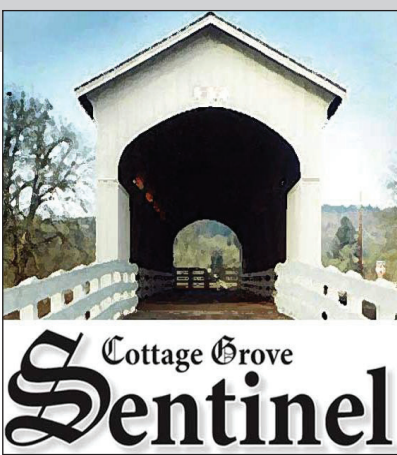


THURSDAY | JUNE 18, 2020

CONTACT SPORTS REPORTER NICK SNYDER AT 942-3325 OR NSNYDER@CGSENTINEL.COM



As summer approaches, hot car is no place for pets

While many of us welcome the warmer weather this time of year, we must remind ourselves that some of our loved ones may find themselves in an uncomfortable predicament.

It could even result in their death.

We are speaking about our pets who accompany many of us on our trips and errands in a motor vehicle. We should never leave our pet unattended in a parked car.

On warm days, and even cloudy days, the temperature in a car can rise to dangerous levels in minutes, even with the windows cracked open.

The brief stop we plan to make at the store could stretch to 15 minutes or more before we know it.

Our mistake could cost our pet its life.

Leaving the windows cracked won't cool the car enough to protect our beloved pet, even if we have made water available.

In June of 2017, Governor Kate Brown signed into law House Bill 2732 to protect dogs and children left in hot places.

Oregon was the 11th state to pass such a Good Samaritan Law, which provides that anyone — not just first responders — can enter a vehicle (by force or otherwise) to remove an unattended domestic animal without fear of civil or criminal liability.

If you come upon a scenario like above where you believe an animal could perish, call 911 before deciding to enter the vehicle.

Be ready to convey your location, the vehicle description, and a description of yourself.

Animal Service Deputies will make every effort to respond quickly.

If you determine that more immediate life-saving action is necessary, please ensure that you: have a reasonable belief that the animal is in imminent danger of suffering harm; notify law enforcement or emergency services either before or soon after entering the vehicle; use only the minimum force necessary to enter the vehicle; and stay with the animal until law enforcement, emergency services, or the owner or operator of the vehicle arrives.

Virtual race to raise money for seniors

By NICK SNYDER
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Recent crises around the country have revealed gaps in a great number of areas where government funding and existing structures come up short in their abilities to care for citizens. Seniors are often all too familiar with those gaps.

The Lane Council of Governments (LCOG) — a public agency founded 75 years ago — has continued to address these areas of need in its partnership with a

number of local organizations. From Jul. 22-26 the LCOG will host a virtual race called the Race for the Rest of Us, a fundraising effort in its ongoing support of the Senior & Disability Services (S&DS) Senior Meals Program.

LCOG serves as a regional planning, coordination, program development and service delivery organization in local communities across all 12 incorporated cities in Lane County, including Cottage Grove where they have a satellite office and senior meals site.

The council works in conjunction from a wide-ranging variety of local groups, including six school districts, utilities companies, Lane Community College, Lane Transit District and Willamalane Parks and Recreation, but one primary area of focus is to provide support for S&DS.

“One of our programs is senior meals,” said Brenda Wilson, the executive director of LCOG. “So, we are Meals on Wheels for all of Lane County and we contract with Food for Lane County to deliver our meals within the City of

Eugene and we deliver the meals throughout the rest of the county.”

As one of the most vulnerable groups in communities around the country, seniors are often heavily impacted by economic downturns — particularly with recent coronavirus closures and subsequent budget shortfalls all over the public and private sectors — and LCOG is doing their part to alleviate these hardships.

“A lot of people don't know that our seniors struggle to make dif-

See RACE 2B

False start for Daugherty reopening



NICK SNYDER/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

While Lane County entered Phase Two reopening on Fri., Jun. 5 — allowing for larger indoor and outdoor gatherings, bars and restaurants to stay open until midnight, the opening of pools and spas and a number of other updates — Cottage Grove residents will have to wait a bit longer to use the Warren H. Daugherty Aquatic Center as it's considered a “school district facility” and thus must remain closed through Jun. 30.

Local, regional camping continues to reopen

Economic fallout from COVID-19 closures presents a challenging future for OPRD

By NICK SNYDER
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As Oregon enters Phase 2 reopening from coronavirus closures and the weather turns to summer, now is a good time for a reminder on the current status of local recreation opportunities.

Following the reopening of various businesses and services across several Oregon counties, outdoor and recreation authorities at the state and local level began further loosening restrictions to camping facilities.

On Jun. 12 Siuslaw National Forest reopened most remaining day-use sites while a number of campgrounds will be opening today. Visitors, however, should be prepared to practice safe social distancing and

be self-sufficient as they may encounter a reduction in or lack of services, such as bathrooms and trash collection.

“We know visitors are excited to get back to recreating on public lands, and we want them to do so safely,” said Donna Mickley, acting forest supervisor. “We're asking visitors to please provide adequate physical distancing and to avoid gathering in large groups. We can all do our part to ensure we're keeping everyone, including local communities, safe by being prepared to recreate responsibly.”

In addition, Lane County Parks and Recreation (LCPR), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the Willamette and Umpqua National Forests continue to open access

to campgrounds.

To check the current status of a particular campground in the national parks, visit the forest service's interactive map at <https://www.fs.fed.us/ivm/index.html>.

While LCPR sites are open for camping, visitors must make reservations in advance at <https://reservations.lanecounty.org/> or by calling 541-682-2000. For updates on BLM-managed areas visit <https://www.blm.gov/oregon-washington/covid-access-restrictions>.

OPRD facing layoffs in wake of revenue drop

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) will face months, even years, of crit-

ical challenges due to the economic fallout from COVID-19.

The agency does not receive state General Fund tax dollars to operate any service, including its popular, heavily visited state park system.

A decline in its main revenue sources — Lottery Fund and park visitors — has left it offering reduced services and facing layoffs to fill an estimated \$22-million gap in its July 2019-June 2021 budget.

OPRD's budget is 44 percent Lottery Fund dedicated by Oregon voters in 1999 and 2010; 50 percent “Other Fund” from park visitors, a portion of recreational vehicle registrations, and other sources; and 6 percent Federal Fund, mainly for

See OUTDOORS 2B

Yard of the Week

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Week of June 18th Winner is: 247 S 2nd Street

Yards will be selected each week by nominations. To nominate a yard you can call City Hall (942-5501) or Chamber of Commerce (942-2411)

In spring, avoid 'helping' young wildlife

Oregonians are getting back outdoors just in time to encounter newborn fawns, elk calves and other young wildlife in the wild or even in their backyard.

This is the time of year when deer fawns are born — and there is a chance you will come upon one that's all alone.

Don't assume any young animal is orphaned just because it's alone — and don't pick it up. It's natural for mother animals to leave their young alone for extended periods of time while they go off to feed.

The mother will return when it's safe to do so (when people, pets or predators aren't around).

Unfortunately, every year around this time, ODFW offices and licensed wildlife rehabilitators are flooded with calls from people who picked up a deer fawn, elk calf, fledgling bird learning to fly, or other young animal they assumed was orphaned because it was alone.

Wildlife rehabilitators are licensed and

trained to care for truly orphaned or injured wildlife and return them to the wild, but spots in their facilities need to be saved for real cases — especially this year, as the coronavirus has led to more limited capacity at these facilities.

Animals taken away from their natural environment miss the chance to learn important survival skills from their parents like where to feed, what to eat, how to behave as part of a group and how to escape from predators.

Usually this leads to a shortened life span for the animal — or a life in captivity.

Because of the damage it can do, removing or capturing an animal from the wild is a violation of state law (ORS 497.308—No person shall remove from its natural habitat or acquire and hold in captivity any live wildlife in violation of the wildlife laws).

A woman in Union County found a red

See WILDLIFE 2B