

Grad

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high school where college is bigger, work is significant, and business is full-time.

Now is the time to show our gratitude to those who were there for us. When things get rough down the road, remember what our mentors taught us and use their lessons as a source of strength.

I'm reminded of a poignant comment by renowned black leader and human rights activist Malcolm X: "Education is

the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today."

Malcom X didn't finish high school and never went to college, but he taught himself how to read and write while serving time in prison. Like many great leaders throughout history, regardless of whether you achieve a high school diploma, college degree or other certificate, the fact that learning continues is

what helps us succeed in the future.

Congratulations to everyone in the class of 2018 and best of luck wherever life may lead you.

Kaycee Asher is a senior and Student Body Senator at Oregon Connections Academy Senior, from Salem. More information about Oregon Connections Academy is available at www.Oregon-ConnectionsAcademy.com or by calling (800) 382-6010.

Fishing

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the first Monday of the month to the first weekend in June to coincide with Oregon State Parks Day.

So parks that charge admission are free both June 2 and 3, and camping is free on June 2. The catch is that you need to make a reservation (\$8 charge) if you want to guarantee a site at (800) 452-5687 or www.oregonstateparks.org.

But wait. There's more!

Washington opted to stick with the first weekend after the first Monday in June for its annual Free Fishing Weekend, so you, and that, ahem, thrifty woman and her family can fish for free in our neighbor to the north on June 9 and 10 (couldn't resist just a little retro-active, post-assume snark).

Disclaimer: In both Oregon and Washington during Free Fishing weekends, all other rules such as bag and size limits, restrictions on open and closed areas apply.

As in the past, there will be a wealth of family friendly events on Saturday, June 2, in Oregon to mark the occasion.

Silverton will offer its annual "busman's holiday" event at Silverton Reservoir, which is scheduled to be stocked with 4,200 rainbow trout prior to the weekend.

Parking will be closed to the public at the reservoir, but free buses will run from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. to and from the event site that offers an accessible fishing platform.

Buses depart from/return to: Roth's Fresh Market, 918 1st St.; Dutch Bros Coffee, 301 Westfield St.; Silverton Library, 410 S Water St.; Nazarene Church, 1130 S Water St.; and Silverton Grange, 201 Division St.

A separate event for those with disabilities will be held with parking at Silverton Reservoir. To register and for more information for that event, call the sponsoring Silverton Lions Club at (406) 426-3733.

Another family event that features an accessible fishing platform for kids and the physically challenged is 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the U.S. Forest Service Hoover Campground and boat launch at the east end of Detroit Lake.

Take Blowout Road on the right off Highway 22 just past the lake and watch for the signs to Hoover on the right about a mile up the road.

Detroit was scheduled to be stocked this week with 15,000 trout.

Fish and Wildlife also will hold a 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. event on June 2 at St. Louis Ponds west of Gervais, where 3,700 keeper-size rainbows are scheduled to be stocked prior to Free Fishing Weekend.

To get there from Salem, take Interstate 5 north to the Brooks Exit, then right at the top of the off-ramp to the stoplight at Highway 99E. Go left on 99 to the stoplight at Gervais Road.

Turn left at the light through Gervais. Turn left at Tesch Lane NE just before crossing the railroad tracks.

A complete list of events statewide, including a list of contacts, is online at <https://myodfw.com/articles/2018-free-fishing-days-and-events>

For do-it-yourself anglers, Oregon trout-stocking schedules are here <https://myodfw.com/fishing/species/trout/stocking-schedule> and here <http://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/Missions/Environmental-Stewardship/Fish/>.

Happy fishing!

Henry Miller is a retired Statesman Journal columnist and outdoor writer. You can reach him via email at Henry-MillerSJ@gmail.com

Drexler

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sioner of the BIG3, a professional 3-on-3 league that will soon tip off its second season.

This is a busy time of year for him, another reason why his participation in our event is such a big deal.

He said he'll take the opportunity to visit some old friends while in Oregon, stay at his favorite Portland hotel, and squeeze in a round of golf. Chances are he'll also reminisce about the early 1990s Blazers teams that were oh-so-

close to winning a championship.

"We had a three-year run where we were I think the best team in the league — no titles to prove it — but teams hated to play us," Drexler said. "And we were the most entertaining team."

When we hang up, I glance at my phone. The call lasted 22 minutes. Now that's good karma.

"Forward This" highlights the people, places, and organizations of the Mid-Willamette Valley. Contact Capi Lynn at clynn@StatesmanJournal.com or 503-399-6710, or follow her the rest of the week on Twitter @CapiLynn and Facebook @CapiLynnSJ.

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