

Dunes trailhead offers fun in surreal landscape

BY JON STINNETT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel



photo by Jon Stinnett

Sand dunes on the Oregon coast offer an unspoiled landscape that's easy to enjoy for adults and kids alike.



based on the angle it's hit (or not) by the sunshine. Heading back toward home, we made a stop at the Umpqua Lighthouse for a bit more scenery and the chance to see two whales gamboling about between the jetties before heading back out to sea. It could go without saying that we'll need months to cleanse our clothes, shoes and automobile of the sand we acquired.

The trailhead, located 10 1/2 miles south of Reedsport, leads visitors down a half-mile trail through a scrubby conifer forest, then opens up onto a landscape of giant dunes, valleys and sandy hideaways that's shaped anew by the weather between each visit. From there, it's two miles to the beach, a route that's unmarked because it's constantly evolving. The trail winds through territory named for former U.S. Congressman John Dellenback, who, according to signage

posted at the trailhead, counted his part in conserving the dunes as one of the major accomplishments of his political career. Surveying the area from the highest sand dune, it would be difficult to disagree with that assessment.

With such a short drive from Cottage Grove to reach the dunes, it's a perfect day trip, even in the short days of winter, when temperatures on the coast often top those further inland. In past years, we've thrown in a crab pot at the Winchester Bay dock, then hit the dunes, returning with the hope of a fresh crab dinner awaiting us. Located adjacent the trailhead, Eel Creek Campground offers secluded campsites that we're still planning to try someday, and the trailhead is located about 16 miles from further opportunities in Coos Bay and nearby Charleston, also a family favorite.

C.G. Daytripper celebrates and documents the many amazing destinations accessible with just a short car ride from the Cottage Grove area. Suggestions for day trips for this column can be sent to cnews@cgsentinel.com.

“Look out below!”

The warning, issued from atop the crest of a sand dune several stories high, became one of her favorite phrases that afternoon, as much an expression of exultation as an announcement that our four-year old was about to barrel full-steam, arms and legs flailing wildly, back down the sandy hillside she'd just laboriously climbed.

My wife and I have been visiting the John Dellenback Dunes Trailhead south of Winchester Bay for several years, and the destination — which may be the most striking example of the ability to find oneself on a seemingly different planet after but a short drive from Cottage Grove — was one of the favorite stops of our dear departed Labrador retriever, Sam.

Saturday's visit, our first in several years, offered the added bonus of bringing an active youngster to what's essentially the biggest sandbox she may ever see, and throughout an afternoon blessed by blazing sunshine and much warmer temperatures than could be found in the Willamette Valley, we took turns making up routes to run around the many sandy hills and valleys, then stopped to make a sand volcano and take in the surreal, breathtaking scenery.

Which is not to say that the adults didn't also enjoy the outing. While it took a little while for me to shed inhibitions and a head full of another week's worries, my wife took to the occasion immediately, flinging herself headlong more than a few times down the biggest dune in the area. Our chocolate lab, Jack, blazed his own trail, scampering up and up through loose, ankle-deep sand and sprinting in circles to shed his own seemingly boundless energy. By late afternoon, each of us had logged several miles on uneven terrain that engages every foot and leg muscle in the body, marveling at how the temperature of the sand varies by degrees

LORANE COUNTRY NEWS

BY LIL THOMPSON
For the Sentinel

Lorane Grange meets this Thursday, Dec. 3 at 7:30 p.m. Their annual Christmas Dinner is Sunday, Dec. 13 at 1:30 p.m.

Turkey, dressing, ham, potatoes and beverages are furnished. Everything else is potluck. The Lorane community is invited.

Be sure to bring canned goods or non-perishable items for the Christmas baskets for those in need in Lorane.

The Eugene Youth Ballet will perform for the Applegate students this Thursday, Dec. 3 at 2:15 p.m. in the gym, and guests may come and watch.

The Applegate winter pro-

gram is Thursday, Dec. 15 with dinner at 5:30 p.m. and performances at 7 p.m. Everyone is asked to bring a can or box of dried goods. All food will go to our CAL families.

The next half-day for art is Friday, Dec. 11. Alyssa Shepherd will guide participants through the annual holiday ornament and candle-making. Classes are \$10, but scholarships are available. Contact Alyssa at 541-556-8151 or go to malysa2@

yahoo for more information.

Angel Trees are up in the Lorane Family Store and Crow High/Middle School. Be sure to take a tag and help a child in our Lorane/ Crow communities have a better Christmas. Also, holiday helpers are still needed. Those who would like to help or know of someone who needs help can contact them c/o Applegate Elementary by Friday, Dec. 4 or call 541-686-5140 for more information.

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Fri, December 18.....Heavy Chevy Lite - classic rock

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CG

Worship Directory

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.
(907) 230-5070
www.facebook.com/CSLCottageGrove

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 11am
Sunday School: 9:45am
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
Dec. 24th - Candlelight Services 4 & 8pm
Dec. 27 - 10am service only

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: Karen Hill
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.pennoyeravecoc.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
Rev. Lawrence Crumb
"Church with the flags."
Worship: Sunday 10:30am
All Welcome

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 School & Adult Education 9:15am
Sunday Worship 10:30 am
Comm. Kitchen Free Meal Tue & Thur
5:00pm TLC Groups
tlccg.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)
2nd & 3rd Monday 5-6:00pm
cottagegroveumc.org

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

Our Worship Directory is a weekly feature in the newspaper. If your congregation would like to be a part of this directory, please contact the Cottage Grove Sentinel at 541-942-3325.