

DAMS

Continued from page 1A

bring to local economies, in addition to the \$100 million or so in electricity produced by hydroelectric power plants through partnerships with the Bonneville Power Authority and Lane Electric Co-op, among others.

But make no mistake — the dams' primary purpose is flood control. The system allows the Corps to manage 77 percent of the runoff of the Willamette and its tributaries, Bengston said, though waterways like Mosby Creek, which is not regulated, add intrigue to the management of a reservoir like Dorena. It takes about two to three days for water to make its way throughout the entire system, and the close of 2015 and start of 2016 have given the Corps a lot more water to manage than the extremely dry weather the Willamette Valley experienced in months prior.

"Flows like we had in December are educational," Bengston said. "They give us a hint of what the rivers could look like if the dams didn't exist."

Data provided by the National Atmospheric and Oceanic Administration's Northwest River Forecast Center also offers such insight. On Dec. 18, 2015, at a gauging station at Goshen past which the combined waters of the Row and Coast Fork of

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the Willamette Rivers flow, the height of the river peaked at 11.27 feet. Had those high flows not been regulated, according to the NWRFC's estimates, the river could have reached 15.1 feet in a location where it is considered full at 11.7 feet. Minor flood stage there is 13 feet, and major flooding occurs at heights of 18 feet or higher. (Information from the Goshen gauging station can be found at: <http://www.nwrfc.noaa.gov/river/station/flowplot/flowplot.cgi?GOSO3>).

Younger generations may find it difficult to envision a time when flooding was a more regular part of life in Cottage Grove, but historical photos showcasing this community's downturn underwater help shed light on wetter times, and an article printed in the Sentinel in December of 1955 touted the two dams' usefulness in preventing major flooding:

"While most of Oregon suffered from damaging and deathly floods, Cottage Grove remained comparatively free from the disaster," the article stated. "The

reasons for Cottage Grove's freedom from floods were two products of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Dorena and Cottage Grove dams. Neither of these two dams entirely stopped the rampaging flood water that flowed into them, but they controlled it."

The Corps completed Cottage Grove Dam in 1942 at a cost of \$3.3 million; Dorena Dam followed in 1949. An excellent article on the construction of the Cottage Grove Dam appears in Marie Gilham Geer's book "They Called it Hebron," about a community displaced when the dam was created. In it, Geer recounts that the dam spared the area from serious flooding in 1941, then again in the autumn of 1942, when 20 inches of rain fell in just over a month.

These days, the dams are used to "take the peaks off the big storms from December through May," explained the Corps' Public Affairs Officer, Amy Echols.

"You'll see high water levels after a rain event because we're releasing the water that we held back until the coast is clear,"

Echols said. Information from the U.S. Geological Survey and the NOAA's Northwest River Forecast Center is used to determine the Corps' course of action, whether it be to release water through the dams' regulating outlets or hold it back.

"We look at the weather forecast 10 days out to get something of a picture, but the forecast at three days out is where we start to get clarity," Bengston said.

Replenishing rains in late spring are allowed to fill the dams for the summer recreation season, after which they are again emptied in the fall in anticipation of winter, and Bengston said that these spring rains do more to fill the reservoirs than the annual melt of the snowpack in the mountains.

"We're asked questions a lot about refilling the reservoirs in the Willamette Valley," he said. "The spring rains are what really fill the reservoir."

The website for the Corps of Engineers' Portland District, located at <http://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/Missions/Water.aspx>, offers data on river flows and fill levels at each of the valley's 13 dams through "teacup diagrams."



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The Smithsonian Institution,
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**"Exploring Human Origins:
What Does It Mean To Be Human?"**

Feb. 17th Science Program 6-8pm
with Smithsonian Dr. Rick Potts

Feb 18th Community Conservation 6-8pm
with Drs. Connie Bertka & Jim Miller

**Feb 22nd Full Moon Celebration, Music,
"Cave Painting" Family Friendly Event 6-8pm**

For more information: Cottage Grove Public Library:
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EXHIBIT

Continued from page 1A

members in regard to the exhibit's visit.

Pobiner, however, said that the conversations surrounding the exhibit are meant to find a way to have a productive discussion regarding human origins.

"Sometimes there's an agreement to disagree, but most people who visit the exhibit want to find the room to have a conversation," she said. "The discussions can be lively, but they're rarely negative or confrontational. That's not the tone we're trying to set."

Pobiner said that one requirement of the application process

for the exhibit was to showcase a plan for events to accompany the exhibit. Following next Wednesday's clergy meeting, a conversation will take place from 6-8 p.m. that examines the exhibit's main themes. Pobiner said she'll also be leading a workshop for local educators about teaching human evolution, including the experiences they've had teaching the subject in the past. The donation of five replica human skulls that teachers can check out as a reference material accompanies each of the exhibit's stops.

Some of the events scheduled as part of the Smithsonian's ex-

hibit include:

Anthropology workshop at Cottage Grove High School: Thursday, Feb. 18, 12:30-2:15 p.m. Andrea Eller and her team from the Comparative Osteology lab at the University of Oregon will lead.

Educator workshop: Feb. 18, 3-5 p.m., a workshop for classroom teachers, museum and other educators.

Community conversation: Feb. 18, 6-8 p.m. A conversation meant to "help us understand each other's perspectives."

Full moon celebration: Monday, Feb. 22, 6-8 p.m. at the Library.

Wisdom Seekers discussion: Thursday, Feb. 25, 6-8 p.m. Group will discuss what it means to be human.

Human origins tour and family art: Saturday, Feb. 27 from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Cave painting with Tinika at the Library.

Human Origins Oregon: Thursday, March 3, 6-8 p.m. Paisley, Columbia and Fort Rock Caves: 15000 years of History.



February is National Children's Dental Health Month

The tooth, the whole tooth and nothing but the tooth

Who's the top-grossing actor in kids' tooth decay stories? Sugar. And in February 2016, during National Children's Dental Health Month, the American Dental Association is bringing "Sugar Wars"™ to a dentist's office near you.

Your child's dental hygiene isn't only about brushing and flossing. The best way to prevent tooth decay and the costly dental cavities that result is to tackle the problem where it starts: eating sugary foods.

Everyone likes a treat now and then, but when you and your kids do indulge, it's extra important to remember a couple of things.

- Don't eat candies or sugary foods throughout the day; the bacteria that cause decay feed on sugar, so it's important to give your mouth a break.

- Brush your teeth with a dentist-recommended toothpaste after you've eaten a sugary snack or dessert. This does two things: it removes any stuck food particles from the teeth and gums, and it helps the saliva return to a normal pH level that doesn't favor tooth decay.

Generally, it's best to avoid eating sugary foods every day for your dental health and overall health. Opt for desserts that feature fresh or frozen fruits, nuts and low-sugar recipes. At snack time, choose fresh fruit or vegetables, nuts, cheese, whole-grain products or other low-sugar foods that don't easily get stuck in the teeth. Plan an attack on sugary sodas, fruit drinks pastries and candies.

Teaching your kids good dental habits is the best way to fight the Sugar Wars. Remind them to brush at least twice a day (once before going to bed), rinse after snacking, floss daily and choose low-sugar snacks.

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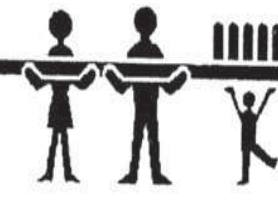


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