

Hello from B1



PHOTO BY SOPHIA EDELBLUTE/CG SENTINEL

Trailblazers fan, the Lukes of Oregon basketball (Jackson and Ridnour) hold a special place in my heart and Marcus Mariota is practically a holy figure in my eyes. I even tend to root for Beaver baseball after a jealous UO program swooped in to claim some thunder in the face of so much success up in Corvallis.

Basketball and baseball are my particular sports passions. I've loved football since I was young, but my interest in the NFL wanes with each additional penalty, game stoppage, in-game sponsorship and TV timeout. However, it is with that in mind that I can't wait to begin covering high school football; a level where the game is still about the game, about stories, about people, about community without all the extra riff raff that comes along with cable television.

I come from a family - family on both sides - that made up for their lack of physical gifts and elite athletic ability by playing sports and, well, playing them too ... at least until everyone else got too big, fast or strong. My mother and father, in their retirement, are currently checking off boxes on their ongoing national MLB stadium tour. My grandmother, in all her blindness, listened to Atlanta Braves games every day on the radio, every day until she passed away well into her 90s. This love of sport was all passed on to me.

Before receiving this opportunity in the world of journalism, I spent five years in education, teaching, creating curricula, guiding students and

even a year learning about library science and management. Now, as I dive back into the world of education from a completely new angle, I see further opportunity to use the skills I've tried to hone over the years.

For much of the last ten years of my life, I've been transient, never staying in the same city or housing situation for too long. I even had a four year hiatus from American life when I taught English in China. But this was never really by design. Perhaps in the tumult of our 21st century world, it's been a part of my own self-searching, looking desperately for the place that adult-me can call home.

For the past three years in particular, I've slowly been on a kind of narrowing trajectory. I've found myself working my way down the ladder in terms of population, from a chinese mega-city of 12 million, to Portland, to Eugene, and now on to Cottage Grove.

This downsizing and change has allowed me to experience different lifestyles, from the cosmopolitan to the rural. It has allowed me to engage and connect with people of all walks of life, from Chinese farmers to Portland-area entrepreneurs. Most importantly, it has led me to realize that this, right here in Cottage Grove, right now, is the place I want to be.

It is these varied life experiences that I bring to the table when I think about stories. Every experience informs the next and the same will be true of all the new things and people I will come to see and meet as I embark on covering sports and education in the greater Cottage Grove area. After a few weeks, I already feel welcome. I already feel comfortable, but I have a sneaking suspicion these feelings will only grow and deepen throughout my time at the Sentinel. And that is a testament to the strength of the community here, a community I'm proud to now be a part of.

Public use restrictions for campfires now in effect

Due to increased fire danger, public use restrictions went into effect across the Umpqua National Forest this past Saturday, Aug. 3. Dry conditions have elevated the risk of wildfire throughout the area. These public use restrictions do not apply to those lands within designated wilderness boundaries.

Under public use restrictions, campfires may be built in Forest Service constructed fire rings in designated recreation sites only. Portable cooking

stoves using pressurized liquid gas or propane are permitted in all other areas. Use of generators with an approved spark-arrest screen is allowed in designated campgrounds. Portable heaters using propane are also permitted. People are urged to ensure all campfires are fully extinguished when departing.

Smoking is allowed only in vehicles, designated recreation sites, in areas clear of vegetation measuring at least three feet in diameter, or aboard wa-

tercraft on waterways.

"Human-caused fires are 100 percent preventable and public use restrictions are put into place to prevent those fires," said Riva Duncan, Interagency Fire staff officer. "Because we are moving into our peak fire season, the weather is getting hotter and drier, and the fire danger indices continue to climb we have had to add these restrictions."

Violation of rules on campfires and closed access for the Umpqua National Forest are punish-

able by a fine of \$5,000 for individuals or \$10,000 for organizations or a six-month jail term for each offense.

For more information, call 541-957-3200 or visit www.fs.usda.gov/umpqua or the Facebook and Twitter sites for the Umpqua National Forest.

Cottage Grove Ranger District: Cedar Creek Campground, Ruja-da Campground, Hobo Camp, Lund Park, Mineral Campground and Munsick Guard Station.

Fly-in from B1



Children check out some of the Stearman biplanes at Jim Wright Field.

PHOTO BY NICK SNYDER/CG SENTINEL

and having a history background just intrigued me more with the role that Oregon aviators had here that affected the whole world. The more you learn, the more you gain insight and respect for what the pioneers in aviation here have done."

In talking with Talen, Kindred and others, one learns that Oregon was the first state in the union to have a department of aviation, even before the Federal Aviation Administration was founded. Oregon was also the original home of the home-built aircraft community. Where the FAA eventually saw the future of flight in commerce, many local Oregon pilots during the 1930s and 1940s saw aviation as part

of their right to freedom and the indelible spirit of self-sufficiency that litters the annals of U.S. history.

"Here in Oregon, we started actually with a different idea of what aviation was all about. Yes, it had commercial value but it also had value in terms of education and learning how to build things and how to engineer things and aeronautics was more than just commerce. It was science, art and everything else," Talen said.

The collection of Stearman biplanes on display on Saturday were

emblematic of those ideals. But the real stories were all those that could be found beyond the physical aircraft themselves; in the lengthy history of each of the planes and in the limitless aviation knowledge held by the pilots.

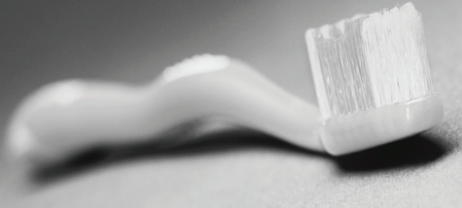
"When you come to the Stearman Fly-In, what I think most people take away from that is getting to be right out there on the field with the pilots and their airplanes and visiting with these people ... So much of it is cross-generational and a lot of it is also paying homage to the people that came before us," said Talen.

"We want to let people know in the area that OAHS is open to the public and they can come in and talk airplanes. They don't have to be a millionaire, this is not a millionaire's sport. It's a great way to connect in that sense and just learn a little bit about aviation and flying."

The next event at OAHS is the Great American Home Built Fly-In on Saturday, August 31, and will feature homemade aircraft from around the state of Oregon and surrounding areas.

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