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Know rules of sharing roads with cyclists

There are many bicycles on today's roads. More people are using bicycles as a means to commute for entertainment and for exercise. Some of the more common reasons include low cost to operate, reducing the consumption of fossil fuels, and exercise.

Motorists should remember these tips when sharing the road with a cyclist:

- A bicycle is considered by law to be a vehicle. When a cyclist has stopped and remains astride their bicycle at an intersection and/or for a traffic signal, they are to be treated as a vehicle waiting for their turn to proceed.
- Many children riding bicycles on the street may lack the necessary training and skills for safe cycling. They may not be aware of all dangers.
- Be alert for small children on oversized bicycles. This may increase the likelihood for loss of control.
- When passing a cyclist, go around them like you would any other vehicle. Leave lots of room.

- When you are preparing to make a right turn, watch for cyclists who may pull up alongside your vehicle.

Remember to shoulder-check your blind spots.

- When you are about to make a right turn, do not pull up beside a cyclist and then turn directly in front of them and cut them off.

- When pulling away from the curb, always check for cyclists who may be trying to pass you.

- When parked at the curb, always check for cyclists before you open your vehicle door. It's the driver's responsibility not to open the vehicle door into traffic.

- Do not follow too close behind cyclists. They do not have brake lights to warn you when they are stopping.

- Cyclists are entitled to make left turns in the same manner as motorists. Since they are more exposed to traffic on left turns, they will need extra consideration, especially on multi-lane roads.

- Cyclists are required to

ride as close as practicable to the curb, however they may need to ride further out when they have to steer away from drainage grates, pot holes, debris, loose gravel or sand, wet or slippery surfaces, rutted or grooved pavement and even dogs. Be aware of the roadway conditions that may affect a cyclist.

- Do not sound your horn unnecessarily when you are overtaking a cyclist. It may startle them and cause them to lose control. If you feel that you must use your horn, tap it quickly and lightly while you are still some distance away from the cyclist.

Cyclists should also remember that, when they are riding their bicycles on streets and highways, they are considered by law to be a vehicle.

Therefore they are required to obey all the rules of the road, which apply to other (motorized) vehicles, plus those that apply only to bicycle operators.

Cyclists using the streets and highways should:

- Never ride against traffic.

It is one of the leading causes of crashes, accounting for 15 to 20 percent of all crashes with cars.

- Keep both hands on the handlebars except when making a hand signal.

- Keep both feet on the pedals.

- Not carry more people at one time than the bicycle was designed for.

- Not hold onto, attach themselves, or attach the bicycle to any other moving vehicle.

- Only ride side by side on the road with another cyclist when it does not impede other traffic. If traffic doesn't have enough room to pass you safely, ride single file.

- Ensure the bicycle is equipped with at least one white light to the front and a red light and or red reflector mounted on the rear of the bicycle when riding between sunset and sunrise.

- Ensure the bicycle has effective brakes.

— Lincoln County Sheriffs

Spring, summer hours begin at Cape

YACHATS — Visitors to the Central Oregon Coast will have access to information and support seven days a week as the Cape Perpetual Visitor Center moves into its spring hours.

The visitor center, located three miles south of Yachats, is now open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily.

"The visitor center will be staffed with employees and volunteers familiar with the Cape Perpetua Scenic Area and Central Oregon Coast to help people make the most of their visit," said Brian Hoeh, visitor

center manager.

Within the center, visitors can acquaint themselves with the flora, fauna and natural history of the area through interpretive displays and films available upon request in the center's theater. People also can enjoy panoramic ocean views from the center's west-facing windows and observation deck.

The Cape Perpetua Scenic Area features:

- 26 miles of hiking trails through Coastal temperate rainforests
- Designated Marine

Reserve with a protected marine garden and tidepools

- Historic shelter at the top of Cape Perpetua built by the Civilian Conservation Corps

- The Giant Spruce, a designated Oregon Heritage Tree

Visitor center staff, volunteers and guests deliver interpretive programs throughout the year, most free of charge, but a day-use fee or recreation pass is required within the Cape Perpetua Scenic Area.

For more information, call visitor center staff at 541-547-3289 or visit www.fs.usda.gov/siuslaw.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Jacob Pruett

Mapleton H.S.

Track & Field

The Sailor 12th grader won two events at last week's Aaron and Marie Jones Invitational at McKenzie High School, both with personal records. Pruett won the shot put with a throw of 40' 6"; and the javelin with a toss of 142' 1".

Honorable Mention Trevver D'Auteuil

Mapleton junior Trevver D'Auteuil who won the discus at the Jones Invitational with a personal best throw of 101' 2".

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Siuslaw News Garage Sale GUIDE

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5 1/2 Miles Up North Fork Yellow Barn
Saturday, April 18th 9-4pm

Kids clothing, shoes, toys and books, Lots of Women's Nice Clothing and Shoes, Furniture, Decorating items, Household Goods and Linens, Outdoor Items.

2-Family Sale Fri.-Sat. 4/17-4/18 9am-3pm
864 Kingwood Street
Furniture, household items, misc.

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FREE garage sale signs 541-997-3441 with your ad

Coast Guard Aux. offering boating classes Saturday

CHARLESTON — The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary will conduct an 8-hour boating safety education course Saturday, April 18, in Charleston.

The course covers the basics of boating safety, rules of the road and Oregon boating laws.

A test at the end of the course will qualify boaters for their Boater Education Card, under the Oregon Mandatory Boater Education Program.

The Boater Education Card is required for all motorboat operators of all ages for boats more than 10 horsepower.

Additional provisions apply to youths.

The cost of the course and materials is \$15.

Pre-registration is required.

To register for the class, call 541-267-6152.

Day passes at new location at Honeyman Park

The Honeyman Welcome Center is now the location for all pass sales at Honeyman State Park. At this location, visitors can purchase 12- or 24-month Oregon State Park passes, Oregon Coastal Passports, ATV Permits and Oregon State Park Gift Certificates.

The Welcome Center is located off the main road of the main campground across from the playground.

Summer Hours will be extended to 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., through Labor Day

Call the park office at 541-997-3851 for information.

DEADLINE FOR PRESS RELEASES IS EVERY MONDAY AND THURSDAY BY NOON. EMAIL PRESSRELEASES@THESIUSLAWNEWS.COM.