

Briefs

WHS seniors hold can, bottle drive

An aluminum can and bottle drive is set for 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, March 13, in the parking lot at Warrenton High School, 1700 S. Main Ave.

Donations help support the senior class and its end-of-year activities.

Easter Egg hunt signups begin

An Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by Spruce Up Warrenton is set for 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 3, at Robinson Community Park.

Preregistration is required by March 22 by going to Spruce Up Warrenton's Facebook page and clicking on the "Find Tickets" event link.

Children will be categorized by age groups and hunts will be held throughout the day.

How to get lots of books for just \$5

Warrenton Community Library, 160 S. Main Ave., will have a book bag sale from 1 to 6 p.m. Friday, March 19.

Shoppers can fill a paper bag full of books for \$5.

Genealogy sites to be compared

Clatsop County Genealogical Society will meet virtually at 1 p.m. Friday, March 19.

Dean Deonier, former society president and director of the Astoria Family History Center, will be the presenter.

He'll compare the "big four" genealogy websites, Ancestry.com, FamilySearch, MyHeritage, and FindMy Past.

The meeting is open to the public. To join, go to zoom.us. The meeting ID is 836 4428 8079, passcode 899186.

State Parks prepare for camp season after pandemic, wildfires, ice

Oregon State Parks staff are busy preparing campgrounds for what they hope will be a more "normal" 2021 spring break and summer camping season.

"Our visitors and staff have weathered a rough 12 months," said Lisa Sumption, director of the Oregon Parks and Recreation. "None of us imagined this time last year that we would face a more than two-month shutdown ... and then reopen under pandemic and safety precautions."

Follow that with September's wildfires, which damaged several state parks. The February ice storm also brought down trees and limbs and damaged some facilities in northern Willamette Valley and Columbia River Gorge parks, she said.

Although Oregon Lottery and park visitor fees are projected to be down more than \$20 million by the end of the 2019-21 biennium that ends June 30, nearly all state parks are open or will be in the next few months.

Park staff are evaluating

Schools sporting new intercoms

All of the district's schools have a new updated intercom system, thanks to the school bond approved by voters in 2018.

The intercom was included in the package of safety measures included in the bond's funding package and allow communication between the office and classrooms as well as all-school announcements.

Work at the high school and Warrenton Grade School was completed before the school year began in the fall.

The cost at the high school was about \$55,000.

"It replaced the existing system as well as any speakers or hardware that was defective," said Mike Moha, the district's business manager. "It also added speakers



Courtesy Oregon Department of Forestry

A cabin at Collier Memorial State Park that was destroyed by the Two Four Two fire in September.

the status of two park campgrounds that were temporarily closed because of wildfire damage: Collier Memorial and Detroit Lake.

Collier may open later this year, but staff are waiting for the snow to melt to continue assessing and repairing damage, Park Manager Aaron Raines said. The State Historic

Preservation Office also must approve some work.

The Williamson River Day-Use Area and a portion of the Logging Museum are open, although no park access is available to some areas.

Detroit Lake State Park remains closed, although the Mongold Day-Use Area and boat launch are open, said Bob Rea, park manager. Park staff

are repairing infrastructure damaged by the Beachie Fire and the campground could open by summer.

Campground site reservations will be available as soon as reopening dates are determined.

Overnight camping rates will remain the same as 2020 rates except for a \$3 increase for electric hookup and full hookup sites in selected parks between May 28 and Sept. 6.

The temporary, COVID-related surcharge that added up to 30 percent for overnight stays for out-of-state campers ended March 1. All campers in 2021 will pay the same rates.

Some temporary changes remain in place based on statewide restrictions to group gatherings, including keeping group facilities and hiker/biker camping areas closed.

In addition, visitor stays in yurts and cabins are followed by a one-day resting period for cleaning.

The State Parks budget comes primarily from the Lottery, park visitors and recreational vehicle registrations.

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