

THURSDAY | JULY 8, 2021

# New trail makes headway along Coast Fork

BY DANIEL FRIIS  
FOR THE SENTINEL

Since early spring, the Cottage Grove Public Works and Development team have been putting in long hours working on the city's newest trail along the Coast Fork of the Willamette River.

The trail's entrance is located on the south side of Lincoln Middle School in between the bus lot and the houses on Grant Street.

It extends just 960 feet now, but by its completion, it's expected that the path will grow five times in length with several access points and other paths along the way.

"The new trail is a great addition to the city trail sys-

tem," Faye Stewart, the Cottage Grove Public Works and Development Director, said. "The trail will eventually connect to downtown, giving local residents an alternate route to walk or bike to downtown."

The trail begins with access and views of the Coast Fork of the Willamette River. From there, it takes guests along the Chambers Covered Railroad Bridge, where it stops for now.

The location of the trail has been something of pride by those working on it. The beautiful views and scenery of the river combined with an abundance of trees beside the path make for a calm and enjoyable experience.

"The views of the Coast

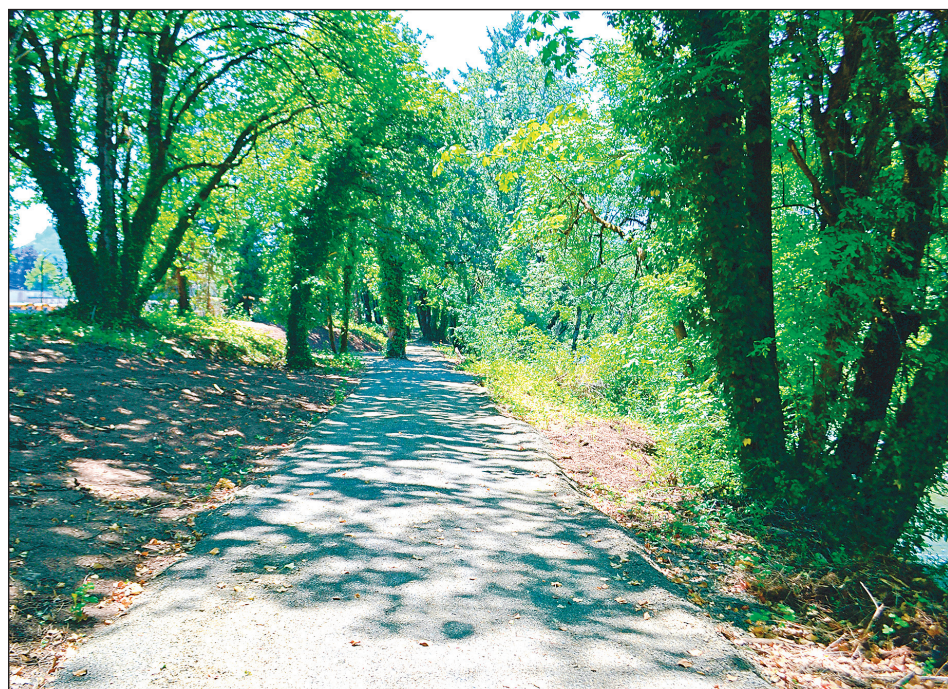
Fork River from the new trail are spectacular," Stewart said. "It is a nice shaded area that allows for users to take in the beauty of the surrounding area. It is also a peaceful setting where people can go to relax."

Another advantage of the path is the material it's made of. The trail consists of gravel with a compacted finer gravel on top which gives a shock-absorbent quality, so residents can walk or bike smoothly.

With more time and funding, the trail will be paved.

The pathway is the newest of several trails occupying the Cottage Grove area. With other

see **TRAIL** on B2



DAMIEN SHERWOOD/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

The new trail, currently a work in progress, will add a mile to the city's trail system and wind along the Coast Fork of the Willamette River.

# Freedom Cup kicks off tripleheader at CG Speedway

BY STEPHANIE DEATHERAGE

Cottage Grove Speedway kicked off their Independence Day tripleheader weekend on Friday, July 2.

The first of three nights of the 2021 Freedom Cup would have three divisions on the bill, including two Speedway Motor IMCA Weekly Racing program classes.

They included the Todd's Auto Body Sprint Cars, IMCA Modifieds, and Royalty Core IMCA Northern Sport Mods.

Now residing in Newberg, Scotty Fox had an incredible start in the Todd's Auto Body Sprint Car feature. Fox paced the field in

the first portion of the main event but unfortunately hit the wall and took a tumble down the front stretch on lap three. It would hand the lead over to Cottage Grove's Justin Lemon.

Lemon did a masterful job of keeping his mount in front of the rest of the contingent. However, he did receive some pressure from Camden Robustelli in the T.J. Winningham-owned entry in the closing circuits. The two would fight it out on the final lap, with Robustelli slipping past Lemon to go on to score the victory.

It is the young Medford driver's first win of the sea-

see **KICK OFF** on B2



COURTESY OF CODY REEDER

Brookings-based Matt Sanders dominated the Royalty Core IMCA Northern Sport Mods this weekend.

# Emergency fishing regulations issued in response to drought

ODFW has implemented emergency regulations which began July 1 in several angling zones as Oregon faces a severe drought this summer, putting the state's salmon, steelhead, trout and sturgeon at risk.

The latest regulations are listed at the top of the Recreation Report for each zone. The public can check an angling zone before going fishing at [myodfw.com/recreation-report/fishing-report](http://myodfw.com/recreation-report/fishing-report).

These emergency regulations are in effect until Sept. 30, 2021, but may be lifted early or extended depending on conditions.

A summary of emergency regulations follows:

Fishing will close for salmon, steelhead, sturgeon, and trout from 2 p.m. until one hour before sunrise in some rivers and streams in the NW, SW, Willamette, Central, NE zones. ("Hoot owl" regulations to end fishing before water temperatures are at their warmest, which stresses fish.)

Nehalem River (NW Zone) upstream of the Miami-Foley Road Bridge (and tributaries upstream of bridge) will close to all angling July 1-Sept. 30. The Nehalem Bay/River from the mouth to the Miami Foley Road Bridge remains open under permanent regulations. The North Fork Nehalem is also open with "hoot owl" restrictions above tide-water. All other open streams in the NW Zone will be under "hoot owl" regulations.

The Deschutes River from the mouth to Sherars Falls will be under "hoot owl" regulations to protect fish.

Angling closure within 200 feet of mouths of tributaries

see **FISHING** on B2

# Burke, Williamson, Braaten crowned 2021 Freedom Cup champions

BY STEPHANIE  
DEATHERAGE

The third and final night of the 2021 Freedom Cup would be an exciting one as the cars and stars of Cottage Grove Speedway battled it all out once more.

On Sunday, July 4, the Independence Day bout hosted the same three divisions from the two previous nights, including two Speedway Motors IMCA Weekly Racing program classes. They included the Todd's Auto Body Sprints, IMCA Modifieds, and Royalty Core IMCA Northern Sport Mods.

The Todd's Auto Body Sprints got off to a quick start, with Scotty Fox taking control on the opening lap. Fox, originally from Oakland but now a resident of Newberg was involved in a vicious crash while leading on Friday night. He paced the field until being overtaken on the fifth circuit by Vern



COURTESY OF CODY REEDER

Nick Trenchard (second from left) of Klamath Falls scored two straight feature wins over the Independence Day weekend in Cottage Grove.

Scervers.

The Dixonville veteran of Scervers remained the pacesetter for a lengthy time. Finally, however, on lap nineteen, Bailey Hibbard completed the pass for first place. Hibbard,

from Medford, remained there the rest of the distance to record his first win of the season at Cottage Grove.

Camden Robustelli, also from Medford and racing for car owner T.J. Winning-

ham, posted a runner-up finish with third going to Eagle Point youngster Johnny Burke. Jacksonville teenager Carly Holmes was fourth, with the fifth place being credited to Tyrell Mead, of Winston. Burke would have the most point by a narrow three marker over Hibbard when all the totals were accumulated.

Eric Ashley was the early race leader in the IMCA Modified main event. Ashley, from Jasper, was scored in that position until Chad Groves passed him on the eighth circuit. Groves inhabited the coveted position until lap 13.

Jesse Williamson was the

see **CHAMPION** on B2

# Athlete of the Week



*This week's athletes of the week are the dancers of the South Lane Ballet Academy. The previous week, the dancers performed for the community in record-breaking heat.*



During extreme heat at the end of June, 85 dancers performed at the Bohemia Park amphitheater.

PHOTO BY SOPHIA  
EDELBLUTE/CG  
SENTINEL