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MORE ABOUT THAT BLUEGILL, ALFIE

Through the short dark days of winter, Alfie's responses, in the cold watery winter of a Bluegill, were dimmed. He lay mostly in weed beds, where he needn't spend energy even to keep himself upright. On sunny days, what little heat the pale sun gave would reach him there in the shallow water. When an extreme cold snap came and froze the surface of the slough, then Alfie retreated to the depths and became immobile in a bottom depression. He ate little, as he needed little. The lethargy brought on by the cold water reduced all activity. Alfie consumed little energy. Being cold-blooded, like all fishes, he needed no food for warmth, only for motion; and, of motion, he was sparing indeed.

Winter, like all seasons, comes to an end. An inconstant thing, winter; beginning with a

George MacAlevy

FROM The RIVER'S EDGE

crecendo of cold stealing constantly with intensely probing fingers through the water, and then phasing out in a diminishing into the warmth of spring. The sun, rising higher into the sky each day, puts its warm rays deeper into the chilled water. A Bluegill, Alfie, loses his winter lethargy, and becomes more active. His energy requirements rise as he moves about, and he is a glutton when spring arouses him. In a very short time, he becomes solid and strong again, his winter flabbiness overcome by the return of activity and appetite. Alfie has lived well in his two years of life, and as he approaches his first mature season, new urges assail him. The male Bluegills desert the school and spread out over the gravelled flat under three feet of water at the creek's mouth. Each is busy, building a pile of pebbles which is the nest for the next generation of Bluegill fry. Other males come by, too close to suit Alfie, and he moves out to attack any intruder and drive him off.

Any female Bluegill, Alfie sees, causes a different reaction. These he tries to herd onto the nest. After successfully enticing a mate, the spawning is accomplished and the fertile eggs settle into the little mound of pebbles. Alfie patrols a circle about his nest, and no matter how large or fearsome the intruder into this circle, Alfie attacks with a pugnacious ardor. What he lacks

in size is more than made up for in the ferocity of his onslaught.

The high sun of June hastens the hatching of the fry. Soon the pebble nest is alive with tiny miles of fish, still with yolk sacs attached. As the sac is consumed and dwindled, the fry start to stray from the nest. Alfie is quick to herd them back into his protective circle. Even the voracious Croppie, Tinmouth, is unable to penetrate Alfie's defense line; and Tinmouth, outweighing Alfie three to one, is an avid consumer of small Bluegill fry.

Finally, the yolk sacs are all consumed, and the little fish must forage for themselves. At this point, a sudden change comes over Alfie. His fatherly devotion disappears in a flash. He charges into his nest dispersing the young fry and chases them off the gravel bed into the surrounding weeds, then, seemingly erasing the entire event from his mind, he rejoins the assembling school of his peers in deeper water to go about his ordinary ways again.

If the summer is warm, and the feeding is good, spawning may occur again before the first chills of autumn grip the water. But until the spawning urge seizes him again, Alfie will lead his school of two year old Bluegills, oblivious to the welfare of his own progeny, back in the protective shelter of the weed beds.

SALLY'S ALLEY
News from Eagle Creek
By Shirley Hackerott 630-6368

Shortly before the end of school, the children of Eagle Creek School displayed some of their musical abilities at a Talent Show, and entertained a few of their parents, friends and teachers.

The girls from Eagle Creek and Barton who attended the County 4-H Camp at Camp Colton last week had a great time and wish they could do it again soon. This was the first camping experience for some of them, and therefore it was a fun-filled adventure, as there was lots of activities and crafts to keep them busy and many new friendships to make. When asked how the food was, the girls replied, "good and lots of it!" And they were glad the food was plentiful too, because they went on many hikes and "wore it off".

"Venturing into the Unknown" was the theme of the Barton Community Baptist Church's Vacation Bible School which was held June 3rd through the 13th. The classes met each weekday evening from 7 to 9:15 p.m. and included something for every member of the family. Dozens of children attended and enjoyed the nightly classes. Dr. C. Robert Cook, professor at Western Baptist Seminary, taught the adult Bible class from the inspiring book of James. Rev. Merl Gassaway directed the Vacation Bible School this year, and along with numerous dedicated members of the congregation, worked hard to help make the Bible School a success.

Children's Day was celebrated June 9th at the Eagle Creek Presbyterian Church. The Youth Choir sang, "Fairiest Lord Jesus", and a few of the Kindergarten group sang, "Thank You God for This New Day".

The World Fellowship Circle gathered at Florence Cloninger's home on Tuesday, June 11, for an indoor potluck picnic and continued their studies concerning Christ's peace through a life of prayer.

The Preschool Program, which is being held this summer from June 10 to July 19 at Estacada for those who will enter the first grade this coming fall, began last Monday. Many boys and girls from our area are participating in these summer classes. This program is being provided for the children with hopes that they will gain many enriching and rewarding experiences.

John and Phyllis Johnson and their family visited the Portland docks on Front Street last

Gresham Nine Tops Sandy

Gresham topped Sandy 33-5 in Cub American (North) League baseball competition this week.

Mike Swarthout led the Gresham club at the plate with four hits including two extra base hits in five trips to the plate. Richard Porter was 3-3 at the plate, Rodger Barber 2-3 and Jeff Morgan 2-5.

Mike Swarthout earned the Gresham pitching win with seven strikeouts and only one base on balls. Gresham 754 054 8-33 14 4 Sandy 000 000 5-5 1 3 Swarthout, Morgan, Arden and Opray, Lewis; Bates, Ward and Oldenkamp.

CITIZENS COLLEGE FORUM
News and Views About Mt. Hood Community College

Dick Lazler, Joe Coto, Frank Kucera, and Larry Butterfield, Mt. Hood Community College students taking archery class to fulfill the state physical education requirement, placed first as a men's team in the recent annual Oregon Collegiate Archery Contest.

They did not have to leave campus to do it either. The contest was conducted by mail, with P.E. instructor Jim Puckett mailing the results to the tabulators at Oregon College of Education. OCE came in second and Oregon Technical Institute placed third. Chris Van Ende, Barb Abbott, Diane Miller, and Betty Rusaw entered as a women's team, coming in fifth. University of Oregon placed first in women's competition.

*** Mrs. Betty Pritchett, MHCC Business Administration chairman, has been appointed to the nine-member Business Education Council for Oregon. The OBEC is a new statewide organization concerned with business education.

Sunday to see the ships tied up there in connection with the Rose Festival activities. They enjoyed going through the U.S.S. Paul Revere. The Johnsons' niece, Carol Gailey, from Gresham, is a summer guest at their home.

The June meeting of the Eagle Creek-Springwater Presbyterian Churches' Fellowship and Discussion Group will be held at the George residence of Stephen and Nancy Day this Saturday, June 15, at 8 p.m. Edwin and Jean Shibley will lead the discussion. This group is composed of young adult couples, not necessarily members of the church, who enjoy getting together for an evening of stimulating conversation.

The first swimming lessons of the season start next Monday, June 17, at the Sandy pool and will continue through the 28th. Many children of our area are looking forward to the lessons, and many more will participate in the later lessons. Registration for these classes was held last Thursday and Friday, and if anyone wished to attend but did not sign up then, you'd better call the pool (668-6333) to see if there are any vacancies.

This is my last column for quite a while, if not indefinitely. I seem to have too many "irons in the fire" and not enough ambition to go around. Consequently, if any one else is interested in helping Sally Seymour report the news of this area, please give her a call.

Short Local
Mr. and Mrs. Ben Stirdvant and daughter, Sandra, flew up from Hemet, California, to attend the high school graduation of Karen Ann Wallace, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Wallace of Rt. 2, Sandy. They also visited friends and relatives in the Portland and Sandy area.

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Recreation Report

MT. HOOD NATIONAL FOREST ZIG ZAG ROAD DEPARTMENT

ROADS -- All roads in the district are open. Trillium Lake Road S-334 between the campground and the dam is under construction but will be open over the weekend. Construction work is under way on Zig Zag Mountain Road S-27 but it too will be open for the weekend.

CAMPGROUNDS: Still Creek Campground has been added to the list of those open for use.

FISHING -- Fishing has been rather slow the past week, from most reports.

Public recreation areas in the National Forest are available to all visitors. Occupancy and use of developed recreation sites will be regulated to the extent necessary to protect the resource, safeguard the public and prevent monopolization of facilities for an extended period. These regulations will be posted on the bulletin board at each campground for your convenience.

Help us by complying with them, so that everyone can enjoy the facilities. If violations occur, the violator will be cited and brought before the U. S. Commissioner for corrective action. If you have any questions about these regulations, contact the Recreation Guard or inquire at the Ripplebrook Ranger Station.

For visitors interested in staying at Olallie lake resort, you will be interested to know that it will be open for the season starting Memorial week end.

RECREATION REPORT LAKES RANGER DISTRICT

All major recreation areas are open. The Skyline Road S-42 is open to Peninsula campground, but blocked by snow from that point south to Breitenbush lake. From Breitenbush Saddle it is open to Breitenbush lake campground. Riverside is the only campground closed to use. The pavement has not completely set up yet, and as soon as it does, this area will be open.

Fishing success continues to be poor throughout the district. Anglers at the Olallie lake area have been taking fish from eight to ten inches long.

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Johnson, Taylor Win in Golf Play

Roger Johnson and Laurence Taylor placed first in a two-some best ball tourney with 28 points Sunday at Estacada-Springwater Golf Course. Harry Sarver and Less Courtein, and Cork Ramsey and Norm Burke with 28 1/2 tied for second spot.

The Estacada Jaycees will host an 18-hole open net and gross trophy tourney Saturday, June 22, at the course. Trophies will be awarded to the top three players in each division. Play begins at 1 p.m.

This Sunday, the Men's Club will host an 18-hole flag tournament beginning at 9 a.m. Hole advance play will be counted on the first nine holes and on the 12th and 18th hole. First, second and third place prizes will be awarded.

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