

OSU Extension Outdoor School provides resources for families during stay-at-home order

Blue Mountain Eagle

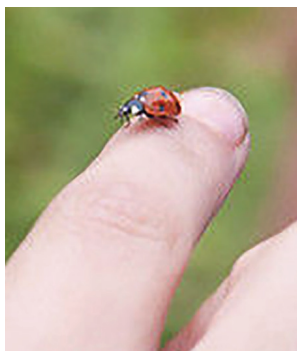
The statewide Oregon State University Extension Service Outdoor School program is offering resources to engage children in learning about nature while adhering to Oregon's "Stay Home, Save Lives" order.

Extension Outdoor School added a webpage — "Educational Resources for Stay Home, Save Lives" — to its website where parents, guardians and teachers can find links to resources to support outdoor learning experiences while schools are out of session, according to a press release.

The page, which can be translated to Spanish, is updated Fridays with weekly resource sets with nature observations, journal prompts and online activities: <https://outdoorschool.oregonstate.edu/educators/educational-resources-for-stay-home-save-lives>.

So far, the themes have been birds, trees and flowers. Outdoor School is also linking to the resource sets on its Twitter and Facebook accounts.

"These weekly themes simplify matters for families who are sorting out a lot of information about at-home activities," said Kristopher Elliott, an OSU Extension assistant director who leads



Contributed photo/Oregon State University

A ladybug crawls on a student's finger. The Oregon State University Extension Service Outdoor School program offers resource to engage students in learning about nature while staying home.

the Outdoor School program. "Given all the time we're spending inside, these are unique resources to help families keep children connected to their natural environment in a meaningful way."

The resource page and resource sets are part of Extension Outdoor School's strategic response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which led to mass cancellations of in-person outdoor school programs this spring.

The strategy seems to be working, Elliott said.

Nearly 400 new users have visited the webpage since it launched in late March. That's created a ripple effect: Visits

to the OSU Extension Outdoor School website have more than doubled in the last month. They're coming from Oregon cities such as Bend, Klamath Falls, La Grande, Seaside and The Dalles. Outside of Oregon, the page has been visited by users in Minneapolis, Bangkok and Amsterdam.

It's not just families who are accessing the resources. Nearly 17% of unique visits to the weekly resource sets come from Google Classroom, suggesting that teachers are directing parents and students to the resource sets as part of their distance learning, said Kristi Backe, Extension Outdoor School's curriculum and professional development coordinator.

"We picked topics that are accessible to many students. Things that you can see out a window," said Backe, who worked with the Extension Outdoor School's team to develop in one week the educational resources webpage.

"We wanted to focus on curating these resources into manageable pieces so they're not overwhelming families," she said. "It only takes a couple of minutes to read through each topic."

Oregon's school closures and cancellations of this spring's outdoor school experiences came at a time

when enrollment in Outdoor School was increasing statewide. Nearly 38,000 students took part in Outdoor School in 2018-19, a 6% increase over the 2017-18 school year.

Elliott anticipated that figure would rise to 43,300 students this school year — before the spread of COVID-19 led Gov. Kate Brown to issue a statewide order to close schools.

In 2016, Oregon voters passed Measure 99, mandating that all Oregon fifth- or sixth-grade students should have the opportunity to attend a week-long outdoor school program or comparable outdoor education program.

Measure 99 created an Outdoor School Education Fund and charged Oregon State University Extension Service with supporting, administering and funding an outdoor school program as set forth in Senate Bill 439, which approved \$24 million for the program's first two years. Last year, the Oregon Legislature approved \$46 million for the next biennium for Extension Outdoor School.

Elliott said that if funding is available, Extension Outdoor School is considering guidance for schools to allow next year's seventh-graders to participate in an outdoor school program if theirs was canceled this spring.

OBITUARIES

Darryl-McKenzy Sheppard Smith

June 17, 1968 — April 9, 2020

Darryl-McKenzy Sheppard Smith, 51, passed away at his home on April 9, 2020, in Baker City, Oregon.

Darryl was born in Ontario, Oregon, on June 17, 1968. Darryl graduated high school at Mt. Vernon and attended college at the University of Eastern Oregon in La Grande. After college he moved to Portland and became a property manager until he became disabled.

After leaving Portland, he moved to Hermiston, Mt. Vernon and Baker City. Darryl loved to garden, camp and fish. He enjoyed spending time with his family and friends.

Darryl is survived by his moms, Marilyn Smith and Elaine Johnson; step-dad Dale Johnson; brother Gene Sheppard; sisters Wendi Leeper, Pam Woodworth and Ann Morino; several aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins; and his beloved four legged companion Nia.

Darryl was preceded in death by his father Carl Sheppard and nephew Steven Jay Maine.

All those who knew Darryl loved him dearly and will always treasure their time that they spent together. Darryl will forever be missed. May he rest in peace.

For those who would like to make a memorial donation in memory of Darryl, the family suggests Best Friends (animal care and rescue) through Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services P.O. Box 543 Halfway, OR 97834. Online condolences may be shared at tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com.



James L. Johnson

Oct. 8, 1934 — March 26, 2020

James Lynn Johnson of Canyon City passed away on March 26, 2020, at the age of 86, surrounded by his family.

Jim was born Oct. 8, 1934, to Iva Marie and Irvin Leroy Johnson. He was the sixth of seven sons.

Jim attended Grant Union High School, participating in football, basketball, baseball, boxing, track and field.

On July 30, 1954, Jim married his high school sweetheart, Lola Lee Smith. Three days later, he deployed to Korea serving in the Army as SP3, 99th ENG CO, operating an offset printing press. He also volunteered at orphanages helping children.

Jim received the National Defense Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal and Honorable Service Medal from Oregon Veterans.

Music was Jim's passion, playing and singing fiddle music in the community or at home. Jim had a gift for flint-knapping, leather and rawhide braiding. Jim as often found fishing or boating and enjoyed being outside hunting and camping with family and friends. He loved teaching the children of his community survival techniques during Outdoor School for many years.

Jim attended Redeemer Lutheran Church in John Day and was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He was employed by Hines Lumber Company and USFS as a Timber Sale Administrator.

Jim was preceded in death by both of his parents and all six of his brothers. He is survived by his wife, Lola; daughter Cindy Lemcke; son and daughter-in-law Guy and Angie Johnson; daughter and son-in-law Tani and Tom Schaefer; nine grandchildren, Brandon, Tyrel, Jared, Amanda, Kaylee, Ben, Ori, Clay and Katie; nine great-grandchildren, Emma, Paisley, Samantha, Stetson, Parker, Shepler, Jaxon, Harleigh and Lawson.

Donations may be made to St. Jude's Children's Hospital or Shriners Hospital for Children.

A celebration of life for Jim will be held this summer.



Studded tire deadline extended

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Oregon drivers will not be required to remove studded tires until 11:59 p.m. Friday, May 15. The deadline had previously been extended from April 1 to May 1.

While studded tires are allowed in Oregon by law from Nov. 1 through March

31, the Oregon Department of Transportation decided to again extend that deadline in response to the continuing public health emergency of COVID-19.

ODOT encourages drivers to have their studded tires removed before May 15 if it can reasonably be done while maintaining social distancing.

Amateur radio operators participate in emergency test

Blue Mountain Eagle

Grant County Amateur Radio Emergency Service took part in an Eastern Oregon and Eastern Washington regional exercise April 18.

Grant County ARES normally participates in twice annual simulated emergency tests with other counties throughout the state, according to a press release from Grant County

Emergency Coordinator Steve Fletcher.

This year those exercises were canceled because of the COVID-19 restrictions and the fact that in many counties an emergency communication response requires a centralized room with many people in it.

In Grant County, ARES has been practicing dispersed communication responses, which solves many of the problems of

a centralized communications network.

"The decentralized approach solves problems of audio and radio 'noise,'" Fletcher said. "When you have a room full of people talking, this creates a number of problems for radio operators. When you have a number of radios and antennas in one spot it creates some serious technical problems."

When other counties had to cancel their tests, Grant County partnered with nearby counties and continued, using temporary cross-band repeaters to talk to operators in Pendleton, Boardman, La Grande, Baker City, Summerville, Caldwell, Nampa and Boise.

Four different bands or modes were used to accomplish the objectives of the test.

"Many things were learned and improvements will be made," Fletcher said.

HEINEGER WINS LAKE CREEK YOUTH CAMP PISTOL RAFFLE



Contributed photo

Margot 'Grace' Heiniger, 83, won the Lake Creek Youth Camp pistols in a raffle on April 4. She has been a resident of Grant County for 40 years, has been a sharpshooter since she was 22 and an author since 1981.

Rosemary A. King

January 2, 1924 ~ April 15, 2020

Rosemary A. King died April 15, 2020 at Wheatland Village in Walla Walla, WA. Her birthday was January 2, 1924 near Mt. Vernon, Oregon to James L. and Edith Schrier. She was next to the youngest child in a family with six children.

Rosemary grew up on a cattle ranch near Mt. Vernon, graduating from Mt. Vernon High School as valedictorian of her class in 1942. After graduation she attended NYA School in Pendleton, Oregon and then worked at Pendleton Field as a secretary in Special Services until the Air Base closed. She then worked at Knob Hill Pharmacy in Portland, Oregon.

On September 10, 1945 Rosemary married Dennis J. King at her father's home in Mt. Vernon, Oregon. They made their home on a ranch west of Long Creek, Oregon, raising registered, horned Hereford cattle for over 40 years.



Mrs. King enjoyed participating in Home Extension for a number of years. She was a long-time exhibitor at the Grant County Fair, most particularly in the home economics division, winning champions and a trophy for her angel-food cakes. Also, for a few years she served as a 4-H cooking leader, teaching youth how to exhibit at the fair. The real joy of her life was preparing made-from-scratch meals, from their home-grown produce for her family, friends and summer hay-hands. In her later years, she enjoyed her cats, garage sales and hobbies of refunding and coupon shopping and attending the Adams Community Church.

Mrs. King was preceded in death by Mr. King, her parents, two brothers and two sisters. She is survived by one sister, Kay Swanson, and by two daughters, Edith Elligen Smith of Athena and Terry Thunell and her husband John (Bud) Thunell of Walla Walla, as well as numerous grandchildren, great grandchildren and other relatives.

A private burial service will be held at Olney Cemetery in Pendleton, OR. A public memorial service will be held at the Adams Community Church when the world-wide COVID-19 pandemic is brought under control. Meantime, memorial gifts can be made to the Adams Community Church, Box 34, Adams, OR 97810 or to the Blue Mountain Humane Society of Walla Walla. Munselle-Rhodes Funeral Home of Milton-Freewater is in charge of the arrangements. To leave a condolence online, visit: www.munsellerhodes.com. Paid for by the family of Rosemary King.

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He will bathe in an ADVERTISED TUB, shave with an ADVERTISED RAZOR, have a breakfast of ADVERTISED JUICE, cereal and toast, toasted in an ADVERTISED TOASTER, put on ADVERTISED CLOTHES and glance at his ADVERTISED WATCH. He'll ride to work in his ADVERTISED CAR, sit at an ADVERTISED DESK and write with an ADVERTISED PEN. Yet this person hesitates to advertise, saying that advertising doesn't pay. Finally, when his non-advertised business is going under, HE'LL ADVERTISE IT FOR SALE.

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Last Week's Temps

John Day	HI/LO
Tuesday	63/29
Wednesday	58/37
Thursday.....	58/28
Friday	66/29
Saturday	65/35
Sunday.....	62/36
Monday.....	70/37

24/7 FORECAST

AUTOMATED: 541-575-1122

ROAD CONDITIONS: 511; TRIPCHECK.COM

NOAA WEATHER RADIO FOR JOHN DAY

162.500 MHz

WEATHER FORECAST FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 22 - 28

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
Showers	Chance of showers	Mostly sunny	Chance of showers	Mostly cloudy	Chance of showers	Cloudy
56	58	63	69	67	63	72
40	35	40	40	42	29	42