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SUMMER ADVENTURES

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Published by the Grants Pass Daily Courier
409 SE Seventh St., Grants Pass, OR 97526 • www.thedailycourier.com

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FILE / Daily Courier

A kayak awaits a paddler at Applegate Lake, one of the many area lakes open to the public and offering a variety of recreational options. Generally, lakes are full in the region right now. See page 10 for more.

ON THE COVER

An Orange Torpedo raft runs Powerhouse Rapid at Ti'lomikh Falls on the Rogue River.

Photo by JACLYN CRIST-EVANS / Capturing Carnage • www.capturingcarnage.com

Adventures for Everyone!



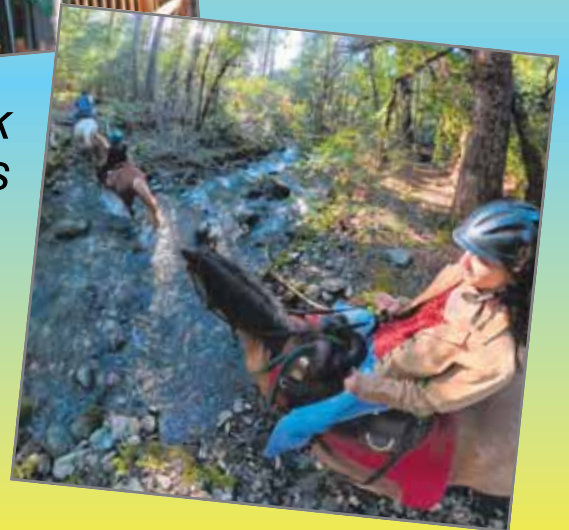
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Our big Cs: Crater and Caves



PATRICIA SNYDER / Daily Courier, 2015

Crater Lake, the nation's deepest lake, is at the heart of Oregon's only national park. Access to a viewpoint on the rim is open year-round, but snow typically remains until late June. The Rim Road around the volcanic caldera is generally cleared by July 1.

Crater Lake boat tours returning this season after all; cave tours limited to Saturdays and Sundays in 2025.

By Cara Denney
for the Daily Courier

Crater Lake National Park and the Oregon Caves National Monument & Preserve are two of Southern Oregon's most visited natural wonders. Both are open during current renovations designed to turn back the clock and restore the original glory of their services and facilities.

These two awe-inspiring natural beauties have been turning heads and drawing crowds for over 100 years, but only the Oregon Caves literally has people lined up to see her.

"Based on the reservations for tours coming in, the park is in high demand this season and visitors should expect long waits," Oregon Caves program manager George Herring warned.

Due to cutbacks, cave tours are happening only on Saturdays and Sundays this summer.

Meanwhile, at Crater Lake National Park, the Cleetwood Cove Trail to the lake's shore is not going to be closed for work as previously announced.

Oregon Caves National Monument & Preserve

The "Marble Halls of Oregon," as the Oregon Caves have been called, are a series of tunnels and rooms carved out by water over millennia in the Siskiyou Mountains near Cave Junction.

The caves are about 20 winding miles east of Cave Junction at 19000 Caves Highway.

In past years, prolonged road construction to repair damage wrought by wildfires in the area caused delays in simply getting to the Oregon Caves. Now, a severely reduced 2025 tour schedule of Saturdays and Sundays only, due to limited staff, promises new delays once visitors

arrive.

"We are very understaffed," Herring said, adding that he was "not prepared to comment" on whether or not this was due to the massive federal budget cuts for national parks implemented by the current administration.

"Keep on swimming. That's kind of our motto," Herring said of the challenges the Oregon Caves are facing.

Meanwhile, ticket prices for cave tours have doubled. A price boost was long in the making and takes effect this summer.

A ranger-led Discovery Tour of the caves will cost \$20 for adults and \$15 for youth under 15, up from \$10 for adults and \$7 for youth in years past.

Youth also must be at least 42 inches tall to join a tour.

In addition to the classic Discovery Tours, the candlelight tours are still on the schedule this year, with lanterns provided. Tours vary in difficulty, length, and sometimes involve some bending over to enter the various chambers of the caves.

Descriptions of all the tours, the surrounding territory, as well as interesting historic facts and photos of the caves can be found at [nps.gov](https://www.nps.gov) by typing Oregon Caves into the "Find a Park" search bar.

There is no entry fee for the national preserve territory overall, but the caves themselves are only accessible via purchasing a tour ticket, and only with a card. Cash is not accepted.

Tours are divided between those that require reserving a ticket in advance, and others that are on a first-come-first-served basis on the day. Herring said that all the tours fill up fast and encouraged those without reservations to stop at the Illinois Valley Visitor Center in Cave Junction to purchase tickets and make sure there are still tours available before driving the 40-minute trip.

The center is open daily from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. during the tour season and can be reached at 541-592-5125. At press time, the phone lines at the caves had been down "for awhile" according to Herring.

Every Sunday, reservation openings are posted online for the following week. To check for and make reservations, see [recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov).

Another delay at the caves is the re-opening of the historic Oregon Caves Chateau. The unique wooden structure built in 1934, and designated a National Historic Landmark in 1987, once offered lodging and meals for visitors. Closed for massive renovation in 2018, the initially projected 2024 project completion date has been pushed back to 2030, with a more than \$35 million price tag.

In May, the chateau gained recognition by becoming the first Oregon site ever to be added to the list of America's 11 Most Endangered Places by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The designation is hoped to bring in more funding for the work.

With the chateau shuttered, there are no lodging or dining options at the caves. Herring suggested that because of this, a long wait for a tour is actually a good opportunity to eat in Cave Junction after buying tickets at the information office there. Or bring a picnic up the mountain.

If you'd rather burn calories rather than eat them while waiting, the caves are surrounded by a number of scenic hiking trails.

"The trails are great, but visitors should know that they are very steep. My favorite is Cliff Nature Trail that gives a dramatic view of the valley," Herring said.

Crater Lake National Park

Crater Lake park officials aren't exact-

ly telling visitors to go jump in a lake, but they are allowing it for at least one more summer.

Located in a remote wilderness about a 2½-hour drive from Grants Pass, the big news for Crater Lake is that the Cleetwood Trail access to the lakeshore — scheduled to already have been closed for reconstruction — is still open for the 2025 season.

Next best is that dining at the park is back — under new management and up and running with a wide variety of tasty menu choices, including vegetarian and gluten-free items.

A new concessionaire was contracted in 2024 after the National Park Service lodged a lengthy list of infractions against the previous vendor. The new management has been able to repair, refurbish and re-open three distinct venues, offering everything from fine dining to family fare at two lake view settings, and even a "Grab & Go" cafe and grill.

Now, 30 minutes after eating at one of these three options, visitors can still go swimming via the only access to the lake — the Cleetwood Trail. The trail is the most heavily used path in the park, and an average of 54,000 park visitors hike the steep trail each year. That's still just 10% of park visitors.

The trail also leads to the docks for park-managed boat tours and places to fish from or sunbathe on the shore.

Work is being assessed and bids are being received with the project now scheduled to begin in 2026. At that time, the entire trail and Cleetwood Trail parking area will be closed to the public and there will be no public boat tours for 2026, 2027 and 2028.



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Big From Page 4

The park's website warns that the majority of search and rescue operations in Crater Lake National Park stem from visitors being unable to ascend this trail once they have hiked down to the lakeshore.

For hikers, options abound, but are curtailed. The Middle Fork Fire last year has left the Bald Crater Loop, Bert Creek and Boundary Springs trails at the lake closed until further notice due to potentially hazardous conditions. The Pacific Crest Trail through the park, however, is now completely open for hikers.

If hiking isn't on the menu, the Rim Drive circumnavigates the lake, offering several view-points.

Due to an especially heavy snowfall this year, the full Rim Drive around the lake will remain closed at least until early July — the usual date for plowing any remaining snowy spots. But check before traveling.

To plan your trip to Crater Lake, access online maps and other digital resources visit nps.gov/crla or call 541-594-3000.



Volunteer guide Chas Davis assembles his group at the Oregon Caves National Monument & Preserve to explain some of the area's history and geology before entering the caves.

JASON McMILLAN
Daily Courier, 2019

Turn to CAVES, Page 8

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Caves From Page 6

The Steel Visitor Center, located on the way up to the rim, is open with a park store inside that offers books, gifts, shirts and hats and education and junior ranger items for children. The Rim Visitor Center will open in June, but overlooks at the room are open year-round.

Visitors should note that the park has moved to an entirely cashless fee system, accepting only mobile apps, credit and debit cards for fees.

During the tourist season, May 21 to Oct. 31, the fee for vehicles is \$30 at either park entrance, \$25 for motorcycles. Entering the park on bicycle or on foot is \$15, for anyone at least 16 years old. Reservations are not required to enter the park.

There are two free entrance days in summer for the park:

- June 19, Juneteenth National Independence Day
- Aug. 4, the anniversary of the Great American Outdoors Act.

Boat and trolley tours. The concession for lodging and tours is Crater Lake Hospitality. They will begin boat tours on the lake and trolley tours around the rim later in the summer. Tours were originally announced to be canceled this year due to expected work on the trail and boat docks.

Boat tours are scheduled to open July 1, if the Rim Drive is open. Reservations can be made online at travelcraterlake.com or call 866-292-6720.

Boat tours leave from Cleetwood Cove and require a trek from the rim to the

dock on a "very strenuous" trail with 700-foot elevation change. And back, of course.

A shuttle boat to Wizard Island in the lake is also available.

Prices vary.

The trolley reservation line is 541-882-1896 and tours are set to begin July 1, if the road is open, with six tours daily 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Prices are slightly increased for 2025 with \$39 for adults, \$37 for seniors and military and children age 6 to 13 trolley fees remaining the same at \$25.

Where to stay. Reservations at the historic Crater Lake Lodge or the Cabins at Mazama Village are made through Crater Lake Hospitality. Both opened May 12 and remain open until fall.

The lodge has 71 rooms and was refurbished in 1995.

The lodge offers beautiful views of the lake with a restaurant open to the public.

Ten four-plex cabins off the lake rim at Mazama Village offer the only other in-park lodging. The Mazama Campground is available for reservations as well. See travelcraterlake.com for reservations.

Outside the park and within the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, the Union Creek, Farewell Bend and Natural Bridge campgrounds are all within roughly 15 minutes drive of the park.

To the north of the park, the Umpqua National Forest offers closeby campgrounds at Diamond Lake and Lemolo Lake. Both lakes also have small resorts and cabins.

Freelance reporter Cara Denney is a regular contributor to Daily Courier special publications.

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Redwood National and State Parks are just over the border

By **Cara Denney**
for the Daily Courier

Oregon may have the deepest lake, but the tallest trees are in California, even if only slightly over the state line. And for visitors old enough to remember the forested moon of Endor in “Star Wars,” it will still invoke the same nerd deja vu.

So grab your light saber and head southwest on the Redwood Highway to find a unique collection of protected forests and beaches, a set of parks spanning 131,983 acres from just south of the Oregon border nearly 50 miles to the mountains east of Trinidad, California.

The nearest park to Grants Pass is the Jeddediah Smith State Park, directly off of Highway 199, the Redwood Highway, just south of the border into California. The park includes the nearby Stout Grove, which is free to enter and offers access to the Smith River.

Foul weather and other factors can cause temporary interruptions to the accessibility of sections of the park, and checking the park website for closures and warnings while planning a trip is advised. Call 707-464-6101 for all redwood parks information or see nps.gov/redw.

Currently, the Alder Basin Trail is closed as part of an ambitious multi-decade project to restore and reconnect lands, watersheds, and ecosystems in and among the ancient redwoods. Redwoods Rising is an effort to protect old-growth stands, redwood forest ecosystems, and ensure the long-term health of the lands where the country’s tallest trees grow. Overall, 120,000 acres of public lands in Redwood National and State Parks are targeted in the project.

Five visitor centers offer information, maps and guides. The Jeddediah Smith Visitor Center on High-

way 199; the Hiouchi Visitor Center in Hiouchi, California, on Redwood Highway; the Crescent City Information Center, Second and K streets; the Prairie Creek Visitor Center, 6 miles north of Orick, California, on the Newton Drury Scenic Parkway; and the Thomas H. Kuchel Visitor Center in Orick, California.

Redwood National Park is free to visit. California state parks, including Jeddediah Smith, Del Norte Coast and Prairie Creek state parks have day-use fees.

What to do. Scores of hikes for all levels and scenic drives are available. Start online with the parks guide under “plan your visit” for recommended short walks, hikes and scenic drives.

Be sure to watch out for wildlife, like the Roosevelt elk herds in the area.

Common ranger programs include tidepool walks, nature walks and campfire programs, for campers at Jeddediah Smith, Mill Creek and Elk Prairie campgrounds.

A free reservation is required to drive the access road and hike the Tall Trees Trail. Reservations are available online only. See nps.gov/redw/planyourvisit/talltreespermits.htm for more.

Where to stay. Four developed campgrounds inside parks offer camping: the Jeddediah Smith, Mill Creek, Elk Prairie and Gold Bluffs Beach campgrounds. However, construction on Davison Road may affect access this summer to Gold Bluffs Beach and Fern Canyon. Call 800-444-7275 or see reservcalifornia.com.

Nearby national, state and county parks offer even more camping options. The park brochure has a guide to them.

The towns of Crescent City, Orick and Trinidad also offer accommodations.



JENNY KANE / Associated Press

Visitors enjoy the redwoods near Orick, California.



POLAR PETER PUMPKIN EATER, 2017
By artists Crystal R. Pyren & Del Hearn

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Drop a line or take a dip

Our region's lakes offer a cool summer destination for fun, relaxing recreation

By **Tricia Drevets**
for the Daily Courier

Thanks to a rainy and snowy winter, Southern Oregon's recreational lakes are boasting nearly full water levels that are prime for summer fun.

"We had an early wet season and a great snowpack, especially in Southern Oregon," Larry O'Neill, director of the Oregon Climate Service, said. "There was a lot of inflow to reservoirs, so basically, all the reservoirs and dams are doing great."

"In recent years, some lakes had to pull up their boat ramps. This year, the water levels should last most of the season."

However, O'Neill suggests that you don't put off your fishing and boating activities until later in the summer.

"If you're a water enthusiast, I'd say, get out there and enjoy the lakes in June and July. In August, things become more of a wild-card."

In March, the U.S. Drought Monitor map designated Oregon free of drought and abnormal dryness for the first time in five years.

The map compares historical averages for precipitation, snowpack and soil moisture with current conditions. Its six categories include no drought all the up to extreme drought.

But O'Neill says a crucial 90-day period for the local landscape was drier than normal this spring. He mentioned that the mid-May rainfall the Rogue Valley experienced will not make up for the deficits of the 90-day dry spell.

"And, let's face it, wildfire season just gets earlier and earlier in the season," he added.

A seasonal forecast from meteorologists at the Oregon Department of Forestry predicts hotter and drier than average conditions for Southern Oregon. A note on the agency's website report states, "Since this is normally a very dry period statewide, percentage departures from average can be large."

When asked whether scientists are adjusting their seasonal predictions to "new normals" due to climate change, O'Neill acknowledged that the process is difficult. "We are just coming out of one of the worst droughts in recorded history," he said.



ELAYNA YUSSEN / Daily Courier, 2021

Lynn Boucher of Cave Junction fishes for bass and trout at Lake Selmac, near Selma in the Illinois Valley.

On the level

The Army Corps of Engineers monitors the two main reservoirs and dams in the area. The Bureau of Reclamation measures the water depth of many of our lakes.

For updated water level information, you can visit the Rogue Basin Teacup Diagram at public.crohms.org/nwp/teacup/rogue and <https://www.usbr.gov/pn/hydromet/roguetea.html> for updated information.

Here are the water levels the Corps and BLM monitored lakes, posted on May 15 for Southern Oregon lakes and reservoirs.

- Agate Lake: 100%
- Applegate Lake: 97%
- Emigrant Lake: 99%
- Hyatt Lake: 94%
- Howard Prairie Lake: 95%
- Fish Lake: 77%
- Fourmile Lake: 60%
- Lost Creek Lake: 99%

— Tricia Drevets

"We don't expect that [level] to be the new normal. With that said, the landscape is getting much drier, and stream flows are lessening. Hotter, drier weather causes

much more evaporation and the landscape to dry out much quicker.

"Even when we have full reservoirs like we have now, if the soil is dry, we have more irrigation demands."

He reiterated that water lovers should "get out there" sooner rather than later. "That's what I'm going to do," he said.

Finally, a note of caution about harmful algal blooms — rapid growth of algae or cyanobacteria in water. According to O'Neill, one of the big precursors for harmful algal blooms is very hot weather early in the season.

The Oregon Health Authority advises lake visitors to be familiar with the signs of cyanobacteria blooms, which can shift and spread quickly.

The warning signs include water discoloration; surface scum, foam or streaks; dense mats on the surface or shoreline; and unpleasant odor.

The OHA reports that children and pets are at an increased risk of illness from cyanotoxins compared to adults.

Freelance reporter Tricia Drevets of Grants Pass is a regular contributor to Daily Courier special publications.

More about a few popular area lakes

Daily Courier

Here's a snapshot of four of the beautiful and most popular recreational lakes in Josephine and Jackson counties.

• **Applegate Lake.** Located in the Rogue River National Forest, this recreational 988-acre reservoir has a beautiful backdrop framed by the Siskiyou Mountains. A hiking trail follows the 18-mile shoreline, and there are opportunities for day use at Hart-Tish Park and nearby camping.

Visit applegatelake.com

• **Emigrant Lake.** This popular 806-acre reservoir near Ashland offers fishing, camping and swimming.

Visit jacksoncountyor.gov/departments/parks/day_use/emigrant_lake.php.

• **Howard Prairie Lake.** Offering breathtaking views of Mount McLoughlin, Howard Prairie Lake has a surface area of 1,990 acres. The Howard Prairie Resort includes 1.63 miles of lake frontage and opportunities for boating, fishing and camping.

Visit jacksoncountyor.gov/departments/parks/camping/howard_prairie_resort/index.php

• **Lake Selmac.** Josephine County's popular lake near the town of Selma off the Redwood Highway offers boating, fishing, camping, a horse camp and disc golf.

For more information on the 139-acre lake, visit josephinecounty.gov/parks/_T66_R22.php and resortatlakeselmac.com.

— Tricia Drevets

AREA ATTRACTIONS



EDITH DECKER / Daily Courier

The Gold Hill Museum is in the home of a gold mining magnate.

A county-by-county list of things to see and do in Southern Oregon will keep you and visitors busy

Daily Courier

Whether you're looking for something to do yourself or have visitors in search of fun, the list of places to go in Southern Oregon is long.

From the big star attractions to a constellation of lesser stars, what follows is a list of some of those places. It's organized by county and region or city.

The information provided is as current as possible. Keep in mind, however, that information is subject to change. Prior to traveling, check the status of facilities and services.

Josephine County

ROGUE VALLEY

CATHEDRAL HILLS, minutes from downtown Grants Pass, 541-471-6500, blm.gov; a 10-mile trail system through 400 forested acres for hikers, mountain bikers, horseback riders, trail runners; open year-round, day use only; three trailheads, on Espey Road, on Sky Way and on Walker Road; free.

EVERGREEN BEARFEST, downtown Grants Pass, evergreenfederal.bank/BearFest. Dozens of fiberglass bears created by local artists are on sidewalks and at businesses. They love to be in selfies. Free. Weekday tours of the Bear Hotel, 2101 N.E. Spalding Ave., which includes more bears, installations and art, are available with an appointment; call 541-479-3351.

FORT VANNOY FARMS, 5791 Lower River Road, Grants Pass, 541-479-3765, fortvannoyfarms.com; farm stand carries locally grown produce, and hosts a month-

long harvest festival in October, with corn mazes, a pumpkin patch and family activities; open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. daily, with u-pick strawberries beginning in mid-May, followed by u-pick, raspberries, blueberries and blackberries into September. The farm rents its riverside venue.

GLASS FORGE GALLERY, 501 S.W. G St., Grants Pass, 541-955-0815, glassforge.com; handblown decorative arts and fused glass creations on display and for sale, make-your-own experiences and tours plus week-day glass blowing demonstrations; open 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday; demonstrations are free, make-your-own experiences must be scheduled in advance and prices vary.

GOLDEN GHOST TOWN, 3482 Coyote Creek Road, Wolf Creek, stateparks.oregon.gov. An abandoned mining town features a school, a church and other buildings with interpretive signs, along with trails along nearby Coyote Creek.

GRANTS PASS PUBLIC ART, downtown Grants Pass. For a downloadable map to public art, including murals and outdoor sculpture, see visitgrantspass.com and search "public art." Or pick one up at the Downtown Welcome Center, Sixth and G streets or the Chamber Visitor Center, 1995 N.W. Vine St.

GRANTS PASS DOWNS, 1451 Fairgrounds Road, Grants Pass, racingtherogue.org; the Southern Oregon Horse Racing Association has three more days of racing over the year. The summer 2025 race meet, offers eight days of horse racing: June 14-15, June 21-22, June 28-29 and July 4-5; post time is at 1 p.m. The

Continued on Page 12

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AREA ATTRACTIONS

13-day fall meet is Sept. 7-8, 14-15, 21-22, 28-29, Oct. 5-6, 14, 21 and 28. Post times are at 1 p.m. except for Oct. 6, when it's 5 p.m. and Oct. 12, when it's 4 p.m. Admission is \$5 for ages 12 and older.

GRANTS PASS GROWERS MARKET, 295 N.W. F St., Grants Pass, 541-816-1144, growersmarket.org; an outdoor market of locally grown produce and flowers, homemade food items and artisan crafts; open 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturdays, through late November; the winter market, December to mid-March, is at the Josephine County Fairgrounds.

GRANTS PASS MUSEUM OF ART, 229 S.W. G St., Grants Pass, 541-479-3290, gpmuseum.com; art gallery with featured exhibits, adult workshops, a concert series, special events, youth programs; open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday; admission is free.

GRAVE CREEK COVERED BRIDGE, Sunny Valley Loop Road, Sunny Valley, 15 miles north of Grants Pass, coveredbridges.org; this covered bridge built in 1920 features six gothic-style windows on either side, rounded portals and a shake roof, and had lights installed inside in 2020; open 24/7 year-round. From the Sunny Valley exit, turn left onto Sunny Valley Loop Road and continue a mile to the bridge.

HELLGATE JETBOAT EXCURSIONS, 966 S.W. Sixth St., Grants Pass, 541-479-7204, hellgate.com; Rogue River jetboat excursions, short scenic trips, brunch and dinner trips and whitewater trips daily through September or while water levels permit; adult prices range from \$34.95 to \$112.95.

INDIAN MARY PARK, 7100 Galice Road; 541-474-5285, co.josephine.or.us; this 61-acre park, 16 miles from Grants Pass, has campground facilities and two yurts for stays, plus day-use areas for picnics, bank fishing, bike riding, bird watching, volleyball, horseshoes, disc golf and basketball, plus a boat ramp.

JOSEPHINE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND SCHMIDT HOUSE MUSEUM, 512 S.W. Fifth St., Grants Pass, 541-479-7827, josephinehistory.org; historical artifact collections and exhibits, a research library and book shop, tours of the historic 1901 Schmidt House Museum and gardens next door; open 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday; house tours available 11 a.m.-3 p.m. and are \$10.

MERLIN COMMUNITY PARK AND VETERANS WALK OF HONOR, 100 Acorn St., Merlin, 541-660-2364; this park has picnic tables, horseshoe pits, playground, basketball court, gazebo and veterans memorial, with names engraved on concrete pillars and granite plaques, benches and flags; open sunrise to sunset; free.

PACIFICA: A GARDEN IN THE SISKIYOU, 14615 Water Gap Road, Williams, 541-846-1100, pacificagarden.org; a 250-acre botanical gardens, plus the 200-acre Klamath-Siskiyou Nature Center; this nature reserve has seven miles of interpretive trails for hiking, bird watching and horse riding, a new art nature trail that is wheelchair accessible, plus disc golf, catch-and-release fishing, summer camps and educational opportunities for kids and facilities for weddings and special events; open year-round, 7 a.m. to dusk daily; admis-



SHAUN HALL / Daily Courier, 2019

Wildlife Images Rehabilitation and Education Center's Dave Siddon watches a woman visit the wolves at the center, 11845 Lower River Road. Among the new animals in permanent care is a young grizzly bear.

sion is free, donations welcome.

POTTSVILLE HISTORICAL PARK & MUSEUM, 2400 Pleasant Valley Road, Merlin, 541-476-7319, pottsvilleoregon.com; two historical museums, a pioneer town and outdoor exhibits, and also the site of several annual events; outdoor exhibits open year-round, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. daily, until dusk in summer; pioneer town and museum are by appointment; admission is free.

RIVERSIDE PARK, 304 E. Park St., Grants Pass, 541-471-6435, grantspassoregon.gov; this popular leafy park on the Rogue River features disc golf, soccer fields and baseball fields, a playground, spray park, viewing pavilion, walking paths, picnic areas, large mature trees, rose garden; park is open sunrise to sunset, spray park, which traditionally opens the Friday after Memorial Day weekend, is open during daylight hours; free.

ROGUE CREAMERY DAIRY & FARM STAND, 6531 Lower River Road, Grants Pass, 541-471-7292, roguecreamery.com. Call to secure a short tour at the automated dairy where prize cows produce the milk for prize blue cheese. Farm store open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday, with free tours at 10 a.m. or 2 p.m. each day.

WILDLIFE IMAGES, 11845 Lower River Road, Grants Pass, 541-476-0222, wildlifeimages.org; a wildlife rehabilitation and education center where more than 100 animals live in sanctuary and where more than 1,200 sick, injured or orphaned animals receive care each year, with guided and self-guided tours, summer camp for youth, and a variety of special events

throughout the year; open 9 a.m.-4 p.m. daily (closed holidays); admission \$20 adults, \$17 seniors, \$12 ages 4-12, free for 3 and under.

WOLF CREEK INN, 100 Front St., Wolf Creek, 541-866-2474, wolfcreekinn.com; this historic 1883 inn and state park property offers lodging, a restaurant and tavern, with some special events; tours available by appointment; the inn is open 24/7, the restaurant is open 8:30 a.m.-8:30 p.m. Thursday-Sunday.

ILLINOIS VALLEY

CAVE JUNCTION FARMERS MARKET, 24100 Redwood Highway, Kerby, 548-229-2067, cjfarmersmarket.org; an outdoor market of locally grown produce, farm products and artisan crafts; open 4-7 p.m. Fridays, through Sept. 27 and 1-4 p.m. Fridays Oct. 4-Nov. 22.

EIGHT DOLLAR MOUNTAIN BOTANICAL AREA, about 11 miles west of Selma on Illinois River Road, fs.usda.gov; this 2,867-acre area features uncommon plants, including a large darlingtonia fen, and others that grow in serpentine soil, with trails, a wheelchair accessible boardwalk and camping sites; open year-round; admission is free. See story on page 16.

GREAT CATS WORLD PARK, 27919 Redwood Highway, Cave Junction, 541-592-2957, greatcatsworldpark.com; this private facility is home to more than 50 exotic felines from around the world, with guided tours, stage shows, some special events; open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. daily from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend with final tours at 3 p.m. Hours are 11 a.m.-4

p.m. daily after Labor Day-Oct. 31, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. weekends only from Nov. 1 through mid-March, and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday to Sunday mid-March until Memorial Day weekend; admission is \$22 adults, with discounts for seniors and ages 3-12, free for kids 2 and younger.

ILLINOIS RIVER FORKS STATE PARK, Highway 199, south of Cave Junction, 800-551-6949, stateparks.oregon.gov; this parcel of land at the confluence of the east and west forks of the Illinois River offers picnic tables, a short walking trail, access to fishing and a nine-hole disc golf course; open dawn to dusk; free admission.

JUBILEE PARK, 307 S. Junction Ave., Cave Junction, 541-592-2156; cavejunctionoregon.us; featuring a skate park, a new splash park, playground and picnic facilities; open dawn to dusk; free.

KERBYVILLE MUSEUM, 24195 Redwood Highway, Kerby, 541-592-5252, traveloregon.com; Josephine County's largest history museum has exhibits indoors, outdoors and in two buildings on Native Americans, gold mining, logging and pioneers, local military, a refurbished Applegate Trail covered wagon, large mineral and rock collection, a wire and barbed wire collection plus a display about U.S. Presidents' favorite foods and recipes in the historic Stith-Nauke House and a jail cell to display original jail doors with photo opp. Open 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and noon-4 p.m. Sundays, to Oct. 1; tours by appointment.

LAKE SELMAC COUNTY PARK, 500

AREA ATTRACTIONS

Reeves Creek Road, Selma, 541-474-5285, co.josephine.or.us; this county park offers space for a variety of outdoor activities in and around the 40-acre lake, such as sailing, boating, swimming, fishing, cycling, horseback riding, horseshoes, disc golf, plus nature trails, campgrounds, horse camps and picnic shelters; day-use fee is \$5, camping rates vary.

OREGON CAVES NATIONAL MONUMENT & PRESERVE, 19000 Caves Highway, Cave Junction, 541-592-2100, 541-592-4076, nps.gov/orca; cave tours, hiking trails. Cave tours began Saturday and Sunday only in 2025 from Memorial Day and run through Nov. 3, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Tours are available on a first-come, first-served basis, with tickets available online at recreation.gov or at the Illinois Valley Visitors Center, 201 Caves Highway in Cave Junction (which is open daily through Labor Day), call 541-592-5125. Limited family tours and Candlelight tours are offered. Admission to the park is free, cave tours are \$20 adults, \$15 ages 15 and younger. Note that children must be 42 inches tall to go on the tour, which is moderately strenuous and requires bending and good balance. The Caves Chateau remains closed for repairs and remodeling. There are no dining or lodging options in the park.

OUT 'N' ABOUT TREEHOUSE TREESORT, 300 Page Creek Road, Cave Junction; 541-592-2208, treehouses.com; bed and breakfast in the trees, with horseback riding and ziplines, hiking; open year-round; prices vary.

ROUGH AND READY BOTANICAL WAY-SIDE, 4.5 miles south of Cave Junction on Highway 199, blm.gov; a 19-acre area where serpentine soil conditions host diverse flora and topography, with a trail; the parking area has a covered table and informational kiosk; open year-round, free admission.

RUSK RANCH NATURE CENTER, 27746 Redwood Highway, Cave Junction, 541-287-2164, ruskranchnaturecenter.org; a non-profit nature center, with interpretive trails, butterfly pavilion, natural playground, interactive nature discovery center with hands-on nature-based exhibits, youth programs; open 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday through September then weekends until closing in October; weather may close the park, so call; admission is \$7 adults, \$7 kids 5-17, free for kids 4 and younger.

SISKIYOU FIELD INSTITUTE, 1241 Illinois River Road, Selma, 541-597-8530, thesfi.org;

a facility that offers field-based youth and adult education programs, facilities for weddings and special events and limited lodging and camping; open 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and 9 a.m. to noon Friday, with a parking fee; course fees vary.

SISKIYOU SMOKEJUMPER BASE MUSEUM, 30902 Redwood Highway, Cave Junction, 541-441-4804, see their Facebook page; exhibits and information about early Forest Service aerial wildfire suppression, with restored buildings, smokejumper equipment, archival photos; open for guided tours 10 a.m.-4 p.m. daily, through Nov. 15, but call before heading out; admission is free; self-guided tours around the buildings are welcome year-round, contact the museum to request special tours.

Jackson County

ROGUE RIVER

JOHN F. FLEMING VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK, 8880 Rogue River Highway, Rogue River, 541-582-0242, rogueriverchamber.com; nestled under the Depot Street Bridge, this small park has a boat ramp and fishing access; open sunrise to sunset, free admission.

ROGUE RIVER GREENWAY TRAIL, Depot Street Bridge and Interstate 5 to Twin Bridges Road, Rogue River to Valley of the Rogue State Park, traillink.com; a 3.9-mile asphalt trail along the Rogue River, for walking, biking, inline skating and fishing; parking available in Fleming Memorial Park on the west end, and in Valley of the Rogue State Park on the east.

PALMERTON PARK, 300 W. Evans Creek Road, Rogue River, 541-582-4401, city-ofrogueriver.org; this 5-acre park has more than 80 species of trees from around the world, plus playground, picnic area, bike paths, walking bridge and new chain-saw sculpture; open during daylight hours; free.

ROGUE RIVER MURALS, from First and Pine streets to Classick Drive and North River Road, Rogue River, 541-582-0242, rogueriverchamber.com; the city boasts seven murals of early 20th-century life, commissioned by the Rogue River Mural Society.

VALLEY OF THE ROGUE STATE PARK, Gold Hill, 800-551-6949, 541-582-3128, stateparks.oregon.gov; a park with three miles of shoreline on the Rogue River, with a day-use picnic area and overnight camping sites for RV, tents and yurts, plus a self-guided interpretive walking trail

that intersects with the Rogue River Greenway Trail; day use is \$10, camping rates vary.

WOODVILLE MUSEUM, 199 First St., Rogue River, 541-582-3088, a 1909 home with displays of local pioneer and Native American artifacts plus a blacksmith shop and the old jail on site; open noon to 4 p.m. Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays; admission free, donations welcome.

GOLD HILL

HOUSE OF MYSTERY AND OREGON VORTEX, 4303 Sardine Creek Left Fork Road, Gold Hill, 541-855-1543, oregonvortex.com. A glimpse into perceptual phenomena that can be captured on film, confusing tourists since 1930; open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily through Labor Day and until 4 p.m. Labor Day to Memorial Day with 45-minute guided tours on the hour. Admission on a first-come, first-served basis. Groups can reserve a tour. Prices: \$22 for adults, \$18.50 for seniors; \$16 for ages 6-12; free for 5 and under.

GOLD HILL MUSEUM, 504 First Ave., Gold Hill, 541-855-1182 or see the Facebook page; historic home of local gold mine owner holds displays of artifacts on town history and mining history. Several annual events include Halloween haunted house and Gold Dust Day (See calendar of events.) Hours are noon-4 p.m. Thursday to Saturday, but call ahead. Admission is free.

CENTRAL POINT

CRATER ROCK MUSEUM, 2002 Scenic Ave., Central Point, 541-664-6081, crater-rock.com; displays of rocks, minerals, gems, fossils and a lapidary workshop for members with demonstrations on some days; large gift shop; open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday to Saturday; admission \$7 adults, \$6 seniors and veterans, \$5 students, \$20 for family of four, free to children 5 and younger; guided tours available by appointment.

HANLEY FARM LIVING HISTORY MUSEUM, 1053 Hanley Road, Central Point, 541-622-2025, 541-890-0992, sohs.org; a 37-acre working farm established in 1857, with a farmhouse, barns and historic outbuildings, gardens, educational programs and special events, see sohs.org/events for more; admission is free, house tours are \$5-\$10.

JACKSON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER DEMONSTRATION GARDENS, SOUTHERN OREGON RESEARCH & EXTENSION CENTER, 569 Hanley Road, Central Point, 541-776-7371, jacksoncountymga.org; self-guided tours of 21 different garden features used to teach gardening techniques, including a dahlia garden, herb garden, kitchen garden, native plant garden, succulent garden, lavender garden, arboretum, vineyard and orchards; open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday; free; call to arrange a guided tour.

Continued on Page 14



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AREA ATTRACTIONS

ROGUE JET BOAT ADVENTURES, check-in at TouVelle State Park, 8601 Table Rock Road, Central Point, 541-414-4182, roguejetadventures.com. Jetboat tours, Discovery Park tours, Concert at the Rocks tours, Happier Hour tours most Fridays and special events; three-hour jetboat tours leave three times a day through Sept. 4; dock is at TouVelle State Recreation Site; prices vary; see website for reservations and schedule.

ROGUE VALLEY FAMILY FUN CENTER, 1A Peninger Road, Central Point, 541-664-4263, rvffc.com; large indoor and outdoor entertainment hub, with arcade games, bumper boats, go-carts, miniature golf, batting cages, a playhouse and dining options; open 10 a.m.-10 p.m. daily except holidays; park admission is free, golf, go-carts, bumper boats, batting cages and games have varying prices.

ROGUE VALLEY ZIPLINE ADVENTURE, 9450 Old Stage Road, Central Point, shuttles from the Laurel Hill Golf Course, 541-821-9476, rvzipline.com; soar through more than 2,700 feet of zipline on five courses, plus three-hour sunset tours and day-long Zip, Dip, Sip tours; office open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. daily, park open year-round by reservation; call or see website for prices.

TOUVELLE STATE RECREATION SITE, 8601 Table Rock Road, Central Point, 800-551-6949, 541-826-2257, stateparks.oregon.gov; a 51-acre park with a boat ramp and access to fishing, birding, hiking, picnicking and swimming; See Rogue Jet Boat Adventures above; open to day use only; \$10 day use fee.

MEDFORD

THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF SOUTHERN OREGON, 413 W. Main St., Medford; 541-772-9922, tcmso.org; nonprofit educational center offers interactive exhibits that encourage learning through play for children 10 and younger, plus summer adventure camps; open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, noon to 5 p.m. Sunday; admission \$15 for kids, \$10 for adults; memberships available.

MEDFORD RAILROAD PARK, 799 Berrydale Ave., Medford, 541-613-1638, medfordoregon.gov; this 49-acre park is run by four individual clubs, offering model railroad layouts, historic railway cars and equipment, miniature steam engine train rides and an outdoor garden railway; open 11 a.m.-3 p.m. the second and fourth Sundays of the month through October; admission is free, donations welcome.

ROGUE GALLERY AND ART CENTER, 40 S. Bartlett St., Medford, 541-772-8118,



JENNY GRAHAM

“The Importance of Being Earnest” by Oscar Wilde is among the plays on this season’s menu at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland.

roguegallery.org; art gallery with featured exhibits, classes, special events, youth programs; open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday; admission is free.

ROGUE X, 901 Rossanley Drive, Medford, 541-774-2400; roguxmedford.com; recreation and event center with indoor pool with water slides, competition pool, classrooms, seasonal splashpad, food truck pod, gymnasium and other recreation with more coming outdoors at the Howard Memorial Sports Park. Hours are 6 a.m.-8:30 p.m. Monday to Thursday, 8 a.m.-7 p.m. Friday and 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Sunday.

SOUTHERN OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY, 106 N. Central Ave., Medford, 541-622-2025, sohs.org; rotating exhibits of artifacts and photographs from Southern Oregon history, and a research library; the building is under construction for an event center; open noon-4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday; research fee.

UPPER & LOWER TABLE ROCKS, 541-618-2200, blm.gov; prominent volcanic plateaus standing 800 feet above the Rogue Valley, with hiking trails, cultural, biologic, geologic and scenic significance; trails open

year-round, day-use only; no dogs allowed on trails; parking is free.

JACKSONVILLE

BEEKMAN HOUSE MUSEUM, 470 E. California St., Jacksonville, 541-245-3560, historicjacksonville.org; this 19th-century home is furnished with family artifacts; check online or call for tour information.

BEEKMAN BANK, 110 W. California St., Jacksonville, 541-245-3560. Step inside the Beekman Bank where \$1 billion in today’s money crossed the counters in gold. Get a tour from Mr. Beekman Saturdays and Sundays, May 24 to Aug. 31, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.; free.

BRITT MUSIC & ARTS FESTIVAL, Jacksonville, 541-773-6077, brittfest.org; this nonprofit arts and education organization provides a diverse lineup of live musical entertainment by nationally known artists from early June through October on an outdoor hillside stage; it is also home to a resident symphony orchestra and offers educational opportunities for all ages. See schedule online.

HAUNTED HISTORY WALKING TOURS, downtown Jacksonville, 541-245-3560, historicjacksonville.org; walking tours with costumed tour guides introducing spirits from Jacksonville’s pioneer past; offered various Fridays in October tours; reservations required.

WALK THROUGH HISTORY, downtown Jacksonville, leaving from Courthouse Square, North Fifth St., between C and D streets, 541-245-3560, historicjacksonville.org; one-hour walking tours trace town history through buildings, businesses, churches, architecture; offered at 10 a.m. every Saturday through Aug. 30; free, no reservations required.

TROLLEY TOURS, C and Oregon streets, Visitors Center, 185 N. Oregon St., Jacksonville, 541-899-8118, jacksonvilleoregon.org; The chamber of

commerce runs two trolleys, one offering narrated history tours and one trolley serving several area wineries that are outside downtown and others in town — nine stops in all — with stops every 30 minutes. Wine trolley runs Friday to Sunday, noon to 6:30 p.m. through October. Tickets are \$27 for an all-day pass with group discounts. History tours depart at 10:30 or 11:30 a.m., 12:30, 1:30 and 2:30 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday June to August and Friday and Sunday in September and October. Ticket are \$15 at the Visitor Information Center.

TALENT

TALENT HISTORY MUSEUM, 105 N. Market St., Talent, talenthistory.org; small museum with documents and artifacts from area history provided by the Talent Historical Society; hours are noon-4 p.m. Wednesdays and Sundays.

TALENT MAKER CITY, 109 Talent Ave., 541-897-4477, talentmakercity.org; equipment for people to use; classes in wood, ceramics, fiber arts, screenprinting, 3-D printing, group workshops and more.

ASHLAND

EMIGRANT LAKE COUNTY PARK, 5505 Highway 66, Ashland, 541-774-8183, jacksoncountyor.org; this 1,467-acre getaway offers 12 miles of lake frontage, RV and tent camping, water sports, hiking, picnicking, playground; the north boat ramp is fully accessible, the west boat ramp has one lane open for smaller boats; open year-round; day use fee is \$6 per vehicle.

HOWARD PRAIRIE RESORT, 3249 Hyatt Prairie Road, Ashland, 541-774-8183, jacksoncountyor.org; a 155-acre resort and a marina (may close in fall due to low water), a store and cafe open in summer; open year-round; daily parking fee \$6 per vehicle.

LITHIA PARK, 59 Winburn Way, Ashland, 541-488-5340, ashland.or.us; a 100-acre forested canyonland around Ashland Creek, with newly refurbished Japanese garden, lawns, creek, walking paths, tennis and pickleball courts, sand-pit volleyball court, picnic areas, playgrounds; open 5:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m., admission is free.

OREGON SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL, Ashland, 541-482-2111 (office), 800-219-8161 (box office), osfashland.org; a major nonprofit theater arts organization founded in 1935 that offers a diversity of plays as well as educational events and activities; the 2025 season features nine shows playing in three theaters including the major outdoor shows “The Merry Wives of Windsor” and the Sondheim musical “Into the Woods” mid-June through Oct. 12 and indoor shows “As You Like It,” “Julius Caesar” and “The Importance of Being Earnest” to Oct. 26; tickets \$36-\$128; free outdoor Green Show performances nightly from June 13 to Sept. 27.

SCIENCEWORKS HANDS-ON MUSEUM, 1500 E. Main St., Ashland, 541-482-6767, scienceworksmuseum.org; an interactive science museum with featured, year-round and outdoor exhibits, special demonstrations, activities and programs, including summer camp; open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesday-Sunday; tickets \$12.50 for



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AREA ATTRACTIONS

teens, adults, seniors, \$10.50 for kids 2-12, free for children under 2; the first Sunday of the month, admission is \$5.

Douglas County

DOUGLAS COUNTY DIRTRACK, 2110 Frear St., Douglas County Fairgrounds, Roseburg, 541-510-0757, douglascountydtd.com; formerly the Douglas County Speedway, and now a dirt track with covered stands, features racing competitions on Friday night May-September, plus special events.

DOUGLAS COUNTY MUSEUM, 123 Museum Drive, Roseburg, 541-957-7007, umpquavalleymuseums.org; exhibits of more than 7,500 natural and cultural history items and photographs. Research library open Tuesday, Thursday 1-4:30 p.m.; museum open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. daily; admission \$8 adults, \$5 seniors, veterans, \$2 students 5-17.

ROGUE-UMPQUA SCENIC BYWAY, Douglas County and Jackson County, traveloregon.com; 172-mile, five- to seven-hour route through the environs of the North Umpqua River, the High Cascades and the Upper Rogue River, starting near Interstate 5 in Roseburg, ending in Gold Hill; open all year; best June-October.

SEVEN FEATHERS CASINO RESORT, 146 Chief Miwaleta Drive, Canyonville, 800-548-8461, sevenfeathers.com; casino with slots, table games, bingo, keno, concerts, lounge entertainment, restaurants, spa and lodging; open 7 a.m.-2:30 a.m. daily.

UMPQUA RIVER LIGHTHOUSE MUSEUM,

1020 Lighthouse Road, Winchester Bay, 541-271-4631, umpquavalleymuseums.org; documents, photographs, artifacts documenting the history of the Umpqua Valley Lighthouse; open 9 a.m. -7 p.m. daily, through September (until 5 p.m. October-February); admission \$8 adults, \$4 children age 5-17, free for 4 and under.

WILDLIFE SAFARI, 1790 Safari Road, Winston, 541-679-6761, wildlifesafari.net; a 61-acre drive-thru animal park offers close-up looks at exotic wildlife, plus animal exhibits, special animal encounters, keeper talks, camps and classes; open 9 a.m.-6 p.m. daily, through September, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. daily in September and October, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. daily November-March; drive-thru admission \$25.95 adults, \$22.95 seniors, \$19.95 children.

Coos County

CHARLESTON MARINE LIFE CENTER, 63466 Boat Basin Road, Coos Bay, 541-346-7280, cmlc.uoregon.edu/visit/; part aquarium, part museum, the marine life center combines living displays, specimens and interactive explorations, with a tide pool touch tank, projecting scopes and microscopes; open 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday; admission \$5 adults, \$4 for seniors and AAA members, free for children and students.

THE MILL CASINO, 3201 Tremont St., North Bend, 541-756-8800, themillcasino.com; casino features slots, table games, sports betting, live entertain-

ment, restaurants, fitness center, pool/spa, hotel, RV park; open 24/7.

OREGON COAST HISTORICAL RAILWAY MUSEUM, 766 S. First St., Coos Bay, 541-294-1112, orcorail.org; outdoor displays of vintage railroad and logging equipment and museum with historic photos and railroad memorabilia; open 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Wednesdays, Saturdays; by donation; call ahead to verify before visiting.

OREGON DUNES NATIONAL RECREATION AREA, 855 Highway 101, Reedsport, 541-271-6000, fs.usda.gov; a 31,500-acre area offering beaches and dunes for off-road vehicle riding, mountain biking, camping and cabins, fishing, hiking, horseback riding, picnicking, scenic drives, water activities; open year-round; beach access limited through Sept. 15 to protect plovers.

SHORE ACRES STATE PARK, 89039 Cape Arago Highway, 541-888-3732, shoreacres.net; 745-acre park with 5 acres of formal gardens, lily pond, holiday lights display, ocean views and cove beach access; open year-round, usually 8 a.m. until dusk daily; information and gift center open 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. daily through Nov. 22; free admission but day use parking is \$10.

THREE RIVERS CASINO, 1297 Ocean Blvd., Coos Bay, 877-374-8377, threeriverscasino.com; slot machines, restaurant and bar; open year-round, 6 a.m.-2 a.m. daily.

Curry County

CAPE BLANCO LIGHT STATION VISITOR CENTER AND HUGHES HOUSE, 91100 Cape

Blanco Road, Port Orford, 541-332-6774, stateparks.oregon.gov; First lit in 1870, the historic lighthouse holds records and hosted state's first woman keeper. The Hughes House, an 1898 Victorian is a nearby dairy ranch and house museum. Both run by Cape Blanco Heritage Society. 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. daily except Tuesdays. Hughes House is scheduled to be closed for exterior renovations through July 2.

HARRIS BEACH STATE PARK, Highway 101, north of Brookings, 800-551-6949, stateparks.oregon.gov; sandy beaches with rock outcroppings, tide pools, sea stacks, with spots for beachcombing, bird watching, picnicking, RV, tent and yurt camping; open year-round; free for day use.

JERRY'S ROGUE JET BOATS, 29985 Harbor Way, Gold Beach, 800-451-3645, roguejets.com; various jetboat trips along the Rogue River, around the bay, \$99-\$159.

PORT ORFORD LIFEBOAT STATION, Coast Guard Hill, off Ninth Street, Port Orford, 541-332-0521, capeblancoheritagesociety.com; The historic barracks, office and boat barn of the lifeboat station are a museum. 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Wednesday to Monday May to September; free.

PREHISTORIC GARDENS, 36848 Highway 101, Port Orford, 541-332-4463, prehistoricgardens.com; this roadside attraction has 23 life-size dinosaurs and other prehistoric creatures, self-guided forest tours; open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. spring and fall, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. summer; admission \$14 adults, \$12 seniors, \$10 children 3-12, free for kids 2 and younger; dogs not allowed on the trail.



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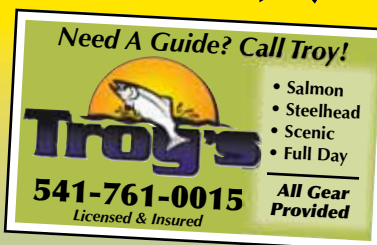
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Botanical tourism

10 hot spots in our region to see gardens, arboretums and plants in the wild



BARBARA DELBOL

Balsamroot blooms among manzanita during spring at the Rough and Ready Botanical Wayside south of Cave Junction. Plant-life here adapted to a nutrient-poor soil, but wildflowers, some rare, have thrived. The trail is mostly flat and gives views of Rough and Ready Creek.

By Barbara Delbol

for the Daily Courier

For plant lovers, southwestern Oregon is a botanical playland where you can find a diverse number of native species that are rare, unusual or endemic to this region. And there's many developed local gardens, arboretums and short hikes that introduce locals and out-of-towners to the horticultural highlights.

All 10 sites are free to visit.

Here's a selection to visit, arranged alphabetically by county.

Josephine County

Eight Dollar Mountain Botanical Area — Selma

Considered to be one of the most significant botanical areas in Oregon, this 2,867-acre area offers views of uncommon plants that are principally found in southwest Oregon and northern California serpentine soil sites.

These plants include the carnivorous California pitcher plants, *Darlingtonia californica*, which find a home in the wetland fens along the Jeffrey pine-dotted slopes of Eight Dollar Mountain.

Other plants to appreciate during your visit include the fragrant, May-blooming western azalea, *Rhododendron occidentale*, manzanitas, incense cedar and a host of wildflowers including the rare Howell's mariposa lily.

The most accessible place to see the pitcher plants, also known as cobra lilies, is from a 1/8-mile-long interpretive boardwalk located off of Eight Dollar Mountain Road (FS Road 4201) which is slightly more than 3 miles south of Selma, off of Highway 199.

The parking lot to the wheelchair accessible boardwalk is about a mile west of the highway. It's free.

Limpy Botanical Interpretive Loop — Grants Pass

Two, short, easy-to-hike trails lead visitors into a Douglas fir forest showcasing more than 250 species of native plants and 43 species of trees and shrubs. Several benches along the trail offer a quiet place to enjoy views of natives including Pacific dogwood, yew and Port Orford cedar as well as a host of wildflowers.

The lower trail loop is just 1/3 of a mile long while the upper trail, which leads to a 20-foot-tall waterfall, is just over a mile long.

A picnic table at the trailhead provides a place for lunch before you begin your hike while interpretive signs give hikers a preview of what they'll see along their journey.

From Grants Pass, drive west on Highway 199 to Riverbanks Road then drive about 4.5 miles to Limpy Creek Road. The trailhead is located 3 miles up Limpy Creek Road. It's free.

Rogue Community College Arboretum — Grants Pass

The horticultural biodiversity of the Klamath Siskiyou ecoregion is showcased in this arboretum where the collection is planted throughout the 84-acre Rogue Community College campus. More than 100 tree and shrub locations are highlighted on the arboretum map with species including common native oaks and pines to the more unfamiliar Japanese pagoda tree, bald cypress and blue China fir. The map is available at the campus library as well as online.

With so many diverse species, the arboretum serves as an outdoor classroom for horticulture and botany students as well as the general public. Many of



EDITH DECKER / Daily Courier, 2020

Ranger Paige Preston talks with a pandemic-era tour group on the boardwalk at 8 Dollar Mountain Botanical Area. The walkway overview offers a look at rare, insect-digesting darlingtonia plants and Jeffrey pines. The plants thrive in serpentine soil, a feature of the Kalmiopsis region. The walkways are accessible and give visitors a chance to get into the marshy fen without getting their feet wet.



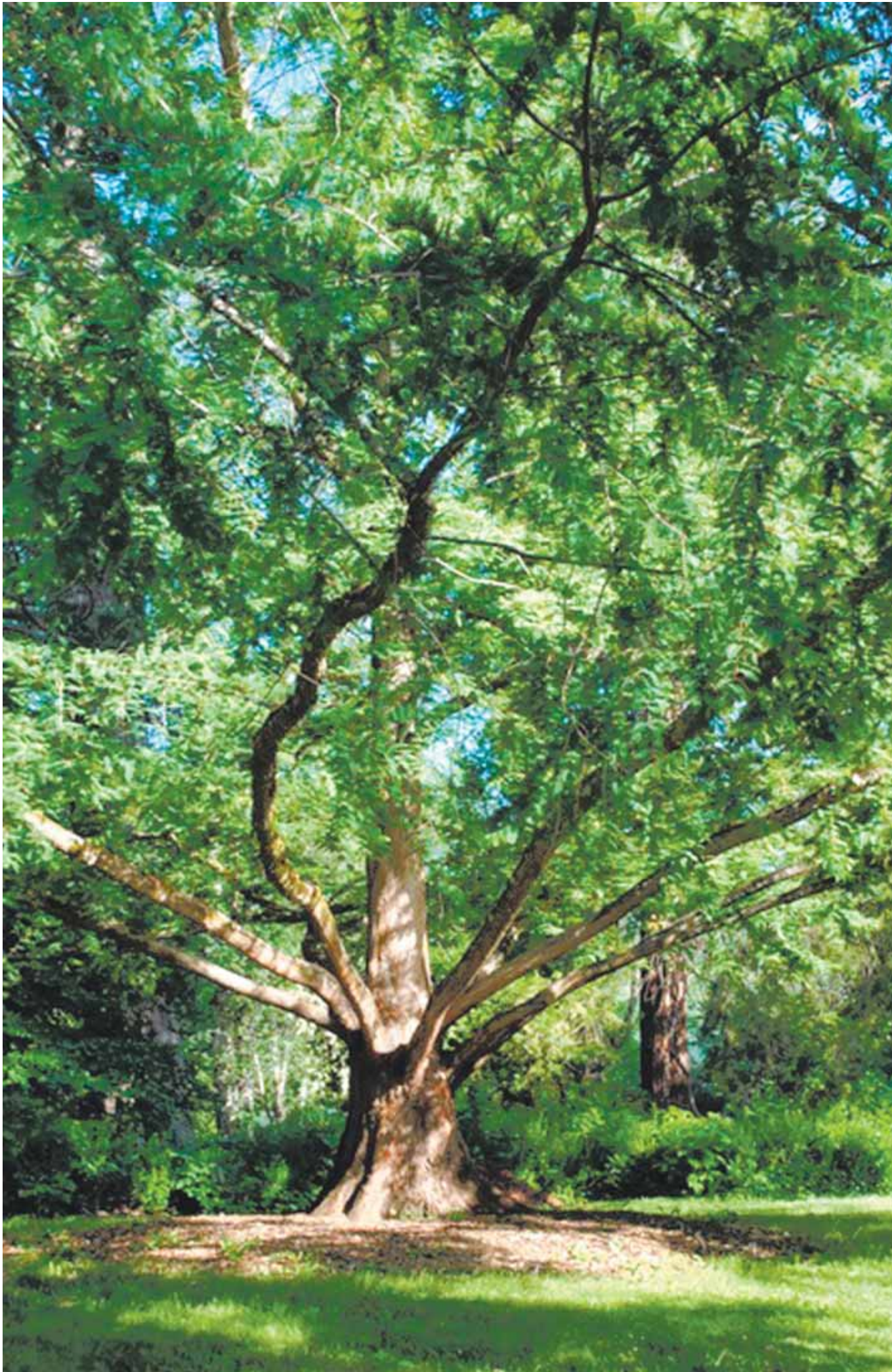
BARBARA DELBOL

Darlingtonia, also called cobra lilies and pitcher plants, trap insects under the hood and digest them.



JULIE ANDERSON / Daily Courier, 2023

The Japanese garden inside the 93-acre Lithia Park in Ashland was refurbished and reopened in 2023.



BARBARA DELBOL

A deciduous dawn redwood, *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*, is one of more than 100 species of trees that can be found at Palmerton Arboretum in Rogue River.

Botanical From Page 16

the trees also were planted as living memorials, with the first planted in 1982, providing the impetus for the arboretum.

The campus is located at 3345 Redwood Highway about 5 miles west of Grants Pass. It's free.

Rough and Ready Botanical Wayside — Cave Junction

To the casual passerby, the Rough and Ready Botanical Wayside, located about 4.5 miles south of Cave Junction off Highway 199, may appear as a rocky, desert-like area scattered with gnarled pines, manzanita and other scrubby shrubs. But this is actually one of the most botanically diverse in Oregon, visited by plant nerds from across the county who want an up-close view of the largest collection of rare plants in Oregon.

Plant life here has adapted to the nutrient-poor ultramafic, serpentine-rich soils as well as extreme weather conditions ranging from bone dry summers where heat can soar to 110 degrees and winter storms can dump as much as 100 to 160 inches of rain a year.

Such precipitation promotes impressive springtime wildflower displays featuring common and rare species of balsamroot, rockcress, lilies, phlox, penstemons and larkspur.

A 1/3 mile long, rock-lined interpretive trail is handicap-accessible and amenities include benches and a covered picnic shelter. The wayside is open during daylight hours. It's free.

Jackson County

Beekman Woods and Native Plant Arboretum — Jacksonville

Once part of the pioneer banker Cornelius C. Beekman's homestead, the Beekman Woods and Native Plant Arboretum has its roots as part of a Jacksonville Woodlands Association trail project that began in 1993.

It wasn't long though before a native plant arboretum was suggested for a former garden area behind the home. Over time, and guided by a plan by landscape architect Alan Horobin, a waterfall, picnic shelter, pollinator garden and rockwork was added to the arboretum along with new signage for specimen plants. Footbridges also span a seasonal creek.

Today, the three-acre garden highlights trees, shrubs and herbs from eight ecological zones of the Siskiyou and Cascade mountains. The collection also includes more than 175 species of plants from high-altitude subalpine areas around Crater Lake, the high deserts of Eastern Oregon and the serpentine soils of the Siskiyou Mountains.

Trail heads and the arboretum are located behind the Beekman House, 352 E. California Street. It's free.

Britt Garden — Jacksonville

When people hear the name "Britt," they're likely to first think of the Britt Music and Arts Festival, a seasonal offering of concerts held from June through September. But the Jacksonville site also is home to formal gardens as well as an entry point to miles of forested trails.

The more formal part of the gardens is the historic 4.5 acre area where photographer Peter Britt built his home in 1860. Today, the hill is home to the Britt Festival pavilion, an outdoor concert venue with hillside seating and views of the Rogue Valley. But when there are no concerts scheduled, the gardens are open as a public park perfect for picnics or as a quiet place to enjoy the outdoors.

Below the pavilion, you'll find an array of

Skyrman Arboretum offers just under 1 acre of greenery where you can view an extensive collection of native trees and shrubs as well as the largest digger pine in Oregon.

Tourism From Page 18

native plants in the lower Britt gardens. It's also one way to reach the Woodlands Trail system where, during early May, you may be able to see the red-flowered Gentner's fritillary (*Fritillaria gentneri*) that was recently adopted as a part of the Britt Festival's logo. But please, don't pick the flowers as the plant is federally listed as endangered.

You can download a map of the trails throughout Jacksonville at: jacksonville-or.us/DocumentCenter/View/576/Map-of-Woodlands-Trails.

Trail maps also are posted throughout the woodlands trail system. Parking is located on First Street and at the top of the hill on Fir Street. It's free.

Lithia Park — Ashland

At the heart of Ashland lies the 93-acre Lithia Park which provides a cooling green space for visitors and locals alike.

Most accessible is the lower 18 acres closest to downtown's Ashland Plaza. Here, paved walkways meander through landscaped areas that include ponds, a children's playground, a Japanese garden and sycamore grove.

A trail guide is available to help you identify many of the trees and shrubs that you'll pass along your park walk. Download the guide at ashland.or.us. Then click on Parks&Rec, select Story/Map Web Apps then select Lithia Park Trail Guide. Many of the native and ornamental trees also are labeled for easy identification.

The wilder side of the park follows the terrain along Ashland Creek until it reaches a swim reservoir at the park's southern edge. There are several parking areas along Winburn Way providing easy park access. The park is open daylight hours. Free.

OSU Extension Service demonstration gardens — Central Point

The 15 demonstration gardens located at the Oregon State University Extension office in Central Point provides visitors a diverse look at the native and cultivated trees and shrubs that have proven to thrive in Southwestern Oregon.

Each garden focuses on specific species as such as lavender, daylilies, figs and roses well as gives visitors a chance

to see the combined effect of plant collections. A waterwise garden for example, demonstrates how water-thrifty plantings can conserve water yet still be attractive and sustainable.

Similarly, the native plant garden and the wildflower garden provide a great introduction to plants adapted to local environments that also can provide beauty in our home landscapes.

The garden, located at 569 Hanley Road in Central Point is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday for self-guided tours. It's free.

Palmerton Arboretum — Rogue River

This five-acre arboretum features more than 100 notable species of trees and shrubs from around the world. Many, such as sequoias and redwoods are familiar, while others, including Japanese yew and *Hepacodium miconiodes*, Seven Sons Flower from China, may be new discoveries for visitors. A sign near the parking lot displays a map of tree locations with most of the trees having ID markers.

While the arboretum is owned by the City of Rogue River, the city's Tree City USA committee provides advice on new additions as well as the care of the trees. The arboretum also offers picnic areas, a playground and restrooms.

Located at 300 W. Evans Creek Road in Rogue River, the arboretum is open daily during daylight hours. It's free.

Skyrman Arboretum — Central Point

The smallest and newest arboretum in this list, Skyrman Arboretum offers just under 1 acre of greenery where you can view an extensive collection of native trees and shrubs as well as the largest digger pine in Oregon, *Pinus sabiniana*.

The property, located adjacent the Oregon State Police office on North Pacific Highway, was donated to the city of Central Point in 2010 by the Skyrman family, with the stipulation it be used for youth education programs and public enjoyment. Programs are held in Skyrman's former family home as well as a 50-year-old log cabin on the site.

The arboretum, 4588 N. Pacific Highway, Central Point, is open during daylight hours. It's free.

Reporter Barbara Delbol is the Daily Courier gardening columnist and formerly covered the Illinois Valley.

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EVENTS CALENDAR

Summer brings a slate of special events for all



JULIE ANDERSON / Daily Courier, 2024

Red, white and blue fireworks light up the night sky on the Fourth of July at Reinhart Volunteer Park in Grants Pass. Holiday celebrations are planned throughout the area to celebrate the nation's birth.

Summer adventures begin close to home. Here's a calendar of some of the major events going on around the area during the next few months, divided by county.

Josephine County

May

KIDS DASH DAY, May 31, Russ Werner Field, Grants Pass High School. This day promoting physical activity and fun for children includes races, field events, obstacle courses, a wellness fair for all ages. Visit oregonathletefoundation.org.

June

BIWING MADNESS, June 26, Josephine County Sky Park, Grants Pass. Plane displays, expositions, demonstrations, plus aerobatics, fly-bys, raffles. See roguevalleyflyers.com.

SHAKESPEARE IN THE VINES, June 6-28, Walport Family Cellars, Grants Pass. The Rogue Valley Shakespeare Company presents alternat-

ing outdoor performances of "Hamlet" and "Comedy of Errors." See roguevalleyshakespeare.com.

541 OUTLAW CAR CLUB CHARITY CAR SHOW, June 7, G Street between Fourth and Sixth streets, downtown Grants Pass. This annual show put on by 541 Outlaw Car Club features hundreds of cars, trucks and motorcycles of all vintages, with trophies and raffles. Call 541-450-5307, 541-441-8041.

FROG O'FAIRE, June 7, Riverside Park, Grants Pass. This children's festival returns with free arts and crafts, games, obstacle course, vendors, entertainment for kids and food trucks, put on by Legacy Family & Leadership. Call 541-295-5982 or see atthewellroguevalley.org.

OREGON HUNTERS ASSOCIATION YOUTH OUTDOOR SKILLS DAY, June 7, Josephine County Sportsman Park, Grants Pass. Outdoor shooting and sports stations, with hands-on fishing, shooting, rock climbing, archery and other outdoor activities for ages 6-18. Call 541-218-2836 or visit oregonhunters.org.

SISKIYOU CREST COALITION FUNDRAIS-

ER, June 7, Troon Vineyard, Applegate Valley. This celebration of the Siskiyou Crest includes workshops and tours, dinner and wine, live music and speakers. Visit siskiyoucrestcoalition.org.

COMMUNITY RISING WORLD MUSIC FOLK FESTIVAL, June 7, Pacifica, Williams. This first-ever event includes two stages of music, family games, kids' activities, artisan vendors, workshops, yoga, food and drinks. See pacificagarden.org.

CHILI COOK-OFF, June 7, Sunny Valley Campground. A family friendly gathering with live music, local vendors, lawn games and chili. Call 541-479-0209 or see sunnyvalleycamping.com.

ART IN THE GARDEN, June 7-8, Grants Pass area. Self-guided tours of several private gardens, an herb farm and a winery, paired with work by local artists, and with food trucks at some locations, benefits the Grants Pass Museum of Art.

Call 541-479-3290 or go to gpmuseum.com.
FREE FISHING WEEKEND, June 7-8, throughout Oregon. Everyone can fish, clam and

crab for free. See myodfw.com.

SUMMER DAY CAMPS, June 9, Grants Pass Family YMCA. Week-long program of summer activities and field trips with meals is for children entering first through sixth grades, running through Aug. 10. Call 541-474-0001 or visit grantspassymca.org.

PACIFICA SUMMER DAY CAMPS, June 9-12, Pacifica, Williams. These day-long or multi-day camps are open to kids 4-18, with a variety of themes and educational experiences, running through August. Call 541-846-1100 or go to pacificagarden.org.

CONCERTS IN THE PARK, June 10, Riverside Park, Grants Pass. This free outdoor music series opens, and continues Tuesday evenings (except July 1) through July 15. Call 541-476-7717 or visit grantspasschamber.org.

SHINING A LIGHT ON HUNGER, June 12, Vista 222, Grants Pass. This fundraiser for the Josephine County Food Bank includes live music,

EVENTS CALENDAR

live and silent auctions, hunger hero awards, food and beverages. Call 541-479-5556 or go to joco-foodbank.org.

VINTAGE TOYS & TRAINS, June 13-15, Pottsville Museum, Merlin. The Siskiyou Toy Train Club hosts a show and sale of vintage toys and trains, accessories, parts and supplies. Call 541-821-0574.

SUMMER READING PROGRAM, June 14, four branches of the Josephine Community Library. This free program for all ages, with the theme "Level Up at Your Library" offers reading challenges, recommended reading, themed crafts and other bookish fun, through Aug. 9.

Call 541-476-0571 or visit josephinelibrary.org.

PORCHFEST, June 14, northwest Washington Boulevard area, Grants Pass. This free neighborhood music festival features musicians playing on front porches of historic neighborhood homes, with arts and crafts and food vendors. Call 541-862-1461 or visit porchfestgrantspass.org.

DOWNTOWN ART WALK, June 14, Cave Junction. Local artists display their work at area businesses, with receptions, special deals. Also July 12, Aug. 9. Call 541-592-3326 or find Main Street Cave Junction on Facebook.

THE FUR BALL, June 14, Lindsay Lodge, Applegate. This benefit for the Rogue Valley Humane Society includes a buffet dinner, live and silent auctions. Call 541-479-5154 or see roguevalleyhumane.org.

ANTIQUA TRACTOR SHOW, June 14-15, Pottsville, Merlin area. Two days of antique engine and tractor displays, tractor pulls, and a tractor parade, plus a fair with old-time craft demonstrations, swap meet and flea market, live music and activities for kids. Call 541-659-4535.

ROGUE VALLEY KENNEL CLUB ALL-BREED DOG SHOW, June 14-15, Indian Mark Park, Merlin. The Rogue Valley Kennel Club hosts three conformation dog shows over two days. Call 775-386-3841 or visit roguevalleykc.org.

RACING ON THE ROGUE, June 14-15, Grants Pass Downs at the Josephine County Fairgrounds. The Southern Oregon Horse Racing Association opens the summer race meet, with races continuing June 21-22, June 28-29 and July 4-5. Visit racingontherogue.org.

CAMP EEK, June 16, Wildlife Images, Grants

Pass. This week-long summer camp for kids includes environmental education, conservation projects, running weekly through Aug. 15. Call 541-476-0222 or visit wildlifeimages.org.

CONCERTS IN THE PARK, June 16, Jubilee Park, Cave Junction. This free outdoor music series opens, and continues Thursday evenings through Aug. 14 (no show July 3). Call 541-592-3326.

JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION, June 19, Riverside Park, Grants Pass. This celebration of the legacy of freedom in the United States includes yard games, Black history bingo, Black vendors marketplace, food trucks. Contact gpremembrance@gmail.com.

SKY GAZING, June 20-21, Rusk Ranch Nature Center, Cave Junction. This nighttime event invites families to explore the night sky, with a sundials workshop. Call 541-287-0172.

GRANTS PASS PRIDE 2025, June 21, Rogue Community College, Grants Pass. This fourth annual celebration of Southern Oregon's LGBTQ community features vendors, speakers, performances, food trucks. Call 541-292-1741 or see rogueactioncenter.org, click on Events.

RUMBLE IN THE VALLEY, June 21, Sunny Valley Campground. A family friendly gathering with a car and bike show, swap meet, local vendors, live music, bounce house, food and drink. Call 541-479-0209 or see sunnyvalleycamping.com.

SOUTHERN OREGON LAVENDER FESTIVAL, June 20-22, Josephine and Jackson counties. Self-guided tour of local lavender farms, with U-cut lavender, workshops and demonstrations, crafts and lavender-inspired art, lavender food samples and plants for purchase. Also July 11-13. See southernoregonlavendertrail.com.

HATHKAPASUTA — ILLINOIS RIVER CELEBRATION, June 21, Illinois River Forks State Park, Cave Junction. This family event features playful arts and nature experiences, hands-on history and nature exhibits, games, crafts, live music, recycled raft race, food vendors. Call 541-291-8860.

FIRST CRUSH, June 21, Wildlife Images, Grants Pass. A showcase of Southern Oregon fine wine, beer and gourmet foods, with live music, animal encounters and a raffle, organized by Greater Grants Pass Rotary. See first-crushtickets.com.

first-crushtickets.com.

CRITTER CAMP, June 23-25, Rogue Valley Humane Society, Grants Pass. Kids 8-12 learn about animal welfare through classroom sessions, crafts, activities. Another session to be held July 28-30. Call 541-479-5154 or visit roguevalleyhumane.org.

CAR SHOW & BBQ, June 25, Cascades of Grants Pass. The Rogue Valley Classic Cruisers show off their rides, with food. Call 541-507-0560.

SOUTHERN OREGON ASPIRE GOLF TOURNAMENT, June 27, Dutcher Creek Golf Course, Grants Pass. Four-person scramble golf tournament benefits Southern Oregon Aspire. Call 541-476-8241 or see soaspire.org/golf.

WINE DOWN, June 27, Plaisance Ranch, Williams. The winery hosts live music, food and wine tasting, continuing one Friday evening each month through September. Call 541-846-7175 or see plaisanceranch.com.

SISKIYOU FOLK AND BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL, June 28, Lake Selmac, Selma. Seven bands perform throughout the day, with vendors and food. Call 458-229-0520, or see siskiyoubluegrassfestival.com.

YOUTH SUMMER THEATRE CAMP, June 30-July 27, Barnstormers Theatre, Grants Pass. Young actors get experience in acting, singing, dancing, stage combat, mask work, makeup, costumes, lighting, props, and set design and perform an original play. Call 541-479-3357, or see barnstormersgp.com.

ALL WHEELS CAR SHOW, June 28, Jubilee Park, Cave Junction. Show open to all makes and models is put on by the Illinois Valley Lions

Club. Call 541-592-4135, 541-597-4486, 541-254-4161.

July

FOURTH OF JULY FOOD TRUCK FESTIVAL, July 4, Reinhart Volunteer Park, Grants Pass. This city-organized event features food trucks and fireworks. Call 541-450-6071.

SOUTHERN OREGON LAVENDER FESTIVAL, July 11-13, Josephine and Jackson counties. Self-guided tour of local lavender farms, with U-cut lavender, workshops and demonstrations, crafts and lavender-inspired art, lavender food samples and plants for purchase. See southernoregonlavendertrail.com.

LADY STANGS CAR SHOW, July 12, Three Rivers School District office, Grants Pass. The car show, open to all years, makes and models, includes a pancake breakfast, silent auction, raffle and trophies, to benefit the Lady Stangs soccer team. Contact 541-761-0176, andrea_265@yahoo.com.

ALL-COMERS CAR SHOW, July 12, Merlin Community Park. Car show for all makes and models, with live music, food vendor and raffles. Call 541-660-2364.

CONCERTS IN THE PARK, July 17, Merlin Community Park. Free outdoor music series begins, with concerts continuing Thursdays at least through August. Call 541-660-2364.

CORVETTE WEEKEND, July 18-20, Grants Pass. Three days of events for Corvette owners and the people who love their cars, including a

Continued on Page 24




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EVENTS CALENDAR



JULIE ANDERSON / Daily Courier, 2024

People collect lavender at Dos Mariposas Vineyards, one of several participants in the Southern Oregon Lavender Festival. This year's event runs June 20-22 and July 11-13. Lavender farms and shops in both Josephine and Jackson counties participate.

public show and shine in Riverside Park, hosted by the Southern Oregon Corvette Association. Visit sovette.com.

ROGUE VALLEY FARM TOUR, July 20, at farms and vineyards in the Rogue Valley. Learn about the local food system through tastings, field tours and visits with local farmers. Visit roguevalleyfarmtour.com.

PIE & ICE CREAM SOCIAL, July 25, Schmidt House, Grants Pass. The Josephine County Historical Society hosts this early evening event with pie and musical entertainment as part of Fabulous 50's weekend. Call 541-479-7827.

FABULOUS '50S, July 25-27, various venues, Grants Pass. The Rogue Valley Classic Cruisers host three days of classic car events, including a show and shine and merchants poker walk downtown (Friday), a hot rod cruise in party (Friday) at Jimmy's Classic Drive-In, a charity car show (Saturday) at the Josephine County Fairgrounds, and a hot rods and handlebars show (Sunday) at Corvette Bar & Grill. This year all

makes and models can show in the main Fabulous 50s show. Call 541-592-6009 or see roguevalleyclassiccruisers.com.

FIRECRACKER PYLON RACES, July 26, Josephine County Sky Park, Grants Pass. Plane displays, expositions, demonstrations, aerobatics. See roguevalleyflyers.com.

MOTHATHON, July 26, Rusk Ranch Nature Center, Cave Junction. This nighttime event celebrates moths, butterflies and other pollinators, with music, speakers, refreshments. Call 541-287-0172.

CRITTER CAMP, July 28-30, Rogue Valley Humane Society, Grants Pass. Kids 8-12 learn about animal welfare through classroom sessions, crafts, activities. Call 541-479-5154 or visit roguevalleyhumanesociety.org.

JOSEPHINE COUNTY FAIR, July 30-Aug. 3, Josephine County Fairgrounds, Grants Pass. The fair features carnival rides and games, agriculture, livestock, exhibits, vendors, food booths and entertainment, including Rodney Atkins and Ned

LeDoux on July 31, plus bull riding, and supermoto racing. Call 541-476-3215, visit josephinecountyfairgrounds.com.

August

RIB COOK-OFF, Aug. 2, Sunny Valley Campground. A family friendly gathering with live music, local vendors, bounce house and ribs. Call 541-479-0209 or see sunnyvalleycamping.com.

LEMONADE DAY, Aug. 9, downtown Grants Pass. Experiential program in which youth learn how to start, own and operate their first business, a lemonade stand. Call 541-476-7717 or see grantspasschamber.org.

SAILPLANE GLIDER FLY, Aug. 10, Josephine County Sky Park, Grants Pass. Plane displays, expositions, demonstrations, plus aerobatics, fly-bys, raffles. See roguevalleyflyers.com.

PEDDLERS FAIRE, Aug. 23, Rogue Valley Humane Society, Grants Pass. Local vendors and businesses sell their wares, to benefit the

Rogue Valley Humane Society. Call 541-479-5154 or see roguevalleyhumanesociety.org.

ROGUE MOTOR SHOW, Aug. 23, Pottsville Museum, Merlin. This show of motorcycles, hotrods, drift, lowriders, mini trucks and offroad vehicles includes vendors, games, live music, children's activities and concessions. Contact info@roguemotorshow.com.

LIONS CLUB LABOR DAY FESTIVAL, Aug. 30-Sept. 1, Jubilee Park, Cave Junction. This annual event features vendors and games, a parade, music, contests, food booths, softball tournament and Harley raffle drawing. Call 541-592-4135, 541-597-4486, 541-254-4161.

September

MOTORCYCLE SHOW, Sept. 6, Cascades of Grants Pass. A display of classic and custom bikes, with a barbecue. Call 541-507-0560.

Continued on Page 25

EVENTS CALENDAR

POTTSVILLE POWWOW RED HAWK MEMORIAL, Sept. 6-7, Pottsville. This native gathering in the Merlin-Hugo area north of Grants Pass features music, dancing, drumming, arts and crafts, vendors and food. Call Judy Brazille, 541-476-0126 or 541-218-2384.

RACING ON THE ROGUE, Sept. 7-8, Grants Pass Downs at the Josephine County Fairgrounds. The Southern Oregon Horse Racing Association opens the fall race meet, with races continuing Sundays and Mondays through Oct. 13. Visit racingontherogue.org.

Jackson County

May

JACKSON & JOSEPHINE HEALTH FAIR, May 31, Jackson County Expo, Central Point. This free event includes free health screenings, community resources, family-friendly activities. See attheexpo.com.

June

CONCERT IN THE PARK, June 5, Pear Blossom Park, Medford. Free outdoor concert by Dueling Hobbits. Call 541-774-2400 or visit playmedford.com.

BUILDERS CLASSIC GOLF TOURNAMENT, June 6, Eagle Point Golf Club, Eagle Point. A four-person scramble put on to support the Builders Association of Southern Oregon. Call 541-773-2872 or visit buildso.com.

HAPPIER HOUR, June 6, Discovery Park on the Rogue River. A jetboat shuttle to the park for a

live concert by a regional band, held Fridays (except July 1) through Aug. 29. Call 541-414-4182 or visit roguejetadventures.com.

BRITT MUSIC & ARTS FESTIVAL, June 6, Britt Gardens, Jacksonville. The concert season at this outdoor music venue starts with a free neighborhood kick-off party, followed by ticketed concerts on various dates through Sept. 18; the classical series runs June 12-28. Call 541-773-6077 or go to brittfest.org for a full schedule of concerts.

SOUTHERN OREGON PHILATELIC SOCIETY EXHIBITION, June 6-7, First United Methodist Church, Medford. Dealers from around the region have stamps, post cards and covers to sell, buy and collect, with collection appraisals. Contact edcharpark@charter.net or go to classic.stamps.org/sops.

ASHLAND ROCKS! GEM SHOW, June 6-8, Historic Ashland Armory. Minerals, fossils, gemstones, artisan jewelry, crystal home decor is on display, and for sale. Find Ashland Rocks on Facebook.

SUMMER READING PROGRAM, June 7, all branches of Jackson County Library Services. With theme "Embrace the Wild," this free program for all ages offers reading challenges, recommended reading and other bookish fun, through Aug. 31. Call 541-774-8690 or visit jcls.org.

GOLD DUST DAY HERITAGE CELEBRATION, June 7, Gold Hill. This community celebration, this year marking the city's 130th anniversary, includes a community breakfast, parade, street fair, car and motorcycle show, entertainment, children's activities, artisans and vendors, food booths. See candogoldhill.org.

ASHLAND AIRPORT DAY, June 7, Ashland Municipal Airport, Ashland. A day celebrating the world of flight with airplane displays, skydivers, smokejumpers, drones, radio-controlled plane exhibitions, helicopter rescue demonstrations, kids activities, food trucks. Call 541-482-7675.

BREWS, BLUEGRASS & BBQ, June 7, Rox-yAnn Winery, Medford. This event includes food from local vendors, local craft beer and wine, bluegrass and Americana music by four regional bands, craft vendors, dance contest and children's activities Call 541-973-9446 or visit rfoodsystem.org.

SILENT DISCO IN THE PARK, June 7, Lithia Park, Ashland. An immersive music experience with multiple channels of DJs over wireless headphones, every first and third Friday through October. See slnt.ly.

ROGUE VALLEY VETERANS POWWOW, June 7-8, VA Medical Center, White City. This cultural celebration includes dancing, drumming, grand entries, feasting. Call 541-659-0309.

FREE FISHING WEEKEND, June 7-8, throughout Oregon. Everyone can fish, clam and crab for free. See myodfw.com.

MOVIES IN THE PARK, June 13, various parks, Central Point. This free outdoor film series runs most Fridays through Aug. 1. Call 541-664-3321, ext. 130, or visit centralpointoregon.gov/parksrec.

SAVOR SOUTHERN OREGON, June 13-14, Bigam Knoll Campus, Jacksonville. A brand new event celebrating the Rogue Valley's wine industry, with tastings, wine courses and a grand tasting event. Go to savorsouthernoregon.com.

OREGON SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL, June

13-14, in Ashland. OSF plans to open its outdoor Elizabethan stage with two shows: "The Merry Wives of Windsor," running through Oct. 12, and "Into the Woods," running through Oct. 11. Call 800-219-8161 or visit osfashland.org.

MEDFORD CRUISE, June 14. This car nut event features a show and shine in Fichtner-Mainwaring Park and a cruise through downtown. Call 541-858-0596 or visit medfordcruise.org.

CHALK ABOUT MEDFORD, June 14, Rogue X, Medford. This new event invites would-be artists to create chalk art sidewalk squares, with advance registration. Call 541-774-2400 or go to playmedford.com.

MOVIES IN THE PARK, June 14, Rogue X Spray Park and Bear Creek Park, Medford. This free outdoor film series runs various Saturdays, through Aug. 7. Call 541-772-2400 or visit playmedford.com.

CONCERT AT THE ROCKS, June 14, Discovery Park on the Rogue River. A jetboat shuttle to the park for games, picnics, fishing and other activities, plus a live concert by a regional band, held various dates through Aug. 30. Call 541-414-4182 or visit roguejetadventures.com.

ALL FOR PICKLEBALL, June 14-15, Lithia Park Courts, Ashland. Two-day pickleball tournament supports the Ashland Parks and Recreation Foundation. Contact jtf4cf@gmail.com.

SUMMER SOUNDS CONCERT SERIES, June 16, Lithia Park, Ashland. A free outdoor summer concert series at the band shell begins, continuing every third Monday through September. Visit epicashland.com.

Continued on Page 26



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EVENTS CALENDAR

ASHLAND CITY BAND CONCERTS, June 19, Ashland's Lithia Park. This free outdoor summer concert series is held in the band shell, Thursdays through Aug. 14. See ashlandband.org.

SALAMANDER FEST, June 19-22, Jackson Wellsprings, Ashland. This collaborative creative experience features live music, dance, workshops, drum circles, fire spinning, yoga, goddess temple, kids village, food and drink. See salamandercollective.com.

DINNER IN THE VINEYARD, June 20, Augustino Vineyard, O'Brien. This benefit for the Boys & Girls Club features food, beer and wine, music and a silent auction. Call 541-479-5258.

SOUTHERN OREGON LAVENDER FESTIVAL, June 20-22, Jackson and Josephine counties. Self-guided tour of local lavender farms, with U-cut lavender, workshops and demonstrations, crafts and lavender-inspired art, lavender food samples and plants for purchase. Also July 11-13. See southernoregonlavendertrail.com.

JUNETEENTH, June 21, Pear Blossom Park, Medford. Community celebration with speakers, live music, vendors, marketplace, children's activities, food trucks. See baseoregon.org.

BONSAI DAY, June 21, Japanese Garden, Lithia Park, Ashland. A display of trees by local bonsai hobbyists, plus live demonstrations of pruning and shaping techniques. See ashland-japanesegarden.org.

ASHLAND FOLK COLLECTIVE IN THE PARK, June 23, Lithia Park, Ashland. Free concert by Glitterfox, with food trucks and a beer garden, hosted by the Ashland Folk Collective; concerts also slated for July 28, Sept. 22; ashland-folkcollective.com.

PEACE VILLAGE FESTIVAL, June 27-29, Jackson Wellsprings, Ashland. This community gathering features live music, speakers, artisans and vendors, yoga, kids village, healing sanctuary, song circles, late night dance and pool parties. See peacevillagefestival.org.

COUNTRY QUEER SUMMERFEST: COPACABANA & COMMUNITY, June 14, LongSword Vineyard, Jacksonville. This pride fest for the rural queer community includes vendors, drag performers, DJs and music, ax throwing, silent disco, food trucks. See thecabaretisque.com.

CIVIL WAR SKIRMISH, June 21-22, Joseph Stewart State Park, Prospect. The Cascade Civil War Society stages Civil War re-enactments with several battles both days, authentic uniforms, replica cannons, a display of civilian life and period music. Go to cascadecws.com.

ROOSTER CROW, June 27-29, downtown Rogue River. Rogue River's 72nd annual event includes a parade, vendor booths, car show, human and rooster crowing contests, live music, children's activities. Call 541-582-0242, or see rogueriverchamber.com.

SLIDE INTO SUMMER, June 28, Bear Creek Park, Medford. Rotary Club of Medford hosts slip-n-slides and jump houses for kids, plus raffle prizes and food. Fine Medford Rotary on Facebook.

MEDFORD PRIDE, June 28, Rogue X, Medford. This celebration of diversity includes live stage performances, activities and booths and food trucks. Visit linktr.ee/medfordpride.

July

FOURTH OF JULY PARADE & FREEDOM FESTIVAL, July 4, Central Point. Festivities include a pancake breakfast, a 4k run and kids' fun run, a parade through downtown, vendors, live music, children's activities and food booths in



JULIE ANDERSON / Daily Courier, 2024

Fairgoers have a great time riding the Freak Out at the Jackson County Fair. This year's fair runs July 15-20.

Pfaff Park, wrapping up with fireworks at The Expo. Call 541-664-3321, ext. 130.

FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION, July 4, City Park, Gold Hill. Family friendly fun with a barbecue, games and raffle. See candogoldhill.org.

BOOMFEST, July 4, Jackson County Expo, Central Point. Fireworks show at dusk, with a community fireworks zone. Call 541-774-8270, or go to attheexpo.com.

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION, July 4, Eagle Point. Celebrate Independence Day with a fun run and 5k race, street vendor fair, parade, fireworks and more. Call 541-944-6925, see eaglepointchamber.org.

FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION, July 4, Ashland. Family fun with runs, a parade, family activities, vendor booths, live music, fireworks. See ashlandchamber.com.

TANABATA CELEBRATION, July 6, Japanese Garden, Lithia Park, Ashland. Japanese star festival, with Japanese cultural activities. See ashlandjapanesegarden.org.

SOUTHERN OREGON LAVENDER FESTIVAL, July 11-13, Josephine and Jackson counties. Self-guided tour of local lavender farms, with U-cut lavender, workshops and demonstrations, crafts and lavender-inspired art, lavender food samples and plants for purchase. See southernoregonlavendertrail.com.

CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL, July 12-14, Britt Gardens, Jacksonville. Arts, crafts and science projects, storytelling, performances and more. Visit storytellingguild.org.

JACKSON COUNTY FAIR, July 15-20, Jackson County Expo, Central Point. This family-friendly event will feature fair food, midway games

and carnival rides, concerts and an open class fair competition for arts and livestock, garden produce, flowers, plants, baked goods, canning, fibers arts and more. Call 541-774-8270 or visit attheexpo.com.

D.A.R.E. TO CRUISE, July 19, Twin Creeks Park, Central Point. A show and shine in the park followed by a cruise through downtown, to benefit the Central Point Police Department's drug abuse resistance education and bullying program. Call 541-664-5578 or see the police department's Facebook page.

MEADOWLARK COMIC CON, July 26-27, Rogue X, Medford. This convention celebrates all things pop culture — from comics and movies to anime and cosplay. Visit meadowlarkcomiccon.com.

ASHLAND FOLK COLLECTIVE IN THE PARK, July 28, Lithia Park, Ashland. Free concert by MarchFourth, with food trucks and a beer garden, hosted by the Ashland Folk Collective; concert also slated for Sept. 22; ashlandfolkcollective.com.

August

CARS THROUGH THE YEARS, Aug. 2, Hanley Farm, Central Point. This car show features 50 cars displayed by era to show how they have evolved over the years, with vendors, games, pinewood derby track, photo booth, farmhouse tours. Call 408-504-0389, sohs.org.

THUNDERSTRUCK CUSTOM NIKE SHOW, Aug. 16, Rogue Regenecy Inn, Medford. This custom bike show returns, with date to be announced, to benefit the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Rogue Valley. Call 541-479-5258.

September

WINE & DINE, Sept. 5, Hummingbird Estate, Central Point. This benefit for the Boys & Girls Club features food, beer and wine, music and a silent auction. Call 541-479-5258.

ROGUE BROADBAND BREWFEST, Sept. 12-13, Jackson County Fairgrounds, Central Point. Sample Pacific Northwest microbrews. Call 541-774-8270 or visit attheexpo.com.

ASHLAND FOLK COLLECTIVE IN THE PARK, Sept. 22, Lithia Park, Ashland. Free concert by Sean Hayes, with food trucks and a beer garden, hosted by the Ashland Folk Collective; ashlandfolkcollective.com.

Douglas County

June

FATHER'S DAY CAR SHOW, June 14, Memorial Park, Glendale. This event, open to any vehicle, includes a potluck. Call 541-450-1679, 541-817-2239 or visit the CCVCA (Cow Creek Valley Community Association) Facebook page for details.

July

FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION, July 2-4, Memorial Park, Glendale. This city-wide celebration includes kids' games, vendor and food booths, a car show, parade and fireworks from the high school at dusk Tuesday. Call 541-450-1679, 541-817-2239 or visit the CCVCA (Cow Creek Valley Community Association) Facebook page.

EVENTS CALENDAR



JULIE ANDERSON / Daily Courier, 2024

The Frog Prince greets a visitor at Frog O'Faire last year. It's June 7 in Riverside Park in downtown Grants Pass this year.

SUMMER 2025

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Poster & Illustration: Mary Mumma

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Get on course at regional golfing facilities

Grants Pass, Centennial, Stone Ridge, Eagle Point are the region's 18-hole offerings for local linksters

By Edith Decker
of the Daily Courier

If you or a visitor has a hankering to hit a small white ball into a small white cup, using a slender club, the Rogue Valley has plenty to offer.

In Josephine County we have the historic Grants Pass Golf Club with 18 holes of challenge and two other nine-hole courses — Dutcher Creek west of town and Applegate River near Murphy.

Slightly further afield, Jackson County offers three 18-hole courses and five nine-hole courses.

Here's all you need to start swinging: **Grants Pass Golf Club.** The par-72, 18-hole course includes a front nine with tree-lined fairways that are relatively flat, while the back nine is more sloping — downhill to the clubhouse.

The clubhouse features a pro shop, as well as a restaurant, lounge, golf cart rentals and a desk to arrange for lessons or future tee times.

By far the oldest course in the area, it was started by local businessmen — including Earl Voorhies of the Daily Courier, Karl Bennett of the Caveman Bowl and Millard Hodges of the Hodges High School Store — in 1948 when a nine-hole course

was opened. Another nine holes were added in 1972.

Membership includes the ability to join men's, women's, couples', junior or senior golfing groups, plus discounts and other benefits.

The public is welcome or go along as the guest of a member for a discount.

The course also has a full-range practice area and club pros Jeff Ott and Jackson Bartow offer 45-minute lessons or a series of five lessons and a beginner clinic is offered regularly.

The course is off of Williams Highway at 230 Espey Road in Grants Pass.

Call 541-476-0849 for more information.

Dutcher Creek Golf Course. The par-70 course features ponds, sand traps and grass bunkers in its layout.

The course plays 5,410 yards from the blue tees and 4,202 yards from the red tees.

Carts are available.

Dutcher Creek also offers a discount for juniors and for veterans, with proof of military identification.

Annual passes are available; call for prices or to book a tee time.

The course is five miles west of Grants Pass at 4611 Upper River Road.

Call 541-474-2188 for more information.



TRAVIS MOORE / Daily Courier, 2023

Ryan Kukula chips to the second green at Grants Pass Golf Club during a 2023 tournament. The 18-hole course is the oldest in the area.

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Applegate River Golf Club. The nine-hole course is built on the Applegate River, west of Murphy. It recently added an RV park for visitors who might want easy access to golf while here.

It measures 2,643 yards from the blue tees and 2,205 from the front. See an interactive map at applegaterv.com.

Facilities include a clubhouse with food and beverages, golf simulator and a pro shop.

One of the most affordable options in Josephine County, the course offers senior discounts and carts are available.

The course is located at 7350 New Hope Road.

Call 541-955-0480 for more information.

Illinois Valley Country Club. The nine-hole course is a semi-private course that opened in 1977. More recently, after a project for a development that would expand the course went bankrupt, the City of Cave Junction purchased the course.

In July 2021 it was leased to a group of volunteer board members who are working to maintain the course for members and the public.

The club is 3,049 yards with two sets of tees to accommodate different skill levels.

The pro shop hours are 8 a.m. to dusk with the last cart rental at 4 p.m. daily.

Fees go directly into improving and maintaining the course.

A driving range and putting green are near the clubhouse, 5320 Redwood Highway, Cave Junction.

The clubhouse phone is 541-592-3151.

JACKSON COUNTY

Eagle Point Golf Course. The semi-private, full-length 18-hole course is widely considered to be one of the best in Oregon.

It was designed by Robert Trent Jones, Jr. and opened in 1996.

The par-72 course plays 7,099 yards from the back, black tees and 6,052 from the front.

Bunkers pepper the course and the greens run fast year-round.

The course is part of a larger resort with dining, lodging and other amenities available.

The course is located at 100 Eagle Point Drive in Eagle Point.

Call 541-826-8225 or see resortateaglepoint.com for more information.

Stone Ridge Golf Course. The 18-hole course is 6,738 yards from the black tees.

Stone Ridge features plenty of hazards while allowing for open sight lines.

Tee times can be made up to seven days in advance.

A cafe is on site and instruction and clinics are available. The course is part of the PGA HOPE (Helping Our Patriots Everywhere) program for military veterans.

The course is located at 500 E. Antelope Road off Highway 140 in Eagle Point.

Call 541-830-4653 or see stoneridgegolf-course.com for more information.

Centennial Golf Club. Medford's flagship public golf course measures 7,309 yards

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Golfing From Page 28

from the tips and 5,244 from the front tees. It's a par-72 course with 18 holes in Medford.

Membership cards for frequent players are available for purchase.

It opened in 2006 and is designed by PGA champion John Fought. Check a course map online.

Instruction is available.

Tee times can be made up to 14 days in advance.

The club features the Centennial Grille and a practice range.

The course is located at 1900 N. Phoenix Road. Call 541-773-4653 or see centennialgolfclub.com for more information.

Laurel Hill Golf Course. This course in Gold Hill was founded in 1977 and includes a popular driving range and restaurant, Harvey's Grill.

The nine-hole course is a par 31 with the longest hole at 310 yards.

A disc golf is available as well on the property.

The course is located at 9450 Old Stage Road, just off exit 40 on I-5.

Call 541-855-7965 for more information or book a tee time online at laurelhillgolf.com.

Bear Creek Golf Course. The nine-hole course sits at 1,516 yards. Instruction is available as well as a driving range.

A disc golf course is also available on the property.

Bear Creek is located at 2355 S. Pacif-

ic Highway in Medford. Call 541-773-1822 for more information. Or see golf-bearcreek.com for more.

Quail Point Golf Course. The course in Medford is a 34-par, nine-hole, 2,843 yard course.

The course is part of the PGA Family Course program.

Quail Point is located at 1200 Mira Mar Ave. in Medford.

Call 541-857-7000 or see quailpoint-golf.com for additional information.

Stewart Meadows. The nine-hole course plays 2,910 yards from the blue tees and 2,466 from the red.

The grounds include four large ponds, a pro shop and cafe.

The course is located at 1301 Holly St. in Medford.

Call 541-770-6554 or see stewartmeadowsgolf.com.

Oak Knoll Golf Course. The nine-hole golf course is 3,040 yards from the blue tee and 2,674 from the red.

The Ashland course is full of changes in elevations and tight lines in the greens.

A driving range and clubhouse are among the amenities.

The course is located at 3070 Highway 66 in Ashland.

Contact the clubhouse at 541-482-4311 or see oakknollgolf.org.

Most courses offer leagues and opportunities to join in order to access better pricing for regular players. Check with the course for rates.

Reach reporter Edith Decker at 541-474-3724 or edecker@thedailycourier.com.

Oregon sailor arrives in Hawaii

Associated Press

HONOLULU — An Oregon man who quit his job at a tire company and liquidated his retirement savings to set sail for Hawaii with his cat, Phoenix, reached his destination May 24, welcomed by cheering fans at the end of a weekslong journey that he documented for his mass of followers on social media.

Oliver Widger, who also was greeted by Hawaii Gov. Josh Green at the Waikiki Yacht Club on Oahu, acknowledged he was nervous facing the crowd, which included reporters. Widger said he was feeling "really weird" — not seasick, but, "I just feel like I have to, like, hold on to things to not fall over."

He became an online sensation with his story, which followed a diagnosis four years ago with a syndrome that carried a risk of paralysis and made him realize he disliked his managerial job.

He quit his job with "no money, no plan" and \$10,000 of debt — and the goal of buying a sailboat and sailing around the world.

He taught himself to sail mostly via YouTube and moved from Portland to the Oregon coast. He spent months refitting the \$50,000 boat he bought.

He set sail for Hawaii with Phoenix in late April, documenting their experiences for his more than 1 million followers on TikTok and 1.7 million followers on Insta-

gram. He said he thinks his story, which made national news, resonated with people.

"I think a lot of people are, you know, you're grinding at your job all day long and it doesn't really matter how much money you make at this point, everybody's just trying to do enough to get by and that just wears you out," he said. "It's just the world's in a weird place, and I think people have seen that it's possible to break out."

Green presented Widger with a proclamation. Fans swarmed Widger after the news conference, many holding cameras and seeking selfies.

The scariest point of the trip came when a rudder failed, Widger said in his updates. Highlights included seeing dolphins and whales and periods of calm Pacific waters. "Being in the middle of the ocean when it was completely glass in every direction was an absurd feeling," he said.

Widger, 29, said he never truly felt alone, since he was communicating with friends by means including video conference. But he also lamented not experiencing the open waters in a way that other sailors — who didn't have access to tools like Starlink internet satellites — have in years before.

He said he may travel next to French Polynesia. But he said he had been focused on getting to Hawaii and not on what he'd do after that. He said he also needs to make repairs to his boat.



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