

# On The Record

## Plan ahead for Labor Day weekend travel

Travelers celebrating Labor Day weekend can expect heavy congestion and high wildfire danger throughout much of Oregon and the Northwest. What is fresh in everyone's mind is last Labor Day when catastrophic fires affected many communities that are still recovering.

Another concern is that the Labor Day holiday is an especially deadly time for impaired driving, and the risks are even greater than normal this year as traffic volumes increase. Remember to always drive sober and responsibly, and stay alert.

Everyone should plan ahead, add travel time and pack patience for delays. Plan routes carefully, considering the many wildfire recovery areas around the state and continued wildfire risk.

Also complicating travel is the resurgence of the highly contagious COVID delta variant. Travelers should use masks and social distance

when necessary.

This summer, traffic volumes have been nearly back to typical levels on all state roads. Know road conditions before heading out by checking Tripcheck.com or calling 5-1-1.

An Oregon Department of Transportation summer construction map shows major planned projects throughout the state. To reduce risk to drivers and crews while helping traffic flow, most ODOT construction crews will pause roadwork projects between Friday, Sept. 3 and Tuesday morning, Sept. 7.

On Interstate 5, south of Ashland over the Siskiyou, drivers should expect single lane traffic in both directions throughout the summer.

### Destination reminders:

- Parking lots can fill quickly at popular recreation areas. Plan ahead, arrive early and have back-up places to visit.
- Park only in designat-

ed areas.

- Local law enforcement may ticket or tow cars parked along a roadside or another undesignated area.

- Most recreation destinations may be open, but some roads to get there could be closed.

Debris cleanup from last September's devastating wildfires has complicated the holiday and summer road picture. Work continues in key corridors connecting the Willamette and Umpqua Valleys to Central Oregon and the coast.

Travelers should use extra caution while traveling in wildfire recovery areas, and take alternate routes if possible. Speed limits are reduced, areas look different and landmarks may be gone. While state highway projects are on pause this weekend, there may be work zones and delays for private crews working on wildfire recovery.

This summer comes with extra concern about wildfires. Much of the

state is coming off a very dry spring and summer and is experiencing drought. Know and follow fire restrictions before traveling.

### Motorists can help prevent wildfires:

- Stay on paved surfaces whenever possible. Avoid roadsides where flammables such as dry grass can come in contact with a vehicle's hot exhaust system or catalytic converter.

- Prevent throwing off sparks by ensuring that all parts of your vehicle, from mufflers to chains, are secure and tires have correct pressure.

- Never toss a lit cigarette or flammable materials from a vehicle.

- Extinguish all smoking materials completely and thoroughly, away from dry grass and fuels.

- Carry a fire extinguisher in the car and know how to use it.

- Know local wildfire danger and restrictions.

Check TripCheck.com for more information.

**FENDER** — Donald "Donnie" P. Fender passed away Wednesday, Aug. 25, 2021.

Donnie was born in Prineville, Ore., to Charlie and Mildred Fender. The family moved to Florence, where Donnie and his three siblings — two brothers and one sister — enjoyed the great outdoors.

Donnie was an outstanding athlete in football and especially wrestling while attending Siuslaw High School. He came close to achieving his goal of being No. 1 in the State of Oregon in his weight class; he took second that year in state.

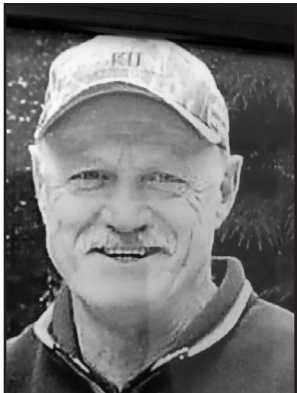
After high school, Donnie joined the military where he was stationed in Guam.

After his service in the military, Donnie returned to Oregon, where he worked in the timber industry to begin an extensive career as a fisherman. Donnie became an outstanding salmon and steelhead fisherman. If you ever got the privilege to fish with Donnie, you know you would catch fish.

Donnie was also a big fan of Oregon State Beavers. He loved his sports very much and liked to make a wager or two.

Donnie is survived by his life partner Celia Maples; her two daughters; Shelly Circle of the Florence area; Michael Nordahl of Wichita, Kansas; four grandchildren, Angela Allen, Dustin Circle and Patsy Erikson of Florence, and Chad Harbour-Nordahl of Cheny,

## OBITUARIES



Donnie Fender

Kansas.

In addition, he had seven great-grandkids with whom he loved playing basketball in the driveway and hitting golf balls with numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

There will be no memorial services at Donnie's request.

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## LCC Florence Center reopens to the public

Lane Community College (LCC) Florence Center, 3149 Oak St., is now open to the public, with on-site classes planned for fall term. Registration for credit and continuing

education classes is going on now.

For credit students, visit lanec.edu for information on getting started at LCC. Student support services, including advis-

ing, are being offered by staff at the main campus in Eugene via phone and zoom for Florence-area students. All visitors to the Florence Center must comply with LCC's man-

datory masking policy.

Classes start Sept. 27, so people can stop in to see what LCC Florence has available.

For more information, call 541-997-8444.

## Siuslaw reschedules special school board meeting

The Siuslaw School District 97J Board of Directors is holding a special meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 8, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.

The main item on the agenda is for the board to receive public comment.

The meeting will be conducted in-person at the Hans Peterson Memorial Field/South Grandstands, 2525 Oak St. In alignment with the state outdoor mask mandate, masks are required where physical distancing of 6 feet is not possible.

The meeting will also be streamed for the public through YouTube Live at <https://bit.ly/97JYouTubeChannel>.

According to the meeting announcement published by the district, "Patrons of the district are offered an opportunity to address the school board. The time limit for public comment at board meetings is 3 minutes; completion of a comment card either in person or by email is required."

If you are a member of the community and wish to provide public comment, please email your comments to 97j@siuslaw.k12.or.us by 1 p.m. on Sept. 8 or fill out a comment card upon entry to the stadium.

Submitted comments

should include full name, address and phone number to be submitted to the board and become public record.

This meeting is in place of a meeting initially planned for Sept. 1.

For more information, visit [siuslaw.k12.or.us](https://siuslaw.k12.or.us).

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