

Coaching legend plots 'Last Race' at old aquatic center before new upgrades

A special event is planned for this Saturday, July 14, to celebrate Cottage Grove's Warren H. Daugherty Aquatic Center upcoming scheduled for modernization.

For over 30 years, legendary Cottage Grove High School swim coach Bud Taylor drew swimmers together at the aquatic center, helping to foster swimming and water polo programs that garnered state championships, launched careers and became the envy of coaches across the state.

On Saturday, Taylor will again gather swimmers, supporters and friends of the Warren H. Daugherty Aquatic Center together for "The Last Race," meant to serve as a tribute and send-off for the old pool, which is scheduled to undergo a year-long modernization process beginning on Aug. 17.

In the early 1950s, concerned Cottage Grove residents banded together in response to a rash of drownings among local youth to raise funds to build a community pool. Local timber magnate Warren H. Daugherty contributed the remainder of the funding that led to the then-outdoor pool's opening in 1955.

The Aquatic Center quickly became Cottage Grove's premier summer gathering spot, and Taylor would later help lobby its owner, South Lane School District, to cover the pool and establish high school swimming and water polo programs.

Success soon followed and,



ZACH SILVA/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

The historic Warren H. Daugherty Aquatic Center will undergo an 11-month upgrade beginning in August.

for more than six decades, the facility has also served as the place where thousands of local young people learned to swim and recreation and fitness opportunities were provided for all ages.

In May of 2016, local voters approved a bond to replace the aging Harrison Elementary School, a bond that also earmarked funds to make technology and security upgrades at South Lane schools, in addition to renovating the pool. As part of its renovation, the aquatic center's irregularly shaped pool will be transformed into an eight-lane, 25-yard pool that's ideal for competition.

Its plumbing and HVAC systems will be overhauled and modernized, and a new family changing room and lobby are planned to enhance the visitor's experience. Fundraising efforts are also underway to raise the approximately \$175,000 still needed to fully fund the pool's update.

Construction will necessitate at least an 11-month closure for the pool, though many high-school swimming and water polo programs will be housed at other area venues during the closure.

Events planned for The Last Race on Saturday include the presentation Swimming Hall of

Fame awards, pool games and a pancake breakfast.

Schedule:

- Pancake Breakfast — 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.
 - Swim-a-Thon Awards — 11:30 a.m. to noon
 - Firecracker games — noon to 2 p.m. (bring your bathing suit)
 - Lunch — 2-3:30 p.m.
- Then at Coach Taylor's barn, beginning at 3:30 p.m.:
- Swimming museum displays
 - Intros and social hour
 - Stories from emcee Bill Kuzmer
 - Swimming Hall of Fame Awards.

'Every Trail Tells a Tale' at annual Bohemia Mining Days

All are invited to the 59th annual Bohemia Mining Days Festival, July 19-21, in Coiner and Bohemia parks. Recognized as an Oregon Heritage Tradition, BMD attracts fes-

tival goers from throughout Western Oregon to enjoy live entertainment, food, cultural heritage demonstrations, three parades, games and contests that honor the town's unique

and colorful history.

For three days this summer, Coiner Park transforms into "Bohemia City" to celebrate the early history of the town and the nearby Bohemia Mining District with themed meals, three parades and a feud.

The free event offers a variety of activities for people of all ages to enjoy. Thursday evening's Bloomer Parade kicks off the celebration traveling from the Historic Downtown District to Bohemia City. The Friday morning Kiddie Parade is a perennial favorite featuring kids and pets. Saturday morning's Grand Miners Parade is a slice of Americana showcasing local organizations and businesses — and politicians too.

Other events include a 5K run/walk, a historical treasure hunt on a time-traveling train, a carnival, pony rides, amusements, plays and panning for real gold. New attrac-

tions this year are a zip line, rock-climbing wall, a 7,000 sq. ft. interactive Alice in Wonderland-themed kids zone, the OPB "Bohemia Mines" documentary screening, a Buster Keaton Weekend and covered bridge guided tours.

This year's theme, "Every Trail Tells a Tale," highlights the history of how familiar geographical names east of town and in the Bohemia Mining District came to be.

BMD resurrects the legendary 1895 Slattown vs. Lemati Feud (that legally split the town into two for a decade) in a fun competition. To enhance the experience, dress in a western or Victorian-era costume, chose a town and compete in mining-themed contests on Friday and Saturday and win cash prizes.

For more information and a festival schedule of all events, visit www.bohemiaminingdays.org.



Pet tips 'N' tales

By Mary Ellen "Angel Scribe"

Barnyard Angel

Michael J. Russ, an inspirational speaker, teaches secrets to happiness and success. He finds inspiration through his 17-year-old dog, Angel.

Fifteen years ago, an Australian Shepherd wandered onto his girlfriend Sandi's property. She was leaving for a horse show so she placed the dog in her tack room and asked Michael to check and feed it until she could take it to an animal shelter.

"I had no interest in having an animal at the time," said Michael. "When I went to check and feed it, I was stunned by the dog's beauty and gentle nature. She was thrilled to see me and we made an instant connection. I made a snap decision to take her and named her Angel. But when I tried loading her into my Tahoe, she was in no mood for a ride."

Was it because her first family had taken her for a ride and never come back?

"When I gently lifted her up, all four of her legs sprang out and locked like brakes to the open door's edge."

When Sandi returned, Michael surprised her with, "You are not taking my Angel to the Animal Shelter!"

Michael soon learned there were things his adoptee did not understand how to do; climb stairs, eat kibble and sleep in or on a bed. Because he was dealing with many odd behaviors, he called a dog clairvoyant.

The Doggy Whisperer said, "Angel fell or was pushed out of a red pickup truck near Sandi's barn. She is used to being outside, ate canned food and does not understand affection. She has no idea what to do with stairs, only barks when necessary and can't understand why anyone would want to get onto a piece of furniture. She's like the Dalai Lama, she doesn't have an angry cell in her body and wouldn't hurt a living soul," the Doggy Whisperer added.



Michael was not prepared to find an Angel in the barn.

"Armed with that information, I was able to give Angel the understanding home she deserved," said Michael. "Part of her pre-adoption legacy is that she never had a toy or received love and I was secretly glad she did not like sleeping on our Fur-niture."

Sandi's Corgi embraced her new sister and taught her how to climb stairs, chase balls and sleep in a dog bed.

"Every morning at about 5 a.m., Angel comes to the side of my bed so I can hang my hand over the edge and gently massage her. If I stop, she puts her paw back in my hand to keep it going. Wait! Could this be a ploy to get me out of bed and take her for her morning 'Aussie walkabout' or 'sniff' tour!" Michael joked, explaining that Angel is also their street's goodwill ambassador, saying "Hello" to every living being.

"After these many years, the dog's name and life has proven to embody everything I thought an Angel would be," Michael said. "She has been a Godsend by helping me remain calm and patient. When she plays me with her soulful brown eyes and cute perky ears for a treat, I always give in."

"One weekend, our pet store had a Cat Adoption day when Sandi and I were there to buy dog food, not a cat. Out of the blue, Sandi said, 'I want to adopt that 15-1/2-pound Calico that looks like a Snickers Candy.'"

The dog whisperer was right! When Snickers walked past Angel for the first time, she paid it no attention. As it turns out, the cat is another spiritual being.

"She's my morning meditation partner," Michael said.

Angel's funniest habit: She loves wearing head gear! Especially reindeer antlers and Minnie Mouse ears. She will pose for a camera and prance around proudly.

TIPS:

"Today, Angel's hearing is almost gone; so I gesture and clap to get her attention," said Michael. "Occasionally, she ignores me, looks away and trots off to keep sniffing around especially when she thinks her walkabout should be longer. I often wonder if she is employing selective hearing."

Contact Michael at www.michaeljruss.com

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6-day weather forecast

THURSDAY

96° | 60°



Sunny

FRIDAY

93° | 57°



Partly Cloudy

SATURDAY

91° | 56°



Sunny

SUNDAY

93° | 56°



Sunny

MONDAY

92° | 56°



Sunny

TUESDAY

91° | 56°



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