

CANYON VIEWS

Explore the outdoors, explore learning



CAITLAN FREESE

Even though many kids think of summer as a "time off" from school, there are still countless opportunities for hands-on learning across Oregon.

The warmer weather makes it a perfect time for families to explore Oregon's great outdoors and explore learning, whether it's hiking the Pacific Crest Trail or harvesting fruit at a u-pick farm.

According to the National Summer Learning Association, children can lose up to two months of essential math and reading skills during the summer months. Keeping children engaged in learning over the summer break helps them hold onto important knowledge from the prior school year and prepare them for the new school year. The Association sponsors National Summer Learning Day, July 13, to raise awareness about the importance of learning experiences over the summer.

Learning can be even more effective during the summer when students have real-world outdoor experiences. Researchers and educators say there are many benefits for children just by spending time outside, including enhanced creativity, self-confidence, and relationship skills. The trick is to get children out of the house, doing something fun, and keeping their brains active all at the same time.

Fortunately, there are plenty of enjoyable outdoor adventures all over the state for families to share. It's been said that nature is one of our greatest teachers. Regardless of whether you venture into a National Forest, or stick to your own backyard, there are educational opportunities just about everywhere you look. Here are a few ideas to spark your student's appreciation for our natural surroundings while blending in key academic skills.

Outdoors and Outer Space

Most millennial parents weren't alive the last time a total solar eclipse touched the United States 38 years ago, so when this cosmic event happens again on the morning of August 21 it could be a galactic learning experience for the whole family. Oregon is lucky to be the first state in the country to see one of nature's most exciting phenomena as the moon's shadow makes landfall completely covering the sun around 10:15 am.

Leading up to the eclipse, ask your students to research the phases of the moon, understanding how and why it will end up blocking all of the sun for approximately two minutes on the big day. NASA has a website (eclipse2017.nasa.gov) dedicated to the solar eclipse, with lots of educational materials about the sun's electromagnetic fields, space weather, and more.

After your budding astronomers have done their homework, decide on a location to watch the main event. There are a ton of eclipse watching parties going on around the state, just make sure to use the special glasses to protect your eyes while watching this special eclipse.

Parks and Rec

Whether it's your local municipal parks department, state or federal parks agency, it seems like there is an endless variety of outdoor learning adventures available. The Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department has a fun program called "Let's Go" (oregonstateparks.org) which offers several topics families can learn about from State Park Rangers. Everything from navigating the water in a canoe, to making the most of your hiking adventure, is available to explore alongside outdoor experts.

Camping is a summertime favorite of mine, even when I was a kid and my folks let us pitch a tent in the backyard. If your family can get away on a camping trip, there are abundant learning opportuni-

ties, from building a fire, to tracing the history of the campground location. Try camping unplugged, leaving most electronic devices at home, and instead tell stories around the campfire for entertainment. Now that will be a learning experience!

High Tech Treasure Hunt

What do you get when you combine technology, learning, going outdoors, and physical activity?

Geocaching! Basically, this family-friendly outdoor activity involves using a smartphone mobile app or a hand-held Global Positioning System (GPS) location device to find hidden containers, "caches", across the world.

Not only do kids love to solve puzzles, but this high-tech treasure hunt can enhance math skills, map-reading abilities and of course geography skills, the source of "geo"! The website geocaching.com contains great information, including maps and instructions on how to play the game.

Geocaching is similar to "Pokémon Go" but instead of tracking virtual characters, players are pinpointing real world stashes of objects and replacing a trinket for the next person to discover. In fact, in 2000 a Beavercreek man was the first to establish a "geocache", putting a black bucket of items in the woods near his house for others to find.

Garden of Knowledge

Sometimes it's good for kids to go out and get their hands dirty - especially when it comes with teachable moments. Gardening is one of the best hands-on learning activities your students can do over summer vacation and it doesn't take much space.

Even a corner of the yard, or just a couple of pots of soil, will work for your garden.

Let your children decide if they want to plant flowers, vegetables, or some-

thing else. Teach them the importance of water and sunlight, which of course involves science. Your students will utilize math and measurement skills too as they create a garden plot and space plants into straight rows. The national non-profit KidsGardening.org is a good resource for novice gardeners who really want to dig into this outdoor activity.

As an educator at a virtual public school like Oregon Connections Academy, our families are learning outside of the traditional school walls on a daily basis. They often incorporate class work when they visit a neighborhood park or take laptops on road trips to supplement this experiential learning. There are several ways you can enhance any learning experience for your children:

Reading and Writing:

Before your students head out into the wilderness, they should read up about their destination or consider researching a new outdoor hobby like geocaching. Reading is an essential skill to maintain year-round.

Encourage young writers by having your students keep a journal or establish their own blog about their summer activities.

Creative Crafts

Pictures are one of the best ways to capture memories from summer learning. Have your children collect elements from nature to make into crafts, such as pine cones, leaves, or sea shells. Your children can get creative when they use these items to make a collage, or glue them onto a wooden picture frame to hold a great family photo.

Caitlan Freese of Portland is Oregon Connections Academy's high school special education coordinator. She can be reached through ORCA at www.OregonConnectionsAcademy.com, (800) 382-6010.

House vote to repeal tax credit angers GOP

KRISTENA HANSEN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PORTLAND - After a fiery three-hour debate that capped a contentious week in Salem, the Oregon House approved a partial repeal of a 2013 "Grand Bargain" business tax credit in a 31-28 vote Friday with three Democrats joining Republicans' opposition.

Republicans and businesses throughout the state are vehemently opposed House Bill 2060, which Democrats advanced out of a House committee by surprise two days earlier.

It may also face a legal challenge, opponents say, if it passes its final hurdle in the Senate.

"House Dems just proved they don't need to follow the Constitution for revenue votes as they raise taxes," said Senate Republican Minority Leader Ted Fer-

rioli, referring to the supermajority requirement for tax hikes that House Democrats and the Legislature's non-partisan legal counsel say doesn't apply in this instance. "(House Speaker Tina Kotek) is holding up the education budget, threatening to derail a transportation package and killing the credibility of the Legislature."

HB 2060 would raise an extra \$200 million for the 2017-19 biennium - an amount some lawmakers have been trying to cobble together for the record-\$8.2 billion K-12 education budget that's up for final vote Tuesday in the House.

That's less than half the extra revenue they could've raised, about \$500 million, by boosting the existing corporate income tax - a last-minute plan pitched Monday by Senate Democrats that might've held sway with enough Republicans to pass on a supermajority and

boost funds for schools.

Hass's plan excluded a Measure 97-like gross-receipts tax, which voters rejected and Republicans opposed, so House Democrats advanced HB 2060 out of committee Wednesday.

The bill partially repeals a tax credit for so-called "pass-through" entities, meaning LLCs, S-corporations and partnerships commonly formed by small businesses.

These entities are exempt from the federal corporate income tax, so profits and losses are taxed through the personal incomes of the owners, partners or shareholders.

House Democrats like Rep. Rob Nosse rallied support for the measure by calling it a "cost containment" bill that would "reign in" a "runaway" tax break that benefits mostly wealthy doctors and lawyers rather than modest mom-and-

pops.

"The projections are that this tax break could end up costing \$300 million," said Democratic Rep. Phil Barnhart.

"We should make smart, sensible reforms to this policy now, before it spirals out of control."

Kotek stepped away from her podium to give her own floor speech about the 2013 tax credit, saying it's "not having the targeted impact we wanted it to have."

Those comments further exasperated GOP caucus members such as Rep. Julie Parrish, who noted the Legislature is ending another session without addressing the state's rising pension and health care costs that are projected to continue rising faster than revenues.

"My trust in the leadership in this building is gone after today," Parrish said.

CLASSIFIEDS

Appeal Tribune
silvertonappeal.com

The Stayton
Mail

Place an ad online 24/7 at StatesmanJournal.com or call 503-399-6789 • 1-800-556-3975

Find a new job or career
JOBS

Discover your new home
HOMES & RENTALS

Turn here for your next vehicle
AUTO

Auctions, pets, services & stuff
STUFF

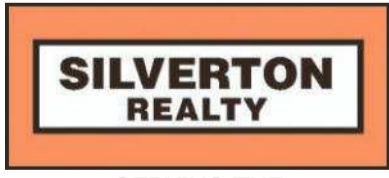
CAREERBUILDER

HomeFinder.com

cars.com

StatesmanJournal.com/classifieds in print Wednesday through Sunday

TRUST THE HOMETOWN EXPERTS AT SILVERTON REALTY



SERVING THE EAST VALLEY SINCE 1975



Marcia Branstetter
Broker, GRI
873-3545 ext. 318



Mary Cam
Broker
503-873-3545 ext. 320



Micha Christman
Office Manager
503-873-1425



Becky Craig
Broker
873-3545 ext. 313



Michael Schmidt
Broker, GRI
873-3545 ext. 314



Ryan Wertz
Broker
873-3545 ext. 322



Meredith Wertz
Broker, GRI
873-3545 ext. 324



Chuck White
Broker
873-3545 ext. 325



Christina Williamson
Broker
873-3545 ext. 315



Mason Branstetter
Principal Broker, GRI
873-3545 ext. 303

SILVERTON
#A2411
READY FOR DREAM HOME
34 ACRES
CALL MEREDITH AT EXT. 324,
RYAN AT EXT. 322
\$79,900 (WVMLS#718207)

SILVERTON
#A2383, A2384
CREEK FRONTAGE
2 LOTS 1.1 ACRES & 1.09 ACRES
CALL MARCIA AT EXT. 318
\$179,000 & \$162,000
(WVMLS#715865 & 715869)

NEW-SILVERTON
#A2409
EXCELLENT CONDITION
4 BR, 2.5 BA 2112 SQFT
CALL MICHAEL AT EXT. 314
\$402,500 (WVMLS#719657)

NEW-SILVERTON
#A2408
1925 BUNGALOW
2 BR, 1 BA 1025 SQFT ACRES
CALL MEREDITH AT EXT. 324,
RYAN AT EXT. 322
\$179,900 (WVMLS#719578)

SILVERTON
#A2341
2 HOMES ON 2 ACRES
3 BR, 2 BA 1367 SQFT, 2.630 ACRES
CALL CHUCK AT EXT. 325
\$549,900 (WVMLS#709561)

SILVERTON
#A2410
VINTAGE 1950'S HOME
3 BR, 2 BA, 1760 SQFT
CALL MEREDITH AT EXT. 324,
RYAN AT EXT. 322
\$348,700 (WVMLS#718215)

SALEM
#A2311
HOWELL PRAIRIE FARM
3 BR 2 BA 26.77 ACRES.
CALL CHUCK AT EXT. 325
\$538,750 (WVMLS#706154)

SILVERTON
#A2338
SILVERTON PARCEL
PARCEL #1 6,365 SQFT
CALL CHUCK AT EXT. 325
\$74,900 (WVMLS#709283)

SILVERTON
#A2354
3 HOME INVESTMENT PROPERTY
4 BR, 3 BA 1776 SQFT
CALL MARCIA AT EXT. 318
\$425,000 (WVMLS#711358)

NEW-SILVERTON
#A2406
PRACTICALLY NEW
3 BR, 2.5 BA 1383 SQFT
CALL MARCIA AT EXT. 318
\$219,500 (WVMLS#719493)

NEW-SILVERTON
#A2405
OPPORTUNITY FOR INCOME
2 UNITS 6 BR, 5 BA 2848 SQFT
CALL MICHAEL AT EXT. 314
\$425,000 (WVMLS#719341)

SILVERTON
#A2377
OUTSTANDING COMMERCIAL LOCATION
4444 SQFT CALL
MASON AT EXT. 303
\$299,900 (WVMLS#715616)

Brokers licensed in Oregon

WWW.SILVERTONREALTY.COM | 303 OAK STREET | SILVERTON

Call us today! 503.873.3545 | 1-800-863-3545



FOR RENT
Call Micha
at 503-873-1425
or see them on our website.

