

# 'Go Outside' campaign kicks off with yoga, movie

Every Wednesday and Friday through August will feature events

By Steven Mitchell  
Blue Mountain Eagle

The smell of fresh popcorn permeated Friday as the sun went down at the John Day City Park for Movie Night in the Park.

The event, free and open to the public, will show movies throughout July and August at 9 p.m. Fridays at the park, according to Parks and Rec board member Lisa Weigum.

About 40 moviegoers rolled out their blankets on the grass on Friday for "Harry and the Hendersons." Weigum proudly said the 1980s fantasy comedy about a suburban family that accidentally and unwittingly brings home a Big-foot was her pick.

## 'Go Outside Campaign'

Weigum said Movie Night in the Park is one of the various activities from the "Go Outside" campaign.

She said the campaign is a community health initiative designed to encourage people to get outside and manage their mental, emotional and physical health by participating in community events outdoors.

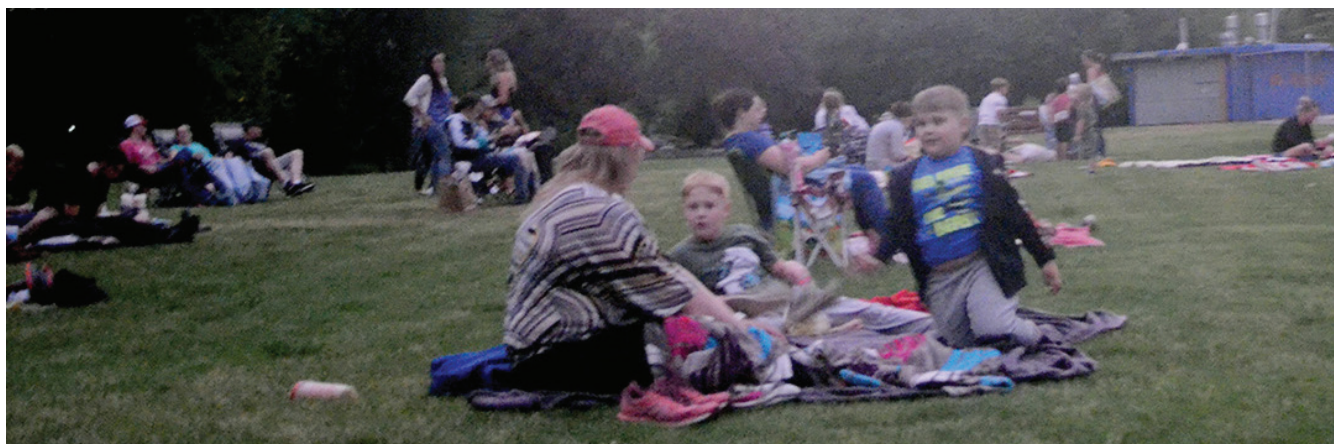
The campaign kicked off Wednesday with the first Yoga in the Park session, according to Weigum. She said Ashley Stevick of Green Yoga Community taught the session at the John Day Park. The classes will continue from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays through July and August.

Sponsored by the Grant County Community Health Improvement Coalition,



Yoga instructor Ashley Stevick.

Contributed photo



Families settled in for Movie Night in the Park on Friday at the John Day City Park.

The Eagle/Steven Mitchell

Blue Mountain Hospital and Community Counseling Solutions, Weigum said the goal is to give people the opportunity to be a part of the community and feel connected, especially after

more than a year of pandemic restrictions.

Weigum said, while local health officials have worked on similar strategies over the last couple of years, COVID-19 accel-

erated the development of the "Go Outside" campaign.

She said the campaign was also born out of the hospital's Community Health Needs Assessment.

The assessment, a com-

ponent of the Affordable Care Act, requires Blue Mountain Hospital to survey the community every three years and identify health needs within the overall population.

## WEEKLY EVENTS PLANNED

### Yoga in the Park

When: 6:30-7:30 p.m.  
Wednesdays through August

Where: John Day City Park

### Movie Night in the Park

When: 9 p.m. Fridays through August

Where: John Day City Park

"So it was really born out of collaborative, brainstorming sessions between community partners around how to serve our community better," she said. "And how to identify these gaps that we've all recognized."

During these sessions, she said one of the goals was to encourage outdoor recreation and reduce substance abuse and dependency.

She said the group collectively asked, "What if we encouraged people to go outside, and what if we offered fun, free things and we offered some incentives to get people outside?"

Weigum said anyone who attends an event sponsored by the "Go Outside" campaign would automatically be entered into a raffle.

She said they would pick three different winners at the end of each month. Prizes include outdoor items that range from a Traeger Grill to an inflatable paddleboard and other gear.

Weigum said this week's Wednesday event will also have live music from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m., and Timbers Bistro will cater the event.

# Oregon's unusually hot summer political season

Gun control bill becomes law unless enough signatures are collected by Sept. 24

By Gary A. Warner  
Oregon Capital Bureau

Summer is normally a relatively quiet time in Oregon politics.

But 2021 has been about as abnormal as a year can be. The Legislature adjourned June 26, a day before Salem recorded a record-shattering high temperature of 117 degrees.

Politics remains broiling as well, with a special session in September to decide Oregon's political map for the next decade, electioneering for 2022 gearing up and the reopening of the Oregon Capitol to the public.

Some of the front-burner issues in the weeks ahead:

**Clock running on gun initiative:** A gun control bill approved by the Legislature this year becomes law 91 days after the adjournment — Sept. 25. A proposed ballot measure to overturn the restrictions needs to gather 74,680 signatures by Sept. 24 to put the law on hold until a vote in the November 2022 general election.

**Veto deadline:** The

adjournment of the House and Senate also started the countdown on how long Gov. Kate Brown has to veto bills or line-item veto specific appropriations in fiscal legislation. Under the Ore-

gon Constitution, the governor has 30 weekdays to act. Brown's office confirmed Friday that the deadline is Aug. 6.

**Capitol re-opening:** The Oregon State Capitol in Salem reopened to the public on July 12, though it looks more like a massive home improvement

project than a magnificent statehouse.

The Capitol won't be very user friendly for a while, with major renovations going on through December 2022.

The public has been kept out of the Capitol since March 2020, when Senate President Peter Courtney, D-Salem, and House

Speaker Tina Kotek, D-Portland, ordered the shutdown at the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Legislature has control over the statehouse, and for the past 16 months, access has been limited to lawmakers, staff, journalists and a skeleton crew of building workers.

The main entrance is fenced off, the House and Senate wings will be closed until winter, the back entrance will be torn up for another 15 months and parking will be harder to find with the underground garage shut for an overhaul through the end of next year.

*Dear Friends,*

I would like to thank you for the beautiful flowers, cards and food for my 99th Birthday which was June 24th.

*Sincerely, Your Friend*

*Lela Sloan*

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Home school students participating in any OSAA activity through their local school district must be tested before the 15th of August prior to participation.

Testing Dates: July 28th - 3rd and 5th grades  
July 29th - 8th - 11th grades

If you have any question you may contact:  
Robert Waltenburg, Jo Sproul, or Tara Young  
Grant County ESD | 541-575-1349

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