

LCC warns against DACA removal

By Caitlyn May
cmay@cgsentinel.com

The Trump Administration is mulling its options concerning the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program that allows Americans brought to the United States illegally by their parents while they were underage, to remain in the country. Sources close to the administration reportedly announced on Sunday, September 2 that President Trump would end the program, giving Congress six months to act.

The halt of DACA would place thousands of residents in danger of being deported. Prior to Sunday's announcement, Lane Community College released a statement, saying, "The Deferred Action on Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program is critically important to thousands of community college students throughout the United States... As the Administration considers the fates of the more than 750,000 young people nationally and an estimated 21,000 in Oregon registered under DACA, Lane Community College affirms its strong sup-

port for DACA and our DACA students and urges President Donald Trump to maintain this vitally important program."

To qualify for DACA, individuals must meet the following criteria:

- Were under the age of 31 as of June 15, 2012.
- Came to the United States before their 16th birthday.
- Have continuously resided in the U.S. since June 15, 2017.
- Were physically present in the U.S. on June 15, 2012.
- Had no lawful status on June 15, 2012.
- Currently attend school, have graduated or obtained a GED or were honorably discharged from the military or Coast Guard.
- Have not been convicted of a felony, significant misdemeanor or have not had three or more misdemeanor charges.

Lane's statement, issued by school's board went on to state, "DACA provides edu-

cational and career opportunities for undocumented young people who were brought to the United States as minors, and who frequently have no ties to the countries from which they came. Terminating or phasing out DACA will leave thousands of young people, including many LCC students, in limbo. In addition to the change in immigration status, the rescission of DACA will curtail the ability of these individuals to work lawfully and to receive in-state tuition in some instances.

Lane Community College is an open-access institution whose mission is to serve and educate all members of the community. DACA is an important asset that facilitates this mission, providing stability and economic opportunity. In June, the Lane Community College Board of Education passed Board Policy 650, Protection of Immigrant Students, which affirms the board's commitment to ensuring access and a welcoming, safe learning environment for all students."

South Lane School District also took action in the current political climate this past year by passing a resolution that prohibited school district employees from giving information to ICE regarding any students' immigration status.

In the state of Oregon it is illegal for state law enforcement to act solely on an individual's immigration status. Beneficiaries of DACA--often referred to as "Dreamers," number in the thousands with the latest information provided by the U.S. Citizen and Immigration Service counting 800,000 Dreamers in the U.S. though it estimates more than one million are eligible for the program.

The average age Dreamers came to the U.S. is six years old.

A recent study conducted by the think tank, Center for American Progress noted estimated that the U.S. would lose approximately \$460 billion in the GDP over the next 10 years if DACA were to be folded.

Lane County joins preparedness month

By Caitlyn May
cmay@cgsentinel.com

September is National Preparedness Month and Lane County is taking the opportunity to reach

out to residents.

The county has launched a campaign that will see public information officer Carrie Carver post different ways to

prepare for a disaster on the county's various social media platforms.

According to a press release issued by Lane County Emergency

Services, the links that are posted will provide short, fun videos detailing ways to be prepared in light of the current wildfires and the traged-

dy in Texas in regards to Hurricane Harvey.

For more information, see @lanecountysheriffsoffice on Facebook or Twitter.

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Activities begin at 6:30PM

- Spray a Fire Hose-
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- Jaws of life demonstration-
- Smoke Maze-
- Lane County Sheriff-
- Smokey the Bear-

Movie starts at dusk

Bring a lawn chair or blanket

Free hot dog & beverage

Free popcorn & More!

Join us at:

Sept 8 Cottage Grove - 233 Harrison Ave.

Movie: **MOANA**

Sept. 9 Creswell - 55 N 1st st.

Movie: **SING**

541.942.4493 www.southlanefire.org

Heat wave, fires bring smoke to the valley

By Caitlyn May
cmay@cgsentinel.com

Several wildfires around the state of Oregon have swept smoke into the valley, forcing agencies to issue unhealthy air quality readings and cautioning those with breathing issues to remain indoors.

Last week, with temperatures soaring over 100 degrees again, air quality continued to deteriorate.

"The smoke particulates in the atmosphere irritate the lungs, making breathing more difficult," said Robert Stalbow, Respiratory Therapist at PeaceHealth Sacred Heart Medical Center at River-Bend. "We recommend that people in the higher risk groups reduce their exposure to the hot outdoor air for the duration of this weather event. These groups include infants, children, pregnant women and adults over age 65, as well as those with asthma, respiratory infection, diabetes, lung or heart disease, or those who have had a stroke."

Lane Regional Air Protection Agency (LRAPA) measured air quality in Cottage Grove, on Monday, September 4, at 177 or "unhealthy." Air quality in neighboring Eugene was measured at 411; hazardous.

Temperatures in Cottage Grove came in well above average just before the Labor Day weekend. On Sunday, September 3, the temperature on record was 96 degrees; 16 degrees above the day's average temperature of 80 degrees.

The hot weather has fueled wildfires burning around the state as well as in neighboring California and Washington. Los Angeles County has issued a state of emergency due to the LaTuna fire which has burned nearly 6,000 acres while crews in Oregon continue to battle 18 wildfires.

Oregon State Police announced on Sunday that the cause of the Eagle Creek Trail fire--burning 3,000 acres--was likely individuals setting off fireworks. The fire trapped 153 hikers overnight and continues to burn.

Evacuations continue with Lane County Emergency Services issuing a Level 1 (Be Ready) evacuation order for the McKenzie Hwy. Corridor from Hwy. 126 to Rainbow to McKenzie Bridge and Belknap Springs.

For up to date evacuation orders, please visit flashalert.net or download the app for up to the minute information.

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