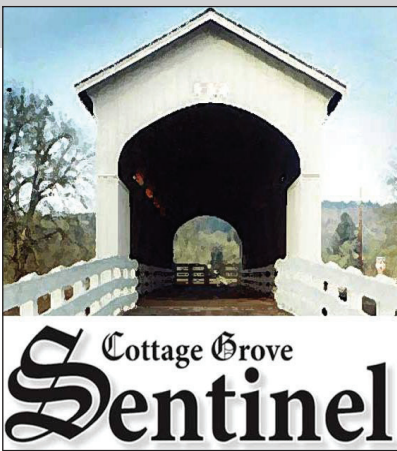




UNF announces reopening of some campgrounds

Recreational sites reopen just in time for the holiday weekend

The Umpqua National Forest is announcing the re-opening of the Diamond Lake South Campground to recreational users beginning Friday, June 26. Diamond Lake North Campground opened last week.

All Diamond Lake campgrounds will be available by advance reservation only through www.recreation.gov. No payments will be accepted at the campground. Reservations can be made through Recreation.gov beginning Wednesday, June 24, and must be made two days in advance of your intended visit. Local District offices have no ability to make reservations for you. Unless you have been notified to the contrary, all existing reservations are still valid.

Forest personnel are working to reopen other campgrounds on the forest in the upcoming weeks. The first priority is mitigating storm and insect damage that have weakened and killed a significant number of trees in our campgrounds this winter. The damage is most prevalent in the Diamond Lake campgrounds where hundreds of trees continue to be removed by staff to eliminate them as a safety risk to our users and staff. Further announcements will be forthcoming as we remove more trees that allow us to open campgrounds around Diamond Lake and elsewhere on the Forest. “We are working hard to get these campgrounds open,” said Alice Carlton, Forest Supervisor, Umpqua National Forest. “We have employees out preparing these sites every day and are excited to be able to offer these again to the public in the near future.”

Many facilities, such as vault bathrooms, showers and water points will be open for public use. Members of the public wishing to utilize these facilities are doing so at their own discretion and must take all necessary precautions to ensure their own personal health and safety. While we are

See LAKE 3B

Eagles land new coach

By NICK SNYDER
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While a cloud of uncertainty still looms over the 2020-21 high school sports season, as of last week there is a bit more clarity at least for Yoncalla boys basketball.

After finishing the 2019-20 season going 10-14 overall and 4-8 in Skyline League play under first year head coach Lourie Hall, Yoncalla High School has handed the reigns of their boys basketball program to

Yoncalla Elementary School principal Don Hakala.

Hakala, who formerly worked for Salem-area schools, joined Yoncalla School District just last year, but the support of the local community helped him quickly get his feet firmly under him in his administrative duties.

“Being in a big district and going to a smaller district has been really nice,” Hakala said of his transition to life in Douglas County. “I’m totally new to it and

I’ve enjoyed it greatly. Everyone’s been very welcoming and very supportive.”

The warm welcome of the Yoncalla community allowed Hakala – who turned down the head coaching job last year to focus on his role as principal – to jump at a second opportunity and take on the new challenge of building a consistently competitive Eagles basketball program.

“Basketball is the longest season of any sport and it

See HAKALA 3B



COURTESY PHOTO

New YHS boys basketball coach Don Hakala currently serves as the principal at Yoncalla Elementary School.

Corps urges safe recreation over holiday



PHOTO C/O CORPS OF ENGINEERS

A boater takes advantage of a sunny summer day on Cottage Grove Lake, an Army Corps of Engineers-managed site.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers encourages outdoor enthusiasts to recreate responsibly and safely this holiday weekend.

With reservoirs throughout Oregon near normal capacity and many areas now reopened, Corps officials are expecting increased activity on its water and land-based recreation sites.

“The fourth of July is a great time to celebrate with family and friends, but it can also be one of the most dangerous weekends of the year,” said Park Ranger Christie Johnson. “This year, with COVID-19 still a concern and most public holiday events cancelled, we want to make sure that people who

come out to recreate understand the risks and are prepared.”

Corps park rangers would like to remind the public of the following safety guidelines:

Be prepared. Some parks have limited access to amenities and services so bring your own personal protective supplies including hand sanitizer, soap, water,

face mask, and disinfectant wipes. Not all areas are open for camping and parking may be limited so have a plan B.

No fireworks. Do not bring your personal fireworks as use of fireworks is prohibited on Corps land except through spe-

See CORPS 3B

Drinking and boating? Ye be warned

The Marine Board, marine law enforcement from 18 county sheriff’s offices, Oregon State Police, and five Oregon U.S. Coast Guard Stations will be participating in Operation Dry Water during the weekend of July 3-5, as part of a nationally coordinated effort to reduce the number of accidents and fatalities related to Boating Under the Influence of Intoxicants

(BUII).

“We have multiple patrols scheduled this season to catch impaired boat operators,” says Randy Henry, Boating Safety Program Manager for the Marine Board. “We also have new tools. The legislature gave us the authority in 2020 to take your boater education card for up to three years, if convicted.”

Many marine officers have

completed specialized training to recognize alcohol and drug impairment. This includes prescription drugs, alcohol, inhalants, marijuana, or any other substance that impairs a person’s ability to make sound judgments and to safely operate a boat. The effects of drugs and alcohol are also amplified on the water with the combination of sun glare, wind, waves, and

other environmental stressors. Alcohol also dehydrates the body making sudden immersion into cold water at an even greater risk for drowning.

Impaired boaters can expect to be arrested or face serious penalties. In Oregon, the consequences of being convicted of BUII include the possibility of jail time, \$6,250 in fines, loss of boating privileges and a one to three-year suspension of the boater education card and potentially being court-mandated to take another boating safety course. Marine officers can arrest boaters on observed impairment and can legally obtain blood, breath or urine if a boater fails field sobriety testing. Officers have already arrested three people for BUII this year and at least two fatalities appear to have involved alcohol or drugs.

“Overall, recreational boating is safe if boaters wear life jackets, boat sober, and keep a sharp lookout. Waterways are becoming more crowded with a variety of mixed boating and other activities, so it’s important to pay attention to what’s going on around you and to follow the navigation rules of the road.

See BOATS 3B

Yard of the Week

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Week of July 2nd Winner is: **1104 South 2nd Street**
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