



Senior Moments

with Emma Edwards

Fascinated with the busy-ness and business of bees

As the school year starts, some of us get busy as bees.

Do bumble bees sting?

The answer is yes, but gently, according to online encyclopedia Wikipedia and a few other sources. The bees often sting more than once, but it's not as painful as the honey bee. Those who've been stung by honey bees will readily attest that they hurt!

Do honey bees die after stinging?

"When a honey bee stings a person, it cannot pull the barbed stinger back out," according to Wikipedia. "It leaves behind not only the stinger, but also part of its abdomen and digestive tract, plus muscles and nerves. This massive abdominal rupture kills the honey bee. Honey bees are the only bees to die after stinging."

There's so much to learn about the different names attributed to bees. One important factor is the difference between honey bees and wasps.

I've been stung by a wasp (known to be more aggressive) and I think the sting is more painful than any bee's.

Yellow jackets or meat bees can cause a friendly patio dinner to move inside if they invite themselves to the meal. They're attracted to protein and sugar, so hide the barbecue and soda.

Another difference between honey bees and wasps is that the bees are "hairy" while the wasps have smooth shiny "skin." Their eyes are different as well, but who takes time to check out their skin or eyes? I just get out of their space!

And, by the way, isn't it fun

to be a senior in these days of ready knowledge at our fingertips?

Many of us have retired from careers that required computer knowledge and find information easy to access. Others are avid readers while yet others who have failing eyesight are blessed with media available that they can listen to day or night.

Never feel sorry that you have reached the age of a senior. We not only have all these things available to us, but we have the time to research. I love being a senior. See you at the library or in cyberspace!

It's with fear, excitement and trembling that I share this last item with you.

I may have a secret admirer. It almost feels like I'm back in high school!

Anyway, I need to thank whomever left a little black velvet bag on the tray inside my car with a charming pair of multi-green circle earrings in it.

They are so very beautiful and I sincerely thank you.

Well, try to leave those bees to their task (some of them anyway) as they gather nectar needed to produce the honey and to pollenate our plants.

Boater-paddler conflicts prompt education effort

Paddlesports have increased in popularity over the past decade, which has led to right-of-way conflicts in multi-use waterways such as the Columbia River.

Last weekend near Cedar oak Park on the Willamette River, members of a four-person rowing scull were injured after a small boat accelerated in close proximity, creating a large wake that ejected the rowers and cracked their boat in half.

Various user groups have occasionally petitioned the state Marine Board to restrict boat operations for one user over another.

So the American Canoe Association joined forces with the Marine Board and, using a grant from the U.S. Coast Guard, created educational videos to help boaters understand the varying needs of each user group.

The goal is to reduce or eliminate costly accidents, injuries and fatalities.

"Several factors have been identified and no user group is solely to blame as we all have a responsibility to become educated and follow the rules and laws that govern multi-use waterways," said Marcel Bieg, a director with the canoe association who spearheaded the video project.

In 2018, the association wrote a grant looking specifically at what paddlers need-

A speedboat operator at Billy Chinook State Park waits while two canoes make their way to the dock. Recent conflicts have prompted a series of videos. Courtesy Oregon Marine Board.



ed to know about paddling in multi-use waterways and with coordination with the Marine Board on content, messaging and logistics, developed a three-episode web TV series to get the information out to paddlers.

Each episode contains "must-know" information in an easily digestible format, Bieg said.

The series was filmed in several locations around the country, with the bulk of the content filmed at Billy Chinook State Park in Central Oregon.

"The best way to encour-

age safe boating and sharing the waterways is having different user groups come together to find common ground and collaborate," said Ashley Massey, the Marine Board's public information officer.

"These videos are the culmination of lots of boaters' feedback and how to improve mixed-use interactions and etiquette and following established rules."

The videos can be found on PaddleTV via YouTube, among other videos geared to a wide variety of users and skill levels.

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Senior lunch menu

Monday, Sep. 9: Tuna cakes, brown rice pilaf, mixed vegetables, spinach salad, ice cream.

Thursday, Sept. 12: Pork goulash, boiled potatoes, red cabbage, split-pea soup, fruit pie.

The Warrenton senior lunch program is at noon (doors open at 10:30 a.m.) Mondays and Thursdays at Warrenton Community Center, 170 SW Third St. Suggested donation is \$6 for ages 55 and older; \$7 for those younger. For more information, call 503-861-3502.