

Community News

ODFW hosts local fishing event

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Families and fishing enthusiasts gathered in Row River Nature Park Saturday as part of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's (ODFW) Family Fishing Event, the first of four events this year intended to generate an interest in fishing.

Despite the threat of downpour, turnout for the event was positive as anglers young and old cast their lines into a pond stocked by ODFW with 2,000 rainbow trout, giving newcomers to the recreation a high chance at reeling in their first catch.

"It's a great activity," said ODFW Fish Biologist Emma Garner. "It gets people connected to



Monique Porter of Portland caught her first fish with the help of Jeff Ziller, fish biologist for ODFW's South Willamette Watershed District.

local habitat types. It gets people connected to local fish species. They get to be outside, enjoy being outside and learn a little bit in the process."

Staff and volunteers were

on site to provide rods, reels, bait and instruction on casting, catching and cleaning.

"The volunteers who are here have gone through classes to get certified to work with family groups and work on all the information you need to learn the basics of angling," Garner said. "So you can show up to an event, just bring yourself and bring your interest and we provide the equipment, we provide the bait and we have volunteers that walk you through the process. ... And you can leave with what you caught."

On top of learning new skills, ODFW staff saw the event as an opportunity for families and communities to strengthen their bonds.

"You get to see families connecting to the outdoors and families connected to each other," said

Garner.

Jeff Ziller, District Fish Biologist for the ODFW South Willamette Watershed, took palpable joy in instructing new anglers at the pond.

"It gets people outside," Ziller said. "The other thing is, it makes you self-sufficient. You can go out and get your meal. And that's something today's society doesn't really understand all that well. It's neat to be able to understand where your food is coming from."

Portland resident Monique Porter made the trip down I-5 to Cottage Grove specifically for the opportunity to learn a new skill.

"I think this is a great event," she said. "I'm really glad that I found out about it."

With Ziller's help, Monique snagged a rainbow trout on her first cast and brought the wriggling catch to a cleaning table where Ziller demonstrated the steps to gut and clean the fish.

"I think this was a really good experience," said Porter. "It took the fear out of actually fishing and what it is you're supposed to do."

Future family fishing events this year will provide similar chances for fishing experience and education. Three more events are planned at Alton Baker Park Canoe Canal in Eugene on May 5, June 1 and June 15 as part of the Cumulus Media Kids Fishing Derby.

"If people are interested in being part of the events, whether participating as anglers or participating as volunteers, they can reach out to their local office," Garner said. "We hope that people can take what they learned here, bring it home and keep fishing and keep being a part of the community."

Community invited to meeting, potluck with Aprovecho Center team

The Aprovecho Sustainability Education Center's Transition Team is hosting a Community Meeting and Potluck this Saturday, April 13, at the Cottage Grove Community Center Reception Hall, 700 E. Gibbs Ave., from 1 to 5 p.m.

The local organization wants to learn from community members.

Community members will work in teams to explore key strategic questions about Aprovecho's future. The event will be an opportunity to welcome community members into the organization's transition process, engage with neighbors on how our Aprovecho

can best serve the community, and to build relationships while breaking bread together.

Anyone who would like to attend can RSVP at goo.gl/forms/obBiQLGi7h3kb-Fxx1

For more information or for special accommodations, contact Aprovecho at apro@aprovecho.net or call 541-942-8198

(Si tiene cualquier necesidad de accesibilidad (traducción al español, lenguaje de señas, etc.), favor contactarnos a apro@aprovecho.net o al 541-942-8198. Haremos todo lo posible para acomodarle.)

Opal Theater to host wide range of events in April

On Friday and Sunday, April 12 and 14, in a co-production with Academy Arts and Academics, "Opal—The Journey of the Understanding Heart" features young adults and how they might react the 100-year-old story of Opal. The play weaves between scenes in a school classroom and the world of Opal. Using imagination, projections, music, dance, masks and storytelling, the play covers the highs and lows of her life while letting the audience experience her relationship to nature: "the fairylane around us."

The April 12 performance is at 7:30 p.m., with a 2 p.m. matinee on April 14. Cost is \$12 for adults and \$10 for students and children.

April 19-20, the Trashion Show: Junk, Gunk, Fashion Punk will take place at the Opal Theater. Trashion (a

portmanteau of "trash" and "fashion") is a term for art, fashion and objects for the home created from used, thrown-out, found and repurposed elements. Ten amazing designers will dazzle visitors with their creations. Come April 19 at 7 p.m., or April 20 at 2 p.m. or 7 p.m.

Admission is \$12 and tickets can be purchased via the Opal website at opalcentercg.org/events/2019-trashion-show-junk-gunk-fashion-funk, or at The Crafty Mercantile, 517 East Main Street.

The Opal Theater is located at 513 East Main Street in Cottage Grove. For more information, call the theater at 541-623-0513.

Sponsors include MECCA and Goodwill Industries of Lane and South Coast Counties.

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Meet JOHN SILVA



Q. Why do you work at Brad's?

A. I worked on cars for Uncle Bud from 1975 to 1987. So when I decided to get into the sales side, it was like coming home. I have known Brad for over 20 years and there is no better employer or friend than Brad.

Q. What do you like most about Cottage Grove?

A. There is no better place to raise a family. We are so blessed to live here. The convenient location...close to everything; the beach, skiing, a big city...but in a beautiful small town. The most important reason is the people, especially our teachers in the South Lane School district who really care about our kids!

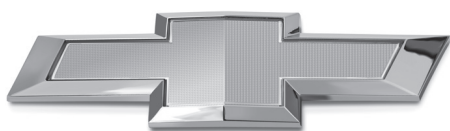
Q. What type of activities are you involved in your community? Or what other outside-of-work activities are you involved with?

A. Beside spending time with my beautiful wife, Tracy, my 4 step-children & 4 grand children. I like golfing and taking the boat out on weekends to our beautiful lakes. I am the vice president of a local non-profit organizations where we help children, the needy, disabled folks and the veterans in our community. I'm most proud to be doing my part in giving back to the community.

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