

HWY 242: Access for cyclists is a confusing subject

Continued from page 1

acknowledged.

ODOT plows a single lane through the snow on the road during the spring, and then lets snowmelt do the rest. Once the snow is melted off, work crews sweep the roadway to clear debris, dirt and gravel, and patch potholes created over the winter. Opening of the highway used to be arbitrary — the gate was opened whenever the work was done. For the past three years, the agency has determined upon a consistent third-Monday-in-June opening.

During the plowing and maintenance period, the roadway is closed to traffic. However, cyclists and walkers go around the gate to use the roadway. Murphy recognizes that the public perception has grown that the road is open for cyclists — car-free. And he acknowledged that he himself had contributed to

that perception.

“We don’t ‘open’ it for bicycles, and I no longer publicize or, if you will, promote that it’s open for bicycles,” he said. “I had to learn that.

“Honestly, it’s the liability,” he noted. “It’s not maintained for bicycles.”

Last Thursday morning, work crews turned several bicyclists back as they approached the gate. With large equipment stirring dust, debris and gravel still on the road and incomplete patchwork on the roadway, the area was clearly not a safe place to ride. However, crews don’t work on weekends, and anyone driving the highway sees dozens of riders headed up the road to — and beyond — the snow gate.

Cyclists across the nation are apparently not aware that the road isn’t really “open” for them. Murphy said that he gets many inquiries.

“I’ve never had so many calls as this year in terms of the status (of 242) for use by bicycles,” he said.

He said that there is no concerted effort to reverse the public perception that the



PHOTO BY JIM CORNELIUS

Sweepers are still clearing debris from the roadway.

road is open for cyclists in advance of motor vehicles.

“There’s no action to reverse that perception,” he said. “I explain the details when they call and ask if it’s open for bicycles.”

This year it required extra work to get the road into shape due to impacts from last summer’s Milli Fire. Crews repaired damaged asphalt, rebuilt damaged road shoulders and squared up embankments and created channels to allow runoff to move without flooding the highway.

The stretch of highway running from the east gate to the Dee Wright Observatory was hit very hard by the fire.

Thousands of blackened trunks now stand on seared slopes where forests formerly stood. The area nevertheless retains a certain stark beauty, and the mountains remain magnificent.

The route continues to be, as Murphy tagged it, “a great ride.” The annual Crest the Cascades cycling event is set for Saturday, June 16, along the highway. That event operates under a permit, Murphy noted.

So cyclists will summit the McKenzie Pass, and the cars will follow after Monday’s opening — all moving on a freshly repaired and swept roadway through a changed landscape.

SOLSTICE: Multiple events mark longest day of the year

Continued from page 13

Share campfire and potluck on Saturday, June 23, at 6 p.m. Bring a favorite short poem or paragraph to read aloud. Families welcome; plan your readings accordingly.

At both potlucks, all ages can join in. Firewood donations are especially welcome. Campfires are planned close to the road, so those with mobility issues will be able to participate. Bring food, drinks, dinnerware (non-disposable preferred), and a folding chair (optional). Email neworegonarts@gmail.com for information, or just show up at the labyrinth walk for details.

Summer Solstice marks the anniversary of visionary Larry Harvey and his friends founding the first Burning Man, which led to the development of a large, influential artistic community around the world. Harvey passed away this spring. There will be a global day of commemoration for him on June 21.

Harvey told Brown years ago that growing up in Oregon shaped his creative imagination and sense of independence. She invites all “Burners” and other creatives to make a tribute altar for Larry Harvey during the Labyrinth Walk. Participants can contact neworegonarts@gmail.com to get involved.



PHOTO BY JIM CORNELIUS

Highway 242 is closed until June 18.

M&J

CARPET CLEANING



Locally Owned & Operated Since 1986

One PLUS One Cleaning
Specials Exclusively For Nugget Readers

Home • Vacation Rentals • Business

- Carpet + Sofa or 2 Chairs
- Area Rugs + Sofa or 2 Chairs
- Tile, Grout + Dryer Vent
- Auto/RV Carpet + Upholstery

— Performed On One Visit —

CALL FOR PRICING
541-549-9090

Complimentary Workshop in Sisters

Myth or fact?

Discover truths about long-term care

Presenter: Kevin Riley
Regional Sales Director
OneAmerica

Thursday, June 14, 6 pm
Sisters Public Library
110 N. Cedar St. Sisters

Reserve your seat!
www.midoregon.com
541-385-1795

This is a solicitation of insurance. Contact will be made by an insurance agent or company. Policy form numbers: L301 (OR), R501 (OR), SA31 (OR), SA34 (OR), R508 (OR), SA35 (OR). Provided content is for overview and informational purposes only and is not intended as tax, legal, fiduciary, or investment advice. Mid Oregon Financial Services: Securities sold, advisory services offered through CUNA Brokerage Services, Inc. (CBSI), member FINRA/SIPC, a registered broker/dealer and investment advisor. CBSI is under contract with the financial institution to make securities available to members. Not NCUA/NCUSIF/FDIC insured, May Lose Value. No Financial Institution Guarantee. Not a deposit of any financial institution. CUNA Brokerage Services, Inc. is a registered broker/dealer in all fifty states of the USA. FR-2128804.1-0518-0620

MidOregon
Financial Services



June 15
Friday, Noon-1pm

No cost. RSVP required.
Light lunch provided.

Call (541) 382-5882
to reserve your space.

Community Education
meets at Partners In Care,
2075 NE Wyatt Court
Bend, OR 97701

Partners In Care
Community Education

Planning for the Future

Learn more about end-of-life financial planning, health care resources, planning, and family conversations.

Speakers include Lindsay Gardner, Attorney; David Almond, Almond Financial; Brad Baird, Funeral Director; and more.

Hospice • Home Health • Hospice House • Transitions • Palliative Care

PartnersBend.org

You could save up to \$1,350 on a Carrier Unit with Cool Cash!

The Cool Cash program through Carrier comes along every year April through June. Call for details.



Trade Ally of



As an Energy Trust of Oregon trade ally, we can help you access cash incentives to make it easier to improve your home's energy efficiency.



Proudly serving Central Oregon since 1953

For more information call 541-382-1231

www.BendHeating.com



“BE WARM, BE COOL, BE HAPPY”

turn to the experts