

A hello to Cottage Grove, Drain, Elkton, and Yoncalla

BY NICK SNYDER

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I was born and raised in Eugene, Oregon, and unlike our previous sports and education reporter, Zach Silva, I did not attend a rival high school to Cottage Grove, so please hold all reservations about my future rooting interests!

However, perhaps similarly to Zach, I had a typical Eugene childhood where

- and I apologize in advance for this - I almost exclusively experienced Cottage Grove as a highway stop on the road to elsewhere. It's richness was hidden to me by ignorance, by the inability to take just two more turns off the highway to Main Street, by one thing or another.

My only clear memories of the area are the occasional trip to go swimming in Bryce Creek and, strangely, as the

place where I found out Steve Irwin, the Crocodile Hunter, had perished at the hands of a stingray. After a few short weeks working in the area, these memories have already grown tenfold.

Despite my lack of experience in this particular corner of the state, I'm nonetheless an Oregon boy through and through. I am a diehard Portland

HELLO see B2

New faces for Elkton football, ND volleyball

Jeremy Lockhart takes over as Elks' coach, Emily Reed for North Douglas

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In a summer that has seen a flurry of changes in athletic department personnel at schools around the area, the picture is coming into focus for North Douglas volleyball and Elkton football.

The Warriors have announced that Emily Reed will be taking over volleyball coaching duties at North Douglas, following the retirement of former long-time coach Anne Campbell.

In Elkton, Jeremy Lockhart will be taking over for Bill Shaw - who recently left Elkton for Reedsport - as the Elks' head football coach.

However, for Reed and Lockhart both, though their positions may be new, they are already recognizable faces at their respective schools. In Reed's case in particular, she enters the job with a wealth of coaching experience and an enduring connection to the Drain community.

"This next year will be my 16th year here. I'm not going anywhere, we have kids here, so I'm here for the long haul," said Reed while recounting her many years spent in the community.

Reed began her long path to becoming North Douglas head coach while she was in college, acting as the assistant varsity and junior varsity coach at Central High School in Independence, Oregon. After moving to Drain, she then coached fifth and sixth grade volleyball for South Valley Athletics for three years before taking over as the middle school volleyball coach for the past six seasons.

When the head coaching position first became available, options were initially limited as they sought an experienced coach who was also invested in the community. Eventually, it was members of the volleyball team themselves who thought of a familiar face: their former middle school coach.

"Some of the older girls kind of started talking to me and I've coached all these girls all through middle school so I'm pretty close with most of them ... I figured it was a perfect opportunity and the perfect time to move up with them.

"I've even taught most of these girls when they were little so I feel like the connection is there and the buy-in is there and so that's why, that's one of the reasons I'm

COACHES see B3

History on display at Stearman Fly-In



Pilots and visitors chat and relax next to one of the antique Stearman biplanes at the Oregon Aviation Historical Society on Saturday.

PHOTO BY NICK SNYDER/CG SENTINEL

Antique biplanes filled Jim Wright Field during the 41st annual event

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It's a reflection of how advanced we've become technologically that, for some select people, flying an airplane is considered a simple pleasure. But when the airplanes in question are antique biplanes with rudimentary controls and instrumentation, the sentiment becomes clearer.

For a group of around 20 pilots and a bevy of attendees this simple beauty was on display Saturday, August 3 at the Oregon Aviation Historical Society and museum (OAHS) at the 41st annual Stearman Fly-In. Filling the airfield behind the museum were around a dozen antique Stearman biplanes as well as a number of other antique aircraft that came from up and

down the West Coast, all originally built many decades ago yet all pristine in their current condition.

"[The pilots] are happy to show off their planes and answer peoples' questions. Great bunch of guys. A lot of them are retired military ... after you've flown a bunch of people in a big aluminum tube, it's nice to come back to something simple and just fly," said OAHS President Doug Kindred.

After a morning pancake breakfast that helped raise funds for OAHS, attendees young and old had a chance to admire the beauty of the aircraft, walk freely along the airstrip, catch glimpses of other antique machines like a 1932 Harley-Davidson motorcycle, or speak with any number of the men and women pilots whose knowledge on the subject of aviation and aviation history ranges from vast to infinite.

"The Stearman thing is really more a history of aviation because

those planes were used in World War I to train pilots that later went on to fly fighters and bombers and everything else in World War II ... so it's important that these guys invest their time, their love and their money into keeping these planes in the air," said Kindred.

And keeping these antique, decades-old machines aloft isn't simply about preserving a physical object, or continuing a group of select individuals' hobbyist pursuits. It's about the preservation of history; aviation history, engineering history, American and Oregonian history.

"There's a story there. Every single one of these airplanes has got a story and so to make [those stories] available to the public so they can have an appreciation of what we've gone through is a goal," Kindred continued.

While the Stearman company and the production of their

now-classic biplanes played an integral role in the history of American aviation, the deeper revelation after exploring OAHS is the central role the state of Oregon played, from the very early days in the 1920s, in American aviation history.

Vice President of OAHS and head of their antique aircraft restoration team Tim Talen has been flying and working on airplanes practically his whole life and it was very early on in his aviation career that he began learning of this local Oregon historical connection.

"Being an early member of the experimental aircraft association, in reading the sport aviation magazine, I just picked up on all these articles and Oregon was always kind of right there, sometimes in the foreground, but always in the background," Talen said. "So when I moved here - and that's been almost 40 years now - the interest

FLY-IN see B2

Row River Trail reopens for summer's second half



The popular trail is open again after a lengthy closure, shown here at the Mosby Creek trailhead. PHOTO NICK SNYDER/CG SENTINEL

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Late winter snowstorms, wildfires, and scheduled maintenance have made for a tumultuous last six months at the Row River Trail, but after a long wait the popular recreation destination is open once again.

On top of scheduled maintenance in the late Spring and early Summer, the February snowstorm brought down hundreds of trees along the trail and a May wildfire further muddied the situation. According to the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Upper Willamette field office, however, the trail is now open as of July 17.

"We were able to work with [local contractors] to be able to have the trail open and even though they were still finishing up some [scheduled maintenance] work, we were able to work it in such a way that allows them to complete their work while ensuring visitors could enjoy the trail," said BLM's Public Affairs Officer Jennifer O'Leary.

"There were some sections of

the trail that had a hundred trees down for miles over the trail and there, too, we utilized local contractors to help complete the cleanup work to be able to reopen the trail," O'Leary continued.

Local residents and visitors from around the region can now look forward to taking advantage of all the trail has to offer in the waning months of summer.

"We know it's an incredibly sought-after trail ... It's an amazing paved trail, 13 plus miles of it, that draws people who want to experience the area by foot, by bike, for a quick picnic and so we are very conscientious of any time there is any part of the trail that is not accessible due to public safety concerns," said O'Leary. "We're going to do our best to complete the necessary work to be able to reopen any impacted sections of a trail as quickly as we can."

According to the BLM office, the routine scheduled maintenance and cleanup during closures has left the Row River trail in better shape than previously.

Athlete of the Week



This week's athlete of the week is Sam McCamant who rode 100 miles on a PeaceHealth Rides bike at Saturday's BlackBerry bRamble bicycle race.



Sam McCamant posing atop Skinner's Butte in Eugene. PHOTO C/O SHERI McDONALD/PEACEHEALTH