

sports

County parks offer economical alternative

By Brian Rood
Of The Print

In the past, when gas was a relatively cheap and expendable commodity, hopping in the old family car and rolling down the highway to some place just this side of heaven was taken for granted by most of us. But, with gas prices at unprecedented levels, it is becoming more and more unappealing to flee to places which are farther than an hour or two drive.

One solution may be to find places not so far away, namely the county's park facilities.

Dan Zinzer, who is in charge of the parks division of Clackamas County, is finding that more people are turning to local recreation areas instead of making the long trek to some other part of the state. Zinzer commented, "Times are hard and people cannot afford to go a long way. People are going to county parks because gas is so high," Zinzer added.

But this is where Zinzer finds himself in a sort of Catch 22 situation. As people drive less and less, the less gas they buy. Most of the money allocated to the parks and recreation department comes from the tax on gasoline. So, as people begin to stay closer to home for their summer vacations and the county parks attract more use, the funds to maintain the parks

dwindle.

Funding is always a problem with services such as the parks and recreation department, especially as a time when the public is generally in favor of less government and lower taxes. Zinzer is aware of the current trend and was realistic in offering that, "It's hard to tell. This could be our last year of funding," Zinzer also added, "Right now we are operating on county and general funds."

Zinzer hopes the funds will come from somewhere. At present, most of the parks only operate five days a week due to a lack of money, which prevents Zinzer from hiring rangers to patrol the parks.

But for now, the parks will remain open. The following is a list of the county parks and what they offer in the way of facilities.

Barton Park opens at 6 a.m. daily and is one of the few parks that is open seven days a week. Overnight camping is available as well as a boat launching ramp. It also has a softball field.

Eagle Fern—Located on Eagle Creek, Eagle Fern Park is closed Thursday and Friday. There is no overnight camping but there is an outside shelter which can be reserved for large groups.

Metzler—Metzler will offer overnight camping for the first

time this year. It is closed Tuesday and Wednesday. It is situated just outside of Estacada and is the only park that is blessed with routed nature trails. Metzler also has a softball facility.

Feyrer—Feyrer, located on the beautiful Molalla River, is another park that has a softball diamond for those who wish to partake in the great American past time. Zinzer commented, "Feyrer is a really nice park and is on a nice part of the river."

Hebb—The only county park located on the Willamette, Hebb Park has water access via a boat ramp. Hebb also has horse shoe pits and reserved picnic spots.

Risley—Located in the Oak Grove area, Risley Park is more a local park. There are, however, tennis courts available and playground equipment for the kiddies.

If you are like most of the people who are feeling the pinch of both rising gasoline prices and inflation and are looking for an alternative this summer, the local parks may just be the relief you are looking for.

In addition, most of the parks have horseshoe pits as well as reservable picnic areas.

If you have any questions regarding these sites, contact the county parks and recreation department at 655-8521.



RIPPIN RON—Annually spring is the time for baseball and at CCC it is no exception as Ron Hoodeye takes a cut during intramural action. Staff photo by Sue Hanneman

Sports briefs

Men's tennis

The men's tennis team has been able to handle the humidity in Florida for the most part as two of the three doubles teams gained wins in the opening rounds of competition in Ocala.

After gaining a first round bye, the number-one doubles team of Dave Long and Dave Thomas defeated Abduhl Alleem and Kelly Misner from Curry County, Kansas, in straight sets, 6-3, 6-4. At the number-two doubles slot, Dan Alexander and Dave Savage lost, 6-0, 6-0, to the fifth seeded team of Rich White and Dave Benner. But, at the number-three doubles position, Jeff Alexander and John Hazlett gained a first round win from a team from Middlesex, New Jersey. The score went 7-6, 6-3.

Along with the doubles play the first rounds of the number-one and two singles play also got underway on Tuesday, but Clackamas's Dave Long and Dave Thomas gained first-round byes. The rest of the singles competition will begin today.

At the end of the first day, the CCC netmen had accumulated three points and were tied with Treasure Valley. The overall scores were not as yet out so it was undetermined where the Cougs stood with respect to the other schools.

Awards

With the closing of the spring sports season come the awards banquets for the various teams.

Although some of the teams have not had their awards ceremonies as yet and did not wish to reveal their M.V.P.'s, some have already done so.

Lisa Liechty gained most valuable honors for the women's tennis team while Jenny Washburn was named as the most improved. And in a semi-unusual move, the whole team was named as the most inspirational as Coach Gladys Michael said that just about everyone got a vote.

For the men's tennis team, still in competition in Florida, Coach Rich Taylor announced that David Long is this season's most valuable and that Dan Alexander gained the most improved award.

CCC track Coach Buck Monroe said that Rich Ferguson totalled the most points this season. Monroe chose to hold off on announcing the M.V.P. recipient as the awards banquet is scheduled for tonight.

Marilyn Lensenmeyer and the women's track team will not have their award presentations until next week so those awardees have not been revealed, either.

Blood drive relay

The Red Cross and KEX radio are sponsoring a blood donor relay on Saturday at Duniway Park in Portland.

Interested people should organize a team of four participants, either all male, all female or two males and two females. Each team must pledge at least one blood donor as an entry fee.

The race will consist of a mile relay with each team member running 440 yards or one-quarter mile. All teams must be pre-registered. Pre-registration forms are available at the Red Cross office and some other locations. If you wish to sign-up for the run, contact the Red Cross at either 243-5254 or 243-5227.

Hixson medalist at regionals

Both Dan Hixson and Randy Reid placed in the top five at the Region 18 golf tournament, but the Cougs received little help from the rest of the team and had to settle for a fifth-place finish.

Central Oregon Community College took the title followed by Linn-Benton, Treasure Valley, Mt. Hood, Chemeketa and Clackamas to round out the top five.

CCC's Dan Hixson took home medalist honors, firing a 77-73 for a 150 total. Randy Reid, who was leading the tournament until the last hole where he had a triple bogie, finished fifth with scores of 74-83 for a 157 total. The other three members of the Cougar squad, Bernie Pliska, Steve Winter and John Killeen, shot 36-hole totals of 177, 190 and 192 respectively.


CCC golf Coach Jim Hudson will be taking Hixson and Reid to the national tournament which will get underway next Tuesday, in Lehigh Acres, which is located on the gulf coast side of the Florida Panhandle, about 15 miles from Fort Meyers.

Hudson said, "I expect Dan to finish in the top 15." Hudson also mentioned that the wind could play a real factor in Florida, combined with the searing heat and the humidity which rarely dips below 90 percent this time of the year.

The CCC trio of coach and players will leave for Florida this Saturday and will get practice rounds on Sunday and Monday before the tournament starts on Tuesday.

"If Randy (Reid) can stay at 74 or 75, he will have a chance," said Hudson. Hudson also was concerned with the heat and said that he hoped they would allow the players to compete in shorts.

If Hixson and Pliska can battle the heat and humidity and eliminate the mistakes that so often cripple golfers, their chances of finishing in the top 20 or so look at least half-way decent.



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