizations across Oregon, hopes to see those funds become available through a citizen initiative in 2016.

On Tuesday, October 27, from 6 to 7:30 p.m., the Central Oregon Regional Network of the Outdoor School Coalition is hosting a special fall fundraiser at the Neil Kelly Design Center located in the Old Mill District in Bend.

High school student leader Taylor Richards described the importance of his experience at Outdoor School: "Camp Tamarack and the wonderful people who make it work are a rare gem that cannot be summed up in any amount of words. I have lived in many different places in my life, but none as beautiful or wholesome as the environment we are blessed with here.

"I had an amazing, life-changing experience that has given me the confidence to thrive in the real world. They teach us to connect with one another and the importance of our natural world. They provide a loving, caring, and understanding environment that not every child experiences in the home-lives. This place is made to change lives, and I am honored to be a part of it.

“...there is a complete turnaround in attitude, respect, and self-confidence...
— Taylor Richards

"In a matter of a week there is a complete turnaround in attitude, respect, and self-confidence for every individual involved. I will be forever grateful to this place for bringing out the best in myself and those around me."



PHOTO BY JIM AND SUE ANDERSON

Jullian Johnsen gave her presentation at the weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Sisters at Brand 33 Restaurant at Aspen Lakes.

DUCTLESS HEAT PUMP TECHNOLOGY

Recently, Randall Marchington, an expert Mechanical Estimator from Bend Heating, answered questions about the newest high-efficiency ductless heat pump systems on the market.

Q We have heard there is something new in the world of ductless heat pump technology. Would you mind talking about that?

A Sure. Carrier Corporation, one of the largest manufacturers in the heating industry, has recently released the Carrier Infinity ductless heat pump, one-head system. The first thing that comes to my mind is that as we live in a high, dry, cold climate and this new Carrier Infinity system will produce heat to -22°F at 80% capacity output. No other system can work this well for our winters.

Q Well, that is exciting! What else is new?

A One of the newest innovations that Carrier has brought to this technology is the sleek and slim look of these indoor units that also come in white or silver, which allows them to blend into the interior of your home. Not the big bulky things hanging on your wall anymore.

Q Are incentives like rebates and tax credits available when you convert to a ductless heat pump?

A Because we are approaching an energy crisis in the NW, there are incredibly generous incentives available to homeowners that qualify for these systems, totaling as much as \$2,700, which can cut your total investment in half, as well as reducing your utility bill by half, plus they have air conditioning and air filtration to boot!

Q And, about Bend Heating...?

A One thing that I like is that Bend Heating was the 1st "Certified Master Installer" of ductless heat pumps in the area and is Carrier's 1st and oldest factory-authorized dealer in Central Oregon. That means every single homeowner gets a 100% satisfaction guarantee or your money back, written contract from Carrier Corporation themselves.

Q Is the initial investment expensive?

A Not at all, especially when you consider that the money you save on utility bills pays for the investment in as little as a few years in most homes, and the comfort is incredible.

Q What sets Bend Heating apart from other well-known heating companies?

A Bend Heating is the oldest heating company in Central Oregon and has been serving our neighbors heating needs since 1953. We are required to be certified by federal, state and local agencies. We participate in rigorous ongoing training that requires us to perform many different tests to certify the installation is correct. We do all the paperwork for you and make sure it is all in order for the rebates and tax credits.

Q How can people contact you for more information?

A You can contact me at 541-382-1231 or email randall@bendheating.com and I'll be happy to discuss how and if this might work for your home.



541-382-1231 | www.BendHeating.com

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As a trade ally contractor of Energy Trust of Oregon, we can help with cash incentives and state energy tax credits to improve the energy efficiency of your home.

FREE Hearing Screenings!
When: Thursday, October 29, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Where: Sisters Park & Recreation District
Given by: Lanie Tandy Hearing Instrument Specialist

All American HEARING Stop by to receive your quick and easy **FREE** Hearing Screening and to ask Lanie any hearing healthcare questions you have.

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Caregivers Support Group
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- Grandparents raising grandchildren
- Single with little help
 - Mentor to a young child
- A couple feeling at "wits end"

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 Oct. 22 – Dec. 17
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For info call Linda at 541-420-8110 or go to www.together-for-children.org

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THIS WEEK'S MENU

- Chopped Salad with Olive Brine Vinaigrette and Parmesan
- Grilled Shrimp Fettuccini Puttanesca
- Vegetable Pasta Primavera
- Mixed Berry Cream Cheese Cake

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