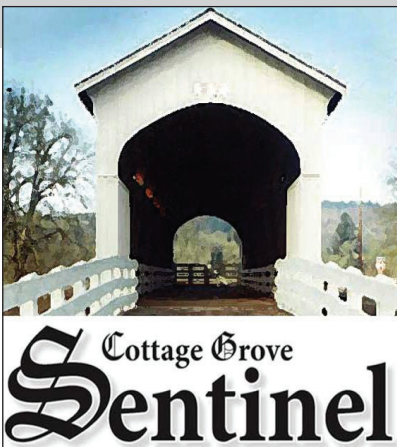




Boating tips for safe summer fun

Summer is here and in the coming weeks more people will be pulling out their boats from winter storage in preparation for launch in the waters of this state. Below are suggestions which can contribute to your safety and add to your boating pleasure.

- Know the legal requirements for your size vessel. Safety equipment must be accessible and in working condition.
- Wear your life jackets!! 85% of the boating fatalities could be avoided by wearing a personal flotation device.
- Have children and non-swimmers wear a personal flotation device.
- Be prepared and carry extra equipment such as a bailer (bucket), anchor, first aid kit, visual distress signal, tool kit, flashlight with extra batteries, and a cell phone.
- Don't over load your boat.
- Capsizing, sinking, and falling overboard account for 70% of boating fatalities.
- If your boat should capsize, your best chance for survival and rescue is to stay with the boat. Pull as much of your body out of the water as possible to preserve body warmth.
- Hypothermia can be a killer; keep your body as dry and warm as possible.
- It is illegal to operate any boat while under the influence of alcohol or other drugs.
- Stressors such as exposure to sun, wind, cold water, vibration, noise, and alcohol all affect your ability to react.
- Don't run out of fuel. Practice the 1/3 rule: 1/3 for trip, 1/3 for return, and 1/3 for spare.
- Fuel vapors are heavier than air and collect in the bilge. Never fill gasoline cans in the boat.
- When anchoring, use a line that is several times longer than the depth of the water and never anchor by the stern.
- File a float plan. Let someone know where you're boating and when you'll be back.
- You're responsible for damage or injury caused by your wake. Exercise caution around other boaters and docks.
- As of January 2009, all persons operating a motor boat greater than 10 horsepower are required to carry a Boater Education Card. The card shows that the operator has passed an approved boater education course or equivalency exam.

For further information on Boating in Oregon, visit the Oregon State Marine Board web site: www.boat-oregon.com

SLSD board meeting offers insight into fall

By NICK SNYDER
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The debate over school reopenings for the 2020-21 school year is raging nationally and, despite ongoing work from local officials, the situation in Cottage Grove is just as muddled.

The South Lane School District (SLSD) board met remotely on Monday, July 20 to discuss the most pressing issues facing its member schools as well as elect new officers for the upcoming school year.

With a lack of concrete direction from the Oregon Department of Education – due to the

ever-changing situation regarding COVID-19 - superintendent Yvonne Curtis and the seven members of the SLSD board discussed a number of options and ideas, but the difficulty of the school reopening topic, and its far-reaching effects if done unsafely, still elicit more questions than answers.

Nonetheless, the first order of business for the board on Monday was the election of new leadership for 2020-21 and, in stark contrast to the planning for fall, the process was as smooth as could be.

Dustin Bengtson, who was recently elevated to the vice chair position at the end of his first year

on the board, was unanimously approved as the new board chair. He takes over for outgoing head Sherry Duerst-Higgins.

“I appreciate the vote of confidence,” Bengtson said after the vote. “I will certainly make mistakes this year, so I ask for your patience. I will do my best to do my part to get us through this challenging time.”

Assisting Bengtson in his role as a new board officer will be both Taylor Wilhour and long-time board member and former chair Sherry Duerst-Higgins, who were also unanimously approved to become co-vice chairs. The shared position was created in order to

blend Wilhour’s fresh perspectives as a relatively new member of the board with Duerst-Higgins’ vast experience.

“I’m certainly going to look to Sherry and her depth of experience for pointers and, especially, her vast network of connections within education throughout the state and, to some extent throughout the country,” Wilhour said.

Bengtson, Wilhour, Duerst-Higgins and the rest of the board, however, had no time to rest as the conversation pivoted immediately to questions sur-

See **SLSD 2B**

Gran Fondo set for Saturday



PHOTOS BY DAMIEN SHERWOOD/CG SENTINEL



During a summer nearly devoid of sports and athletics due to COVID-19 concerns, the return of the Gran Fondo cycling tour - which means “Big Ride” in Italian - to Cottage Grove is a welcome sight.

The race will begin at 7 a.m. on Sat., Jul. 25 at the intersection of 6th and Washington St. Riders can choose between the untimed gravel ride, the 71-mile medio course or the full 117-mile Gran Fondo.

Last year, over 250 riders came to the Grove to participate. Racers and visitors alike will still be asked to follow COVID-safe procedures throughout the duration of the event.

Beat the heat, learn history, get outdoors

Museums throughout Lane County offer a glimpse into our past, so why not plan an outing that gives your family an opportunity to beat the heat and the crowds while learning about the people who shaped our past.

With a variety of museums you’ll find something interesting for everyone. Museums focused on everything from air and space, military, pioneers, gold miners and more can be found in Lane County. Many of the museums are free while others charge

a nominal fee. What is common is the uncommon hours and days of week these museums operate, so be sure to check their website or give them a call to ensure operating hours haven’t changed.

In some cases you’ll find a museum closed, but that doesn’t mean you can’t enjoy their content. The Lane County History Museum continues adding online content that provides an opportunity to learn in the comfort of your own home.

Another way to look at



COURTESY PHOTO

the past is the Eugene Science Center’s planetarium shows. Limited opportunities are currently offered, so act quickly to secure your spot to view an amazing celestial show.

From viewing something far far away to viewing birds of prey up close and personal, the Cascades Raptor Center is a great venue for learning about raptors that live in our region and view them in specially designed outdoor living spaces. Learn about a large variety of raptors and how Cascades Raptor Center restores to health injured wildlife.

How about giving the kids a chance to experience adventure, play, nature, science, art and gardening. Nearby Nature’s day camps are now underway and are easily accessible at Alton Baker Park. While Dorris Ranch’s outdoor programs are not operating the whole family can

experience a self-guided tour and history lesson about the ranch and the Dorris Family.

Don’t let COVID get you down. Go out and explore Lane County’s past, present and future.

Overnight It - Make your day trip and overnighter. Travel Lane County’s lodging partners are offering staycation packages that will stretch your budget. View our newest staycation offer from the Hyatt Place in Eugene. More offerings may be found on ourDeals page.

Whatever adventure you choose as part of your summer staycation, please be prepared. Our Adventure Checklist is available for planning a safe and fun outing and Travel Oregon’s Prepare and Care information is another valuable resource for those heading outdoors.

Round Room Retailers host Backpack Giveaway

Students in Cottage Grove are about to benefit from a national backpack giveaway

More than 800 participating TCC and Wireless Zone stores across the U.S. – including the Verizon Wireless store in Cottage Grove - are inviting families to visit select locations on Sunday, July 26, between 1-4 p.m. where they will donate 140,000 backpacks filled with various school supplies including pencils, paper, a pencil box, folders and glue.

One backpack per child will be given away to families, but to limit the number of people at the event, children are not required to be present to receive the backpack. Backpacks will be given out on a first-come, first-served basis while supplies last.

Each participating store location will follow the CDC’s social distancing and state guidelines to ensure the safety of employees and event attendees. In an effort to promote safety, stores will host either distanced walk up or contactless drive up events for customers to pick up backpacks. Check your local store location for specific instructions.

In addition to the backpack donations, TCC and Wireless Zone stores will be awarding five \$10,000 college scholarships. Children in grades K-12 are eligible for entry and can be registered at their local stores during the Backpack Giveaway event. Entries will be accepted July 24-31.

“We love helping students obtain essential supplies before they begin their school year each summer,” said Scott Moorehead, CEO of Round Room, parent company of TCC and Wireless Zone.

For a list of participating stores and to learn how your local store location will commence its Backpack Giveaway event, visit www.tccrocks.com/locations and shop.wirelesszone.com. Each participating store will donate up to 180 backpacks. Any leftover backpacks will be donated to local schools.

Supporters of the School Rocks Backpack Giveaway are encouraged to use hashtags #School-Rocks and #BetterTogether on Instagram and Twitter to help spread the word.

Yard of the Week

brought to you by:
Cottage Grove Sentinel
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Week of July 23rd Winner is: **928 Birch Avenue.**

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)