



The Chatterbox

Locales locals love: Recommending sights to see for Oregon's visitors

BY BETTY KAISER
For the Sentinel

Last month, Oregon Senator Ron Wyden sent me (and several thousand others) an email letter about the Seven Wonders of Oregon. In the letter he describes his seven-day trip around the state to meet with local businesses and discuss the state's growing recreation economy. He also visited Oregon's natural icons. They are:

1. Crater Lake (Deepest Lake in America)
2. Mt. Hood
3. Columbia River Gorge
4. Oregon Coast
5. Painted Hills
6. Smith Rock
7. The Willows

I surveyed the above list with an eye to my annual August tour guide duties. August is the month when out-of-town family and friends descend upon us. Usually, when they get here, they're tired. They are happy to plunk themselves down on the deck, read a book, sip some iced tea, enjoy the wildlife or close their eyes and take a nap. They really don't expect us to take them anywhere.

I'm the one with the expectations. None of which measure up to the places on Senator Wyden's list. As the month of August winds down, so does my tour guide brain! My places-to-go list for grandsons and guests hasn't changed in years (Sahalie Falls, UO, historical places, water parks, Wildlife Safari, any place that sells elephant ears, etc.).

In an effort to change my course, I decided to poll a few friends on their favorite places to take visitors in and

around Cottage Grove and Lane County; i.e. Places close to home. Following are some of their tips. These are personal opinions. No money has changed hands for their input. Initials have been used to protect the innocent.

Along Main Street, folks liked strolling into shops—antique, jewelry, the museums, whatever. Book stores are especially popular. Everyone had a favorite place to eat or beverage stop. I started to list them all and realized that if I left a restaurant out I would be toast! Suffice it to say that you will not go hungry or thirsty in our town.

J.P. combined a variety of activities: "In the summer I take guests to the Concerts in the Park and the Art Walk. I drive upriver and stop along the way to admire the beauty. A drive in the country (maybe along Sears Road) and the swinging bridge adds excitement." R. H. added his two cents with four words: "Pancakes up Bohemia Saddle."

Many folks recommended the Covered Bridge Tour. My favorite comment came from S.L. who said: "One Sunday at the Community Center a couple with a British accent asked me if this was where they filmed 'Bridges of Madison County. I told them 'no,' it was clear on the other side of the USA. They were very nice and must have come from across the pond but were happy with directions on the maps."

For the physically fit, A.C. suggested this route: "If visitors are energetic, we take them for a hike to Trestle Falls on the Umpqua Forest or bicycling on the Row River Trail. For bird watching, the

Row River Nature Park is great and has an amazing number of species including both great blue herons and green herons; often you can see osprey and bald eagles there, too, as well as multiple warblers, woodpeckers and migrating ducks in the fall."

Short area walks, hikes and bike rides along the Row River Trail are also popular. Former resident S. B. recommends the labyrinth at the Village Green. B. G. suggested a hike to Brice Creek Falls. Not difficult but beautiful. B.I. added, "We just think that the C.G. Lake area is hard to beat for scenery. We are so blessed to live here!"

C.A. suggested that Lane County is an avid golfer's paradise: "Eugene's Fiddler's Green is a golfer's delight along with Emerald Valley in Creswell; Middlefield and Hidden Valley in C.G.; Sandpines in Florence and Tokatee near Blue River."

The Oregon Coast is always a must-see. L.M. said, "Most of our visitors are from California. They always love the coast. It's rugged beauty is in sharp contrast to their beautiful but treeless beaches."

B. W. reminded me of a personal favorite that I can vouch is worth the trip: "Sweet Creek Falls Trail. It's on the way to Florence, about 11 miles to the trailhead off Hwy. 126 in the Siuslaw National Forest. An easy-to-moderate hike follows the 70-foot drop in 4four tiers. The 2 1/2 miles of trail has moderate steps, wooden bridges with hand rails."

Now I'm going to break my rule and name a restaurant since it's out of the city limits. C.A. said, "In Florence, just around the corner from

Mo's is Lovejoy's Teahouse. It's a little-known but popular gem. They serve traditional English food and have yummy scones with preserves and clotted cream, a variety of English tea sandwiches (cucumber, egg salad and watercress), petit fours, and a variety of loose leaf teas served in your own teapot.

Replies waxed absolutely poetic about lunch at King Estate: B. G. said, "The patio affords a beautiful view of the Loraine Valley with a distant view of snow capped mountains. In summer as you drive through the property toward the main building, your eyes feast on the lush green grape vines allowing one to see grapes in their formative stage. Fall brings the harvest with leaves of gold and orange and grapes showing their distinctive purple color."

Well, I'm out of room, but I think the point has been made: You don't have to go far to have a good time in C.G. and Lane County. There's always somewhere to go, something to do and someplace to eat. If you're still lost, check out the Chamber of Commerce. Great stuff!

And don't forget—this weekend it's time for the WOE Heritage Fair and Lumberjack Show. You can enjoy a historical event and eat elephant ears. I'll see you there!

Betty Kaiser's Chatterbox is about people, places, family, and other matters of the heart. Contact her at 942-1317 or via e-mail — bkchatty@bettykaiser.com

Opal Center presents mythology anthology

The Opal Center in Cottage Grove announces its production of "The Iliad, the Odyssey, and all of Greek Mythology in 99 Minutes or Less." David Work and Jim Curtiss are directing this fun comedy, which runs Aug. 21, 22, 23, 28, 29 and 30. In this imaginative retelling of some of the worlds most famous mythology by Jay Hopkins and John Hunter, the Gods walk the Red Carpet. The Creation of Mankind is a botched subcontractor's job and Man and Pandora try settling down despite an ominous wedding gift.

Love stories are a dating show and the Greek Tragedies are sports highlights.

All the silly decisions, the absurd destinies, and the goofy characters are presented lightning-bolt fast with hysterical results as the clock is stopped with only seconds to spare. The actors, Phil Dempsey, Bradley Wilson, Earl Ruttencut-

ter, Elaine Slatore, and Chelsea Armstrong, will play 25-30 characters each, all while trying to beat the clock!

Co-Director David Work said, "The Opal Center is the perfect venue for this type of play. We make use of a small cast on a very limited set in a small space. Although we use props and costume pieces to differentiate many of these historic characters, our actors use their bodies and voices to bring each character individuality."

Doors open at 7 p.m. for Friday/Saturday performances at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday Matinees doors open at 1:30 p.m. with performances at 2 p.m. The Opal Center is located at 513 E Main Street, Cottage Grove, OR. Tickets (available online <https://www.artful.ly/store/events/6456> or at The Crafty Mercantile, 517 E Main) are \$10 for ages 13 and up and \$5 for ages 12 and under.

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6th & Gibbs Church of Christ
195 N. 6th St. • 541-942-3822
Pastor: Aaron Earlywine
Youth & Families Pastor: Seth Bailey
Services: 9am and 10:30am
Christian Education
Nursery for pre-k - 3rd Grade
www.6thandgibbs.com

Calvary Baptist Church
77873 S 6th St • 541-942-4290
Pastor: Riley Hendricks
Sunday School: 9:45am
Worship: 11:00am
The Journey: Sunday 5:00pm
Praying Thru Life: Wednesday 6:00pm

Calvary Chapel Cottage Grove
1447 Hwy 99 (Village Plaza)
541-942-6842
Pastor: Jeff Smith
Two Services on Sun: 9am & 10:45am
Wednesday Service 6:45 pm
Child Care 10:45am Service Only
Youth Group Bible Study:
Wed. 6:45 pm & Sat. 6 pm
www.cgcalvary.org

Center for Spiritual Living Cottage Grove
700 Gibbs Ave (Community Center)
Rev. Bobby Lee
Meets Sunday 3:00 p.m.
Info: 541-767-0182 (Mrs. "T")

Church of Christ
420 Monroe St • 541-942-8565
Sunday Service: 10:30am

Cottage Grove Bible Church
1200 East Quincy Avenue
541-942-4771
Pastor: Bob Singer
Worship 8:30am, 11am
Sunday School: 9:45am
Youth Group Mondays 6:30pm
AWANA age 3-8th Grade,
Wednesdays Sept-May, 6:30pm
www.cgbible.org

Cottage Grove Faith Center
33761 Row River Rd. • 541-942-4851
Lead Pastor: Isaac Hovet
www.cg4.tv
Sumer Schedule Sunday, Service - 10am
Full Children's Ministry available

Covered Bridge Nazarene Church
152 S. M St.
541-942-4422
Pastor: Cindy Slaymaker
Sunday School: 9:30am
Worship 10:30am

Delight Valley Church of Christ
33087 Saginaw Rd. East
541-942-7711
Pastor: Bob Friend
Two Services:
9am - Classic in the Chapel
10:30am - Contemporary in the Auditorium

First Baptist Church
301 S 6th St 541-942-8242
Pastor: Steve Johnson
Sunday School: 9:30am
Worship: 11:00am
Come Worship with us

First Presbyterian Church
3rd and Adams St • 541-942-4479
Pastor: Rev. Bruce Cameron
Worship: 10:00am
Sunday School: 10:00am
www.cgpresbynews.com

Grove Community Church
77820 Mosby Creek Rd.
Cottage Grove, OR 97424
541-942-0123
Pastor: Bryan Parsons
Worship: 10:30 a.m.
Nursery: Infant - Pre-K
Kid's Church: K to 5th grade

Hope Fellowship United Pentecostal Church
100 S. Gateway Blvd. • 541-942-2061
Pastor: Dave Bragg
Worship: 11:00am Sunday
Bible Study: 7:00pm Wednesday
www.hopefellowshipupc.com
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Living Faith Assembly
467 S. 10th St. • 541-942-2612
Pastor Rulon Combs
Sunday School All Ages 9am
Worship & Children's
Church 10:30 am
"The Bridge" Sat Evening Service 6:00pm
Youth 180 Mondays 5:30-8pm
Children's Breakout Class: Wed. 6:30pm

Non-Denominational Church of Christ
1041 Pennoyer Ave * 541-767-0447
Preachers: Tony Martin & Robert Evans
Sunday Bible Study: 10:00am
Sunday Worship: 10:50am & 5:30pm
www.pennoyeravcoc.com

Old Time Gospel Fellowship
103 S. 5th Street • 541-942-4999
Pastor: Herb Carson
Sunday Service: 10:00am
Sunday Bible Study: 6:00pm
We sing the old time hymns.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help and St. Philip Benizi Catholic Churches
1025 N. 19th St.
541-942-3420 / 541-942-4712
Pastor: Roy L. Antunez, S.J.
Euch. Liturgies; Sat. 5:30pm
Sun. 10:30am
St. Philip Benizi, Creswell:
552 Holbrock Lane • 541-895-8686
Sunday: 8:30am

St. Andrews Episcopal Church
1301 W. Main • 541-767-9050
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Seventh-day Adventist Church
820 South 10th Street
541-942-5213
Pastor: Kevin Miller
Bible Study: Saturday, 9:15 am
Worship Service: Saturday, 10:40 am
Mid-week Service: Wednesday, 1:00 pm

Trinity Lutheran Church
6th & Quincy • 541-942-2373
Pastor: James L. Markus
Sunday Worship 9:30am
Adult Education 10:45am
Comm. Kitchen Free Meal Tue & Thur
5:00pm TLC Groups
trinitylutherancottagegrove.com

United Methodist Church
334 Washington • 541-942-3033
Pastor: Lura Kidner-Miesen
Worship: 10:30am
Adult & Sunday School: 9:30am
Comm. Dinner (Adults \$5, Kids Free)
Mon. 5-6:30pm
cottagegroveumc.org

"VICTORY" Country Church
913 S. 6th Street • 541-942-5913
Pastor: Barbara Dockery
Worship Service: 10:00am
Message: 11:00am
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