

Community members can share BMD memories in special publication

Next week, *The Sentinel* will publish its annual “Bohemia Nugget” to celebrate the Bohemia Mining Days festival, which was canceled this year due to the COVID-19 virus. Any community member who has a special memory or a reason why BMD

is important to them is encouraged to write a short paragraph and email it to festival coordinator Cindy Weeldreyer at bmd@BohemiaMiningDays.org. *The Sentinel* would also like to publish community members’ favorite photos, especially from the

1970s-1990s. For assistance submitting older photos, call Gary Manly at 541-942-3325. Submission deadline is Monday, July 6, to be included in this special keepsake publication.

Historical Society to host summer scavenger hunt

The Cottage Grove Historical Society has announced that it will be sponsoring a scavenger hunt this summer. The hunt is designed for families but is open to everyone. All locations are local and outside to accommodate social distancing guidelines. Instructions are included at the his-

torical society’s website at https://cghistory.org/images/2020_Scavenger_Hunt.pdf. It has been organized and funded by Cottage Grove area Partners in History. Organizers hope the community and visitors alike will enjoy this free local activity. All forms must be submitted by July 31st to be

entered into the drawing for a family dinner (\$150 gift certificate) at a local restaurant. Each tagged social media post will add an entry in the drawing and increase your families chance at winning so don’t forget to post using the hashtag #CGHistoryHunt.

Emerald PUD’s Short Mountain Landfill Generator Reaches Milestone

Emerald People’s Utility District’s Short Mountain Landfill gas generating plant recently celebrated an impressive milestone: half a billion kilowatt-hours of electricity produced since coming online in the early 1990s.

This is enough energy to power approximately 32,000 homes for an entire year. More than just a large number, the figure speaks to the longevity and reliability of a plant that was well ahead of its time when first constructed. Short Mountain Landfill, located just outside of Eugene, is owned and operated by Lane County. In the mid-1980s, the county solicited proposals for capturing the methane gas produced at the facility.

Emerald PUD responded with something of a radical idea at the time: use the gas to produce electricity.

Although landfill gas

generators are common today, back then there were few — if any — such plants on the west coast. In fact, Emerald PUD staff was forced to travel to other regions of the country to learn about this new approach.

After years of study and planning, the Short Mountain generating plant was finally commissioned in 1992. Today, it features four generators, each capable of producing 800 kW of renewable electricity to Emerald PUD’s 21,000 customers.

“Short Mountain was kind of a wild idea at the time, but it’s proven to be a great resource for the utility,” said Doug Hoover, an Emerald PUD Landfill Gas Technician who has been there for every kWh produced since the beginning. “I’m proud of the way it has worked out.”

In addition to the energy production benefits, the plant also prevents harmful greenhouse gases

from entering the atmosphere. In a typical year, more than 368 million cubic feet (CF) of gas is captured at the plant, equivalent to the emissions of approximately 3,000 vehicles.

Looking forward, Emerald PUD plans to continue operating at Short Mountain for at least the next several decades.

The utility recently signed a new contract with Lane County to secure the gas utilization rights through 2043.

Emerald PUD is a not-for-profit electric utility formed in 1978 by a small group of local citizens who wanted better, customer-oriented service at the lowest possible rates.

Today EPUD serves more than 20,000 meters in Lane County, Oregon. Follow Emerald PUD on Twitter @emeraldpub or Facebook at www.facebook.com/emeraldpub.

State Farm announces \$25k relief-grant program

Matt Bjornn, agent for State Farm, recently announced that State Farm “Neighborhood Assist” is back for its ninth year in 2020.

This year, \$25,000 in grants is being offered at a time when nonprofits and the communities they serve need it most. Due to the many challenges facing the nation, State Farm is removing all category requirements for submissions this year. This action will free up communities to submit causes to address their greatest needs.

The program will continue to award \$25,000 grants to 40 nonprofit organizations to help fund neighborhood improvement projects. According to a recent State Farm research study, one-quarter of respondents say that they are “extremely” or “very” involved in trying to improve their neigh-

borhood and 6-in-10 are trying to improve their neighborhood in some capacity.

Here’s how the program works:

- Submission Phase: Starts July 15 and ends when 2,000 submissions are reached. Individuals can submit a cause at www.neighborhoodassist.com starting July 15.

- Prepare now by going to the website and downloading the submission guide. Once 2,000 submissions have been received, the State Farm Review Committee will then narrow the field to the Top 200 finalists using a scoring rubric.

- Voting Phase: Sept. 23 through Oct. 2. Ultimately, voters will decide which community improvement projects will receive grants.

The public will have a chance to vote 10 times a day, every day, for 10 days

between Sept. 23 and Oct. 2 from the list of finalists.

Voting can be done online at www.neighborhoodassist.com.

- Winners announced: Winners will be announced Nov. 4 at www.neighborhoodassist.com, with the 40 causes that receive the most votes each win a \$25,000 grant.

“Grant programs that address community needs like Neighborhood Assist are more important than ever,” said Bjornn. “This initiative truly embodies the spirit of being a Good Neighbor.”

Last year, 163,000 people cast 4.4 million votes in support of their favorite causes, selecting winners from small towns and big cities.

Since the program began, State Farm has awarded \$8 million in support of more than 300 causes.

Local caregiver network group to meet July 13

The Caregiver Network of Cottage Grove will meet Monday, July 13, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Guest speaker will be speech pathologist Nancy

Vasilakes.

Anyone who is a local caregiver is invited to hear this valuable and informative presentation.

The group meets at

1200 E. Quincy in Cottage Grove.

For more information, contact Shirley at 541-232-0966.

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