

And just like that, we're afloat!

While the gift was certainly intended for my wife on the occasion of her birthday, its transformative effect on the entire family has already made itself known.

On Saturday morning, it was my distinct pleasure to take to the Territorial Highway for a pleasant yet soggy drive to Veneta. There, I traded a few Benjamins for possession of a slightly used but otherwise incredible 15 1/2-foot canoe. On returning home, the wife gave a delighted squeal the likes of which I've not heard before, and just like that, our lives had changed: We are now boat owners, with all the possibilities and responsibilities the designation will no doubt entail.

Since moving to Oregon a little over a decade ago, we've spent countless hours near the state's waterways, which dictate much of the style and particulars of human life in these parts. It seems that nearly every human settlement features some body of water in its vicinity, with crystal-clear moun-



c.g. Daytripper

Adventures of a lifetime in an Oregon afternoon

tain lakes often to be found near rivers rushing with snowmelt, and it's clear that Oregonians' relationship with water adds much to the quality of life for those lucky enough to call this place home.

But alas, the possibilities available to our little family have thus far been severely limited; we've spent springtime confined to the bank, all the while watching boaters haul trout and salmon into their craft just a few yards away. We've rented craft of questionable merit just to get to the other side of the lake and watched as pleasure boaters

roil the waters of our local reservoirs while showing off gear with a higher monthly payment than our rent check.

By Saturday, though, much had changed, and the plans came thick and fast. While we're certainly in no shape to tackle a rushing river in our little canoe, the surfaces of a multitude of pristine lakes now await the disruption of our paddles. Fish that consider the deepest reaches of lakes such as Odell and Siltcoos and Hosmer a safe-haven may now have to think twice about the goofballs paddling overhead (we can hope). Our traditional "lake night," which adds a glorious punctuation to the summer work week, has a whole new appeal. And perhaps most importantly, our young daughter can now know the pleasures of being out on the water in a boat she's been asking for since she first began to speak.

Though the rainfall kept most folks away from local waterways this weekend, my wife and I couldn't resist chris-



photo by Jon Stinnett

A little rain didn't stop Heather Campbell from enjoying her first paddle on Dorena Reservoir Saturday.

tening the sloop at Dorena on Saturday, where even a little drizzle couldn't hamper a fantastic afternoon paddle. And there are already plans to visit the bird life at Cottage Grove Lake, the yellow perch at Mercer and the native rainbows that call Odell Lake home.

So if you see us on the water this spring and summer, you might send a friendly wave our way (boaters tend to be quite courteous). We'll be the ones in the green canoe with the three-year old belting "Frozen" lyrics and yelling her best fish call.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Divorce recovery class

The Church of Christ at 6th and Gibbs will be holding a Divorce Recovery class starting Sunday, March 29 from 6-8 p.m. for 13 weeks. This class is part of the DivorceCare program and is designed for those who are contemplating divorce, separated, or have already completed the divorce process. It covers topics such as anger, loneliness, depression, new relationships and financial survival. Anyone interested in more information can go to www.divorcecare.org or call Andrew at 541-870-7645.

Stretching a dollar

Those who have questions about spending less, clearing debt, or building their credit may want to sign up for a free 10-hour money management course called "Finding Paths to Prosperity," which will be offered on Tuesday evenings in Cottage Grove starting March 31.

The course aims to offer a comfortable interactive setting to learn ways to spend less and save more.

This course is open to all community members, free of charge, with the help of United Way of Lane County. Four 2 1/2-

hour class sessions will be held in Room 130 at the LCC campus, 1275 S. River Road in Cottage Grove. The class will be meeting from 6-8:30 p.m. for four sessions, March 31, April 7, 14, and 21. Refreshments and materials will be provided.

To register or get your questions answered, please call 541-743-7142 to talk to Colleen Stewart at St. Vincent de Paul Society of Lane County, Inc.

Ladies' clothing give-away

Riverside Community Church invites area ladies to a free la-

adies clothing give-away on Saturday, March 21 from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. There will be a light brunch with encouraging words from special Stonecroft Ministries speakers and music. More information is available by calling Sue at 541-942-7126, ext. 18.

Messiah in the Passover

Trinity Lutheran Church would like to invite the Christian as well as the Jewish community to attend a free demonstration called "Messiah in the Passover," billed as a "vivid and

exciting demonstration showing how Jesus fulfilled the ancient feast of Passover. This program also aims to help the Jewish and Christian communities understand their common heritage. The demonstration will take place Wednesday, March 25 at 7 p.m. The church is located at the corner of 6th and Quincy. Those seeking more information may call 541-942-2373.

Jarvis completes Basic Training

Airman Cody E. Jarvis graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-

Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.

The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Jarvis is the son of Michael Jarvis of Dorena, Ore., and Fawn Hilbrand of Cottage Grove, Ore. He is also the brother of A'lynn Day of Cottage Grove, Ore., and grandson of Dolli and Ken Plummer of Cottage Grove, Ore.

The airman graduated in 2014 from Cottage Grove High School, Cottage Grove, Ore.

Yoncalla craft fair

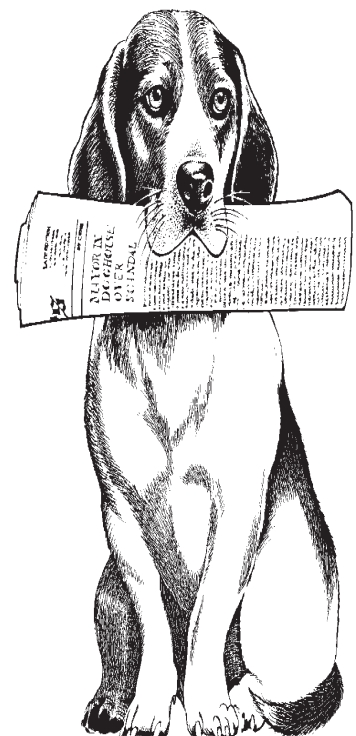
The Yoncalla Chamber of Commerce will present its second annual Spring Craft and Plant Show on Saturday, April 11 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Crafters from all over North Douglas County and beyond will present all hand crafted items and artwork for use in the home and garden. Ornamental, herbs and garden plants of many varieties will also be offered for sale.

Those interested in being a vendor at this event are urged to call soon, and those who require further information can contact Susan Turner at 541-733-6891 or Marilee Fisher at 541-849-2645.

Submarine veterans to gather

On Friday, March 27 at noon, the newly formed Rogue-Umpqua base of the United States Submarine Veterans Incorporated (USSVI) will gather at VFW Post 4116, 410 E. Main St. in Rogue River, Oregon off Interstate (I-5), Exit 48, to celebrate and honor its shipmates on "Eternal Patrol", and to hear from the main speaker, Mr. John Boundy. After serving in the Air Force, Boundy spent 30 years at Electric Boat, Groton, Connecticut, building submarines, just as his father did before him, dating back to the early days of the submarine Force. He will discuss the specifics and history of building submarines.



2015 COTTAGE GROVE HOME & GARDEN SHOW

Health & Wellness Exhibits

Crafters Market

Yard Art Contest

Gathering of the Gardeners



APRIL 11

10AM-6PM

APRIL 12

NOON-5PM

VENDORS • DEMONSTRATIONS • FREE TO PUBLIC