

CAMPS

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of their trespassing and give them an amount of time in which to clean up the area and find another place to be.

In the weeks since the effort began, Branstetter said CGPD has contacted most of the illegal campers, and he added that police have seen progress in clean-up efforts there despite the litter that remains.

"The campers have been cordial and understanding so far,

but we don't want to get complacent," he said. "The camps are big enough that we don't want to just go in there and tell everyone to leave, or there's a good chance they'll leave a lot of trash behind. It's too much physical material for us or the property owners to have to deal with."

Branstetter said both camps have existed for a while, with one of the northern campers having reportedly lived there for over three years.

"They're common knowledge among folks without a house in the area," Branstetter said. "Everybody seems to know everybody."

He said that as long as progress toward cleanup remains, police will be understanding toward the situation, though the campers risk citations or arrest for trespassing if they remain.

Branstetter said that the camps can be a dangerous place to be, with the risk of victimization high for those who reside

there. But for Chief Shepherd, the simple fact that the camps' residents are trespassing is reason enough for their eviction.

"It's illegal to camp on private property," Shepherd said. "Not one of these people has permission to be there, and the landowners want them off. It's against the law, and they're committing a crime."

Shepherd countered the notion that the residents are being evicted in response to any other illegal acts they may be commit-

ting or the perception of them in the community.

"We're not trying to clean up Cottage Grove's crime problem by kicking these people out of their camps," he said. "But it's a simple fact that you can't camp in the City."

Branstetter acknowledged that the future of many of the camps' residents remains unclear.

"They have to go somewhere," he said, a sentiment echoed by Shepherd.

"Everyone needs a place to

go," Shepherd said. "But you can't just go to a place and trash it. There needs to be a solution, but it's not a police department issue; it's a community issue."

Next week's Sentinel will feature an interview with one of the former residents of the southern camp, who will share her experiences with homelessness in the Cottage Grove area and her plans now that the camps are no longer an option.

OFFBEAT

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It was only then that the frontier doctors and coroners discovered the truth: "Charley" was short for "Charlotte," not "Charles."

The truth slowly emerged: Orphaned as a little girl, Charlotte had run away from the orphanage and dressed as a boy to disguise herself. The disguise had opened so many doors for her that she'd never switched back.

In 1868, "Charley" was registered to vote in the Presidential election that elected Ulysses S. Grant. If she cast that vote, as she most likely did, she was probably the first woman to

vote for a president since before 1907, when the franchise was still tied to land ownership in a few eastern states.

Lola Baldwin

First sworn policewoman in U.S. history

There is some dispute as to whether Lola Baldwin was really the first policewoman; it comes down to one's definition of "police officer." She didn't wear a uniform or walk a beat. But in 1908, when Baldwin was officially hired by the Portland Police Department, it was the first time a city P.D. had sworn a woman in and given her police

power, badge and salary.

Baldwin was a teacher and social-hygiene activist from back east who moved to Portland with her husband, a dry-goods merchant, in the late 1890s. As a volunteer with the Travelers' Aid Society, she soon developed a sterling local reputation as a strong, effective, compassionate advocate for young women. Meanwhile, the Lewis and Clark Centennial Exposition was coming to Portland, and Mayor Harry Lane was worried about out-of-town swindlers and human traffickers rolling into town and preying upon the young women working at the fair.

Baldwin threw herself into the work, checking out newspaper ads that seemed to promise big paychecks for light work, catching statutory rapists and human-trafficking operators (they called them "white slavers" back then) and getting "fallen women" and "unwed mothers" the help they needed. She also earned a reputation for fair dealing among saloon and brothel proprietors, with whom she often worked to keep underage girls away from their businesses.

In 1908, having worked for three years as a volunteer supported by local charities, Baldwin put the touch on the Port-

land City Council to create the "Women's Auxiliary to the Police Department for the Protection of Girls," and hire her to run it. She laid out her case in very rational, logical terms ... and then, in mild tones, closed the deal with mic-dropping finality:

"We notice that there was \$5,030 used this year for the dog pound, and an additional \$1,000 is asked for 1908," she remarked. Wouldn't the city consider allocating just half that amount, she added, "for practical, positive protection for the growing girlhood of the city of Portland?"

It certainly could. In fact, what choice did it have?

(Sources: Myers, Gloria. A Municipal Mother. Corvallis: OSU Press, 1995; blog of Dr. Kimberly Jensen of Western Oregon University at kimberlyjensenblog.blogspot.com; archives of The New York Times, 1879-1880)

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Summer Camp

Choosing the right summer camp

It can be difficult to envision warm summer days when the wind is blowing and the snow is falling. However, the winter months are a great time to explore summer camp options. In fact, many camps have strict enrollment timelines that require decisions to be made prior to spring.

Attending summer camp has been a tradition in the United States for more than 150 years. Statistics indicate that around 30 million American kids attend summer camp each year. There are many benefits to summer camp. Camp enables children to

stay engaged during the summer when there may be limited interaction with school friends. It also gives parents who both a safe and viable daycare solution during the summer.

Summer camp pulls together children from different neighborhoods, social classes and backgrounds, which can make it a good place to meet new people — some of whom may become lifelong friends. Camps also provide a variety of activities that can challenge children to try new things that go beyond their comfort zones.

Some children are very receptive to the idea of attending summer camp. Others need a little coaxing. But summer camp should never be forced on a child who does not want to go. In such instances, consider local daytime programs that may fill the void instead of programs that require being away from home. Once the decision for summer camp is made, there are some questions to answer.

- What are your finances like? Do you have a budget for summer camp?
- What size camp do you desire?
- Should the camp be co-ed or single sex?
- How far do you want your child to travel for summer camp? What are the options in your area?
- Are there any camps that have been recommended by friends or family members?
- What kinds of activities do your children enjoy?

These types of questions will help you narrow down your options. Then you can visit and interview camps to find one that is the best fit. When visiting camps, go armed with a checklist of questions. Some of these can include:

- What is the philosophy of the camp?
- Can you explain a typical day?
- What are the types of activities and facilities offered?
- What is the camper-to-counselor ratio?
- What is the camp's drug/alcohol policy?
- Does the camp have insurance and security personnel?
- What percentage of staff return each year? How are staff selected and trained?
- What kind of health care is provided?
- Can you tell me about the policy on phone calls and family visits?
- What do you do in the event of emergencies?

There are many different camps available. Some offer a "little bit of everything." Others cater to academics, sports, specific hobbies, or even religious preferences. Don't wait too long to research and sign up for camps, because many fill up quite early or have an extensive waiting list. That is why choosing a camp should be part of a winter to-do list.



Summer camp is a fun way that millions of children spend their summers each year.

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