

CYCLE OREGON SETS ROUTE

On Jan. 31, Cycle Oregon announced the routes for the 30th running of the Classic, as well as routes for WEEKENDER, Joyride, and a brand new offering, Gravel.

Cycle Oregon's iconic seven-day cycling experience, the Classic, is starting in Baker City at the foot of the Elkhorn Range. The route takes riders past stoic peaks, through historic frontier towns, and past wide-open farmland. WEEKENDER riders are in for a two-day bike bash on the University of Oregon's campus in Eugene and participants in Cycle Oregon's women's-only Joyride will soak up the scenery and camaraderie while exploring Willamette Valley wine country near McMinnville. In addition, an all-new event called Gravel has been announced that will take riders into the Tillamook State Forest exploring roads less pedaled.

Cycle Oregon's signature ride, the Classic (September 8-15), will be heading to beautiful Eastern Oregon. Riders will cross paths with the Oregon Trail on

their way to Wallowa Lake, spend time in Pendleton during the world-famous Round Up, and wind their way back home past towering mountains and sprawling farmland. This stunning ride will cover nearly 400 miles, passing through the communities of Baker City, Halfway, Joseph, Elgin, Pendleton and La Grande, before looping back to the starting point at Baker City.

The 2018 WEEKENDER ride (July 13-15), billed as two days of bikes, music and beer with great rides and good friends, starts in Eugene on the campus of the University of Oregon and explores the Willamette Valley northeast of Eugene on the first day and west of town on the second. Both days feature beautiful cycling roads rolling through forest and farm, hills and flats. Riders can choose between short, medium, and long routes each day, making this event an ideal option for groups of friends or families. A kid's bike camp will be offered both days.

The women's-only Joyride (June 9) is a one-day bike ride

that starts at the Stoller Family Estate vineyard in the Dundee Hills of the Willamette Valley and travels through the surrounding countryside. There will be multiple routes offered, making it an accessible event for cyclists of all levels. Beyond the great roads, riders will enjoy great food, great wine, great music and sisterhood to round out the day.

The big surprise of the night was the introduction of a brand new event for 2018. Gravel will set up camp for this two-day event in the Tillamook State Forest near Timber, OR. This is the first time that Cycle Oregon has produced an event that seeks out unpaved roads. Each day riders can choose between different length routes traveling down very low traffic gravel roads, through stunning vistas and then return to camp for great meals, music, refreshing beverages and camaraderie.

"We're especially excited to get back with our friends and back on our bikes this year for these four great events that offer something for just about anyone looking for two-wheeled adventure," said Cycle Oregon executive director, Steve Schulz. "With all our riders, partners and volunteers we look forward to being able to take the concept of transforming lives and communities through cycling to a whole new level."

Honoring Martin Luther King Jr.



Sammy Elsdon and Amanda Hampton of Looking Glass hold the award given to the organization by Cottage Grove High School on Monday, Feb. 5. Cottage Grove instructor Carmen Adler said of the award, "The student body votes for two teachers and two students and then our student council nominates four community businesses/organizations and then votes."

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LORANE NEWS

RAC Movie Night is this Saturday, Feb. 10 starting with soup dinner at 6 p.m. As per tradition, it is bring your favorite chocolate desserts to help celebrate Valentine's Day. Prior to the movie, Crow Middle Schoolers share their work by showing their Super Hero shorts.

The film, "Yellow Dog" follows. All this takes place at Lorane Grange. Come our for a fun evening in Lorane.

Lorane Christian Church annual Friendship Dinner is this Sunday, Feb. 12, at Izzy's off W 12th next to Freddy's. All Lorane families are welcome to join in the visiting and and fun. Great guest speaker coming. No host, so we all pay for our own meal.

Half day this Friday for conferences. Oregon Battle of the Books (OBOB) regional competition is around the corner.

Practive battles have begun and the school battles begin Feb. 20. Final battle will see who represents Applegate Elementary.

Congratulations to all the Crow Wrestlers on a great job!

Lorane Grange had a super so dinner and bingo. Next one is Saturday, Feb. 24 at 5:30 p.m. Tell your friends and neighbors, the progressive blackout has still not been one!

OSP announces new program

The Oregon State Police (OSP) is excited to launch *OSP (star OSP). This is a fast and easy way for you to contact the Oregon State Police's dispatch for a non-emergency from your mobile phone.

*OSP (*677) is a mobile phone direct call number established to provide the public with a quick, easy to remember number to use for non-emergency reporting of traffic safety, highway hazards & obstructions, minor crashes, and requests for assistance. *OSP is not an emergency number and 9-1-1 still remains the emergency number

to call for an emergency. *OSP rings directly into the State Police Dispatch center and is answered by a live dispatcher 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The Department in collaboration with Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) and Oregon's cell phone providers have secured this number to make it easier to contact the OSP for non-emergency police services and road hazards.

Currently, Verizon, AT&T, Sprint, T-Mobile, and US Cellular have worked with the Department to facilitate this service. It is the Departments goal

that, as this program develops, other cell providers will partner with us in this venture to provide access to all cell phone users.

Now that the majority of motorists have cell phones, this easy to remember number will help ensure people have a way to report non-emergency issues directly to OSP. For members of the public who do not have cell phone service, or have providers that do not currently support this access number, they can still dial the Department's toll free phone number 800-452-7888.

EPUD

Continued from A1

The statement, released last Tuesday promised to waive all late fees related to December and/or January bills, replace those bills with a lower balance by enrolling customers in the company's Equal Pay program and offer an extended payment arrangement for residents who would rather pay the billed amount.

Going forward, customers who use more power will pay more under the three-tiered system, which according to EPUD, will remain in place.

Customers who use between one and 600 kWh will pay .0696 per kWh, a one-cent reduction. Those who use between 601 and 1,800 kWh will remain at the current rate of .0796 per kWh and those who exceed 1,801 kWh will pay .1089.

"EPUD customers now demand over 10 percent more power than they did in 2015," a statement from EPUD concerning the rate increase read. The company also cited the expiration of a power contract in 10 years, the financial uncertainty of investing in power plant infrastructure and limits placed on how much power public utilities can purchase from Bonneville Power Administration for increasing rates.

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