

BEYOND THE GROVE

News from Lane County and CG's neighbors

BRIEFS FROM BEYOND

Family Safety Fair

PeaceHealth announces that it will host its Family Safety Fair on Saturday, May 21 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Willamalane Center for Sports and Recreation, 250 S. 32nd St. in Springfield.

The event includes a Kohl's car seat clinic, bike helmet fitting/giveaway, distracted driving game, teddy bear first aid clinic, swim safety station, free home safety items such as furniture straps and more.

Butterfly Run

Signups are open for the Elktion Community Education Center (ECEC) annual Elktion Butterfly Run on Saturday, June 18. The event features a family friendly 5K fun run/walk with bursts of color along the scenic route. There will be a free quarter-mile supervised loop run through the ECEC grounds for kids 10 years or under. The 2016 Butterfly Run is produced in memory of the run founder, John Bradley, and held at the

ECEC site, 15850 Highway 38 West, Elkton.

Participants are encouraged to wear eye protection. On line registration is available at the ECEC website www.elktionbutterflies.com.

Master Preservers class at ECEC

On Sunday, May 22 from 1-3:30pm, the Master Food Preservers will host a workshop at ECEC, 15850 Highway 38, Elkton, with information about food preservation practices and equipment. Participants will learn tips and tricks so they can enjoy eating locally produced foods year round. The class costs \$15 and is limited in size. Reservation forms are available at ECEC or the OSU Extension Service. For information, contact ECEC at 541-584-2692 or info@elktionbutterflies.com.

Yoncalla Parks and Rec meeting

A public meeting of the Yoncalla Parks and Recreation District will be held on Tuesday, June 7 at 6:30 p.m. at the Yoncalla Community Center, 400 Main Street in Yoncalla to discuss the budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016, as approved by the Yoncalla Parks & Recreation District Budget Committee. A copy of the budget may be inspected or obtained at Yoncalla Parks & Recreation District (office), 166 Halo Trail Road between the hours of 9 a.m. and 2 p.m.

'56 Pontiac' in Drain

The Drain Civic Center, located at 205 West A Street, will present the music of '56 Pontiac on Friday, May 20 from 7-9 p.m.

Admission is \$5 per person.

N. Douglas budget meeting

A Budget Meeting for North Douglas High School is scheduled for Wednesday, May 25 at 6 p.m. at the High School library.

This event calendar is for meetings, cultural events, etc. for Drain, Yoncalla or Elkton. Deadline for calendar is at least two weeks prior to event.

(Any kind of Sales event, i.e. garage sales, estate sales, plant sales, etc., must go in classifieds.)

Email to legals@cgsentinel.com or call 541-942-3325.



LORANE COUNTRY NEWS

BY LIL THOMPSON
For the Sentinel

Several exciting and interesting events are planned this week and next in the school district: On Wednesday, May 18, is the second drama performance of the comedy "I Wish...A Fairy's Fairytale" at 7 p.m. in the Crow Middle/High School Cafeteria. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for children, but those who bring in a canned food or non-perishable food item will have \$2 taken off their cost. Food goes to Food

for Lane County, and all money goes into the Drama Program. On Thursday, May 19, the CAL School Board meets in Applegate Elementary at 7 p.m. following the executive session. Hopefully, by now, most of you know about the 10-year Developing Master Plan for the district buildings to bring student security and safety while updating and repairing area schools. Those interested may go to the district website and fill out the survey. There will also be time for questions at the school board meeting

On Friday, May 20, Minidoka, a Japanese swing band, will perform in the gym at Crow Middle/High School from 1-2 p.m. Rural Art Center is responsible as a part of the "Artist in Residence" program. The students have been studying about Japanese internment camps. Desserts will be served following the program at 2 p.m. and the band will be available for a meet and greet in the Cafeteria.

Those who were unable to attend the Kindergarten Round-up last week can call the CAL District office, 541-935-2100 with

information about their kinder. Children must turn five by Sept. 1, 2016 for the 2016-17 school year.

The track and field 2A state meet is this week, May 19 and 20 at Hayward Field. There will be no school on Monday, May 30 for Memorial Day. School is winding down and seniors are preparing for graduation, which is scheduled for June 10. On June 3, the time capsule buried by the class of 1967 will be opened at 6 p.m.

Calling all weavers...several people want to start a guild meeting in the Cottage Grove area twice a month for all levels from beginners to advanced. Lifelong weaver Pat Olivier wants to pass on her knowledge. Those interested can call Marilyn at 541-942-6073 or Julie or Sami at the Yarn Shop on Main Street in Cottage Grove at 541-942-6924.

The Rebekahs are having a workday at the Oddfellows' Cemetery this Saturday, May 21 at 9 a.m. to prepare the grounds for Memorial Day. Participants are asked to bring the usual work tools.

Something wickedly wonderful this way came — and left much too soon

BY NED HICKSON
News Media Corporation

It's a strange juxtaposition I find myself, watching the arrival of the carnival in our small town each year and seeing the excitement in the eyes of our children. But as the rides are hammered together late into the evening, I am reminded of the night 15 years ago when my best friend called to tell me he was coming back home to Oregon — because he was dying.

He was 30 years old. In September of 1995, I received a letter from my mother. Included with it was something she'd cut out of the local paper, something written by a young man who, that July, had become the new sports reporter for our newspaper back home. As I unfolded the three-column rectangle of newsprint, a smiling face appeared below the wide brim of an Australian-style hat.

The face was kind. Genuine. And in the eyes was a vibrancy and gleam that transcended the black and white newspaper page.

Long before I actually met Jason F. Jensen, I somehow knew that his eyes were blue. That he walked with his hands in his pockets. That he preferred hiking boots over Reeboks. And that his wit was sharp, but never cruel.

As I read the last paragraph of my mother's letter, she closed with a mixture of whimsy and intuition:

I hope you can meet each other some day; I know the two of you would be great friends.

I then sat down to read "Breathe easy, young man," Jason's first column for the Siuslaw News, and was immediately taken by the description of his escape from the San Bernardino Valley — a 15 mph getaway in his "violent-yellow" VW van that marked his return to Oregon after a year of living in the "coffee-colored haze" of southern California.

In his writing was a mixture of truth and vulnerability laced with subtle humor — qualities that were a direct reflection of his natural disposition as both explorer and astute observer of life.

By the following afternoon, the column had been laminated and posted on our refrigerator door.

Three years later, we arrived

back in Florence with our possessions, our plans to settle down, our new jobs and our refrigerator — column still in place. It wasn't until months later, while visiting some friends, that a lanky figure descended the stairs into the living room, hands in his pockets. He had hiking boots on, and his blue eyes greeted us long before the words could leave his mouth. As he pulled his wide-brimmed hat into place, I blurted, "You're the guy on my refrigerator!"

One might say that from those words, our friendship began.

But, I'd have to disagree; in actuality, it started long before that. Long before my mother decided to clip that first column from the newspaper. Long before he sat in this very newsroom and wrote a story about returning home that remains on our refrigerator to this day. I believe that true friendship begins long before a handshake or shared laugh. It's something set into motion and meant as a gift for staying on pace with your life.

Make the right decisions and remain true to yourself, and you will find the gift of true friendship.

Based on that belief, I'd have to say that returning to Florence was the best decision I ever made. Jason became one of my truest friends, closest confidants, and the godfather to my son (And yes, Jason could do a mean Marlon Brando).

If friendship is the metronome of life, I'd have to say Jason's was paced with absolute precision — a notion made evident by the ever-widening circle of friends he made in his 30 years of life.

When it all comes down to it, love is the only real measure of success. It's the only thing worth taking with you, and the most lasting gift you can leave behind.

Jason, should you ever question your measure of success in this life, take a look at our refrigerator door —

And breathe easy, young man.

(Ned is a syndicated columnist with News Media Corporation. His book, *Humor at the Speed of Life*, is available online at *Port Hole Publications*, *Amazon Books* and *Barnes & Noble*. Write to him at ned-hickson@icloud.com)

Cottage Theatre presents

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June 10, 11, 12* • 16, 17, 18, 19* • 23, 24, 25, 26*
*matinee

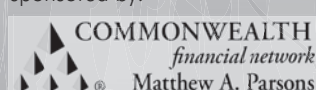
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By Frank Dunlop and Jim Dale

Directed by George Comstock

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