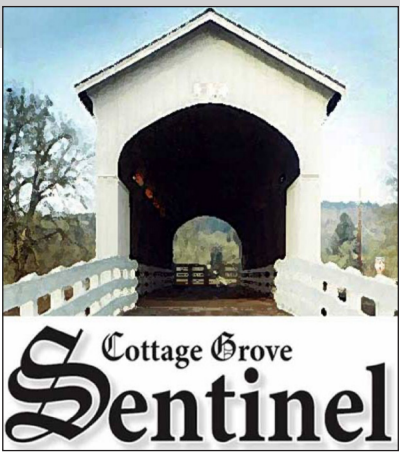


THURSDAY | AUGUST 5, 2021



ODFW RECREATION AND FISHING REPORT

myodfw.com/recreation-report

Updated July 29, 2021

Warm weather fishing updates and guidance

Drought and low water levels persist and temperatures will be spiking again this week.

The fall Chinook season on the Columbia and in coastal rivers opened Aug. 1. There are special regulations in place this year for the Columbia and south coast, so be sure to check before you go.

Catch rates for hatchery coho have been good, and took a jump over the last week. Salmon fishing in the cooler ocean breezes is a great way to beat the summer heat.

Wildfire closures and restrictions updates

Access for fishing and big game scouting is getting tricky.

Fire danger in many parts of the state remains extreme. The Forest Service has closed the Umatilla National Forest to the public, and the Oregon departments of parks and forestry have banned all campfires on their lands east of I-5.

To keep up with the latest closures and restrictions on private forest lands, check out: myodfw.com/articles/hunting-and-fire-danger-oregon.

To help you navigate the status of popular recreation sites on public lands, natural resource management agencies in Oregon have released an interagency status map that shows open, closed and reduced service areas on a single map, regardless of reason for closure.

To view the map, go to: wildfire.oregon.gov/Pages/Recreation-Impacts.aspx

Finally, check the zone reports for updates on specific waterbodies.

Hunting and fire danger

Early season hunts often take place during the peak of the wildfire season.

Experienced hunters know to check for fire closures before their hunt. Visit myodfw.com/articles/hunting-and-fire-danger-oregon for links to the most current fire closures and restrictions.

Register for shotgun skills, pheasant hunting workshops

ODFW is offering several of its popular shotgun skills and pheasant hunting workshops beginning in June.

A shotgun skills class is a prerequisite to a pheasant hunting workshop. These classes fill quickly, so sign up soon.

Visit myodfw.com/workshops-and-events for more details.

Fresh start for CGHS cross country

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After nearly a quarter century under Jim Settlemyer, the cross country team at Cottage Grove High School (CGHS) will have a new head coach starting this fall — Ricky Knutson.

Knutson, who also is the Cottage Grove track and field head coach, will now be able to have both the cross country and track programs under the same roof. Coach Knutson is excited to develop consistent alignment with his programs starting this season.

“I love the sport of cross country,” said Knutson. “The experiences I had growing up and the friends

see **CGHS** on B2



KENDRICK MURPHY/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

The CGHS cross country team warms up on Aug. 3 ahead of the upcoming season.

Aquatic Center summer programs off to swimmingly good start

BY DANIEL FRIIS
FOR THE SENTINEL

What goes together better than summertime and a pool? Not much.

Thankfully, at Cottage Grove’s Warren H. Daugherty Aquatic Center, a slew of aquatic programs and fitness opportunities have become available for kids and adults of all ages. Not only this, but more programs are slated to be offered as summer rolls along.

Like many other businesses, the Aquatic Center couldn’t wait to reopen their doors to the public after a year of frustration.

“It was a breath of fresh air,” said Josh Norton, a pool manager for the Aquatic Center. “I took this job a year ago so that I could create a community, and I finally feel like I’m doing that now.”

Unlike other businesses though, the Aquatic Center prides itself on inclusion. They offer programs to people of all ages, sizes, and physical abilities.

“Our mission really is to create a diverse set of aquatic programs,” Norton said. “We want to provide something to every demographic of our community whether they are the elderly who need therapy or kids who need lessons.”



DANIEL FRIIS/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

Free swimmers and “aquacisers” get their early morning workout in the pool.

Once the mask mandate was lifted and restrictions started to lighten, Norton and the rest of the Aquatic Center were ready to bring some normalcy back to the community.

The first program they offered this summer was a swimming school launched four

days a week at no charge. The school lasted all throughout July, and it saw around 100 participants each day.

Last weekend, the Aquatic Center launched their 10th annual Elementary Tri-

see **AQUATIC** on B2

Jesse Williamson sweeps 2021 Mark Howard Memorial CGS Modified Nationals

CONTRIBUTED BY COTTAGE GROVE SPEEDWAY

Night two of the Mark Howard Memorial Cottage Grove Speedway Modified Nationals took place on Saturday, July 31.

Two Speedway Motors IMCA Weekly Racing Program divisions topped the bill, including the IMCA Modifieds and Royalty Core Custom Grille & Truck Parts IMCA Northern Sport Mods. Additionally, they were accompanied by the Todd’s Auto Body Sprint Cars, Senior Sprints, and Hardtops.

The 52-lap, \$2,600-to-win feature started off with Jesse Williamson obtaining the lead on the initial start.

After that, the Coburg chauffeur reigned supreme against the competition, but he did



COURTESY PHOTO

Jesse Williamson has collected five straight wins since July 4.

have to be smart on the restarts. As a result, eight total stoppages occurred, including four in the last dozen circuits.

There were points in which

lapped traffic was caught, and Williamson was briefly challenged; he flexed his muscle against the field from those times on. Nevertheless, Jesse

Williamson swept the weekend en route to his record leading seven Mark Howard Memorial Cottage Grove Speedway titles.

Williamson has amassed an impressive five straight wins to his credit, going back to Independence Day, on July 4, when he was victorious for the first time in 2021.

All triumphs have been earned in KMJ Performance Oregon State and Shaw Race Cars Western Region action.

Corbett’s Collen Winebarger was second with the Rich and Nikki Biehn owned entry, driven by Nick Trenchard of Klamath Falls, ending the race third. Stayton racer Grey Ferrando placed fourth over fifth finishing Jake Mayden from Springfield. Mayden won the consolation feature earlier in the evening.

A new face emerged victorious in the Royalty Core Custom Grille & Truck Parts IMCA Northern Sport Mods. Anthony Pope, from Roseburg, captured the lead on lap seven and didn’t look back from there.

Racing for car owner Doug Coffman, Pope overtook Corbett youngster Skyler Winebarger to gain first place in the

see **CGS** on B2

Athlete of the Week



This week’s athlete of the week is senior cross country runner Piper Youngmayr. Piper has attended Steens Mountain Running Camp and been a staple member of off-season workouts.



Youngmayr will be finishing her CGHS cross country career under new head coach Ricky Knutson.

PHOTO BY KENDRICK MURPHY/CG SENTINEL