

Always Free!

**SOUTHERN
Oregon**

Family

**April-June
2022**

**Connecting
Family
and
Community**

**Parenting
Resources**

**Your Guide to
Family Friendly
Events, Kids
Activities
& much more...**

**Summer
Camps**





Give hope. Inspire life.

Pathways, a program offered at Pregnancy Care Center, comes alongside expecting and new parents to give them confidence and help them feel prepared with individual support and group classes. Pathways classes educate and equip parents during pregnancy and early parenthood to make healthy decisions for themselves and their families.

Here is a story about a recent family that recently went through the Pathways program.

In October of 2020, Mike and Ashley came into Pregnancy Care Center to confirm their pregnancy. Seeing their child for the first time through ultrasound amounted to the best day of their lives! Through tears, they were amazed that they could see such a strong heartbeat this early in the pregnancy. Those first images of their baby were treasured as they looked at them every day during the month that followed. Having recently experienced a miscarriage which caused mixed emotions of excitement and nervousness when coming in for their appointment, they felt at ease as both the nurse and patient advocate were so comforting and helpful in providing them with community resources and answering all the questions they had as new parents.



Mike and Ashley signed up for Pregnancy 101, which is the first class series in the earn-while-you-learn Pathways pregnancy and early parenting education program. From the very beginning, they realized how valuable these classes were in providing them with various pregnancy and parenting information and connection with other new moms and dads. Mike and Ashley expressed so much gratitude for the kindness and compassion that PCC showed them and their new daughter. Through the Pathways program, they received free diapers and wipes, a car seat and even “shopped” in the Baby Boutique for clothes and

other baby items with the points they earned from attending classes. “You can tell the staff really cared about our well-being and wanted us to be the most successful parents we could be,” Ashley stated.

After their daughter was born, Mike and Ashley went on to participate in the Empowered Parenthood classes, the second series in the Pathways program which has a larger focus on early parenting skills. After graduating from the Pathways program, they expressed how they learned so much about being better parents, together they felt more equipped and prepared to give their

daughter their best.

Come join us, new classes are happening year-round, call our office at 541-479-6264 for more information.



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Registration at inside.sou.edu/youth/summer

Pre-College Youth Programs • Summer 2022



Summer Activities: Great time to BEGIN. Wonderful time to SHINE.



Are you thinking about enrolling your child in gymnastics, dance, music, or some other activity? Summer is the perfect time to start! During the summer months beginning students can focus more attention on their new endeavor. In addition, lessons and activities are often more relaxed during the summer, sometimes including special themes, group options, and games that make learning the basics even more fun!

Is your child already enrolled in one of these activities? There are important reasons to keep it going during the summer.

All teachers know that summer learning loss is real. According to an article in Psychology Today*, "the typical student loses one to two months of learning in reading and one to three months of learning in math [during the traditional summer break]."

Due to the physical nature of music, dance, and gymnastics, this summer learning loss can be even more detrimental. In addition to a loss of cognitive understanding, a significant amount of physical skill and muscle memory can be lost over a summer break. It is not unusual after a 2- or 3-month break from music lessons for students to no longer be able to play songs they had mastered during the previous school year. This can be extremely frustrating for them and may even cause them to want to quit lessons altogether.

After years of teaching music and observing the outcomes of taking a break during the summer, I strongly encourage parents to keep their children in these activities year round, continuing their lessons and classes through the summer months.

The good news is that summer can be a time for your child to SHINE! Most activity providers do something to make summer special. At Music4Kids our students have the option to lay aside their more challenging lesson books for the summer and choose songs they like that they can play using the skills they have already attained.

We focus on a different theme each summer. Last year it was "At the Movies." Each student chose a movie theme book to play over the summer months. The theme for this summer is yet to be determined, because our students will soon be sharing their ideas and voting on the theme.

At our end-of-summer recital our performers SHINE because they are playing music that they enjoy. They love being able to use the skills they have mastered during the previous the school year to play their favorite music!

This summer consider keeping your child enrolled in gymnastics and dance and music. You may also want to think about enrolling your child in academic summer camps and summer classes offered by public and private schools. You'll find that if your child continues during the summer, they will retain more of the knowledge and skills they learned over the school year...and be more successful when school year schedules resume in the fall.



*[<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/evidence-based-living/202007/what-we-know-about-summer-learning-loss-update>. Accessed on 4/3/22



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- Music Games
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Location:
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141 NW C Street
in Grants Pass

Enroll online!
www.music4kids.com
Navigate to "Summer"

August 1 - 4
10:30-11:15

August 22-25
10:30-11:15



JUNE 17-AUGUST 13

Summer Reading Program

Families are invited to join the free Summer Reading Program at any of the four branches of Josephine Community Library in Grants Pass, Williams, Illinois Valley, and Wolf Creek beginning **June 17** and through **August 13**.

The theme for this year's Summer Reading Program is "Read Beyond the Beaten Path." Children, teens, and adults can win raffle prizes, earn weekly badges, and enjoy creative crafts and activities.

The Summer Reading Program is completely free and offered during regular library hours at all four branches. Funding for the Children's Summer Reading Program is made possible by the Oregon State Library Ready to Read Grant.

For more information, visit josephinelibrary.org or email info@josephinelibrary.org.

 Josephine
Community Library



Family friendly events and kids activities

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On the cover: Madilynn
Photo by Jennifer Whitney Photography

Next Issue July-Sept.
Deadline June 20th

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Kids Space Adventure

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Daily, 9 am-Noon

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Register at parkwaycc.com/space

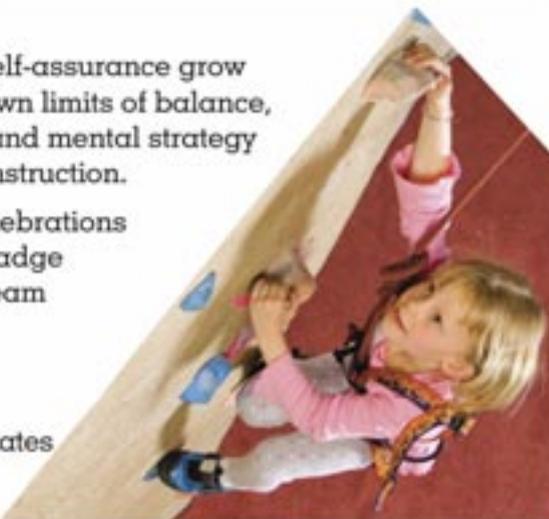





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CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL 2022 – July 9-11



Ahoy mateys! There be treasure and dragons! The Storytelling Guild proudly presents the 56th Annual Children's Festival theme and artwork...X Marks the Spot! Join us in Jacksonville at the Britt Gardens for fun your family will treasure!!

This innovative 3-day event will bring out the creativity of both the young and young at heart as it has for generations. Be prepared for lots of hands-on fun with over 30 arts & crafts booths including clay, face painting, science, gold panning, leather, carpentry, storytelling, child-focused stage performances and much, much more!



Children's Festival 2022

You won't want to miss these fun filled days of affordable family entertainment!

Children's Festival will be held the following times:

Saturday, July 9 from 4:30-8:30pm

Sunday, July 10 from 4:30-8:30pm

Monday July 11 from 9:30am- 1pm

Admission to the Children's Festival is only \$3 per person.

Children and parents can enjoy over 30 hands-on arts, crafts, science projects (All included in the price of admission!) In addition to our fun hands on projects, you can sit back and enjoy child focused entertainment and stage performers! Food will be available for purchase at Dragon Deli and families are always welcome to bring a picnic from home. You want to miss our popular litter eating and recycling Dragons, Rosabelle and Pebbles!

To find out more about the Children's Festival please visit www.storytellingguild.org or on social media #stgchildrensfest

All admission and food sales benefit The Story Telling Guild, a non-profit organization.



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Learn more about summer & after-school programs, and see how you can help:
www.begreat4kids.com

GREAT FUTURES START HERE.

Dads Matter

Compiled from "Parenting Together" Vol 7, Issue 12 by Diana Bennington from The Family Connection

Summertime is a great season to interact with your kids in meaningful ways! Let's focus on the important relationship between father figures and their children as well as some fun ideas to celebrate summer.

Hanging out with dad is a brain builder! As parents, we instinctively know that building a strong positive relationship with our children is important but researchers are now giving us some new details on just how important these relationships are.

Here Are a Few Takeaways for Dads with Littles:

- Dads who are more involved in their child's life (especially during the first 3 months) have a positive impact on their baby's cognitive development. The first few months of life are important for brain development!
- Time with dad benefits boys and girls. In other words, spending time with the baby had a positive impact regardless of the child's gender.
- Talk and play with your child! Young babies may not have the ability to speak yet, but they are learning and engaging with everything that you do! Choose activities that promote interaction and engagement such as reading books together.
- Spend face-to-face time talking, smiling, and making faces with your child.
- Need more activity ideas? Check out some free, research-based activities at www.joinvroom.org and download the app!

Enjoy the Great Outdoors with Bigger Kiddos

It's time to get outside and enjoy the sunshine. Here are a few ideas for dads

(and those who serve a fatherly role in a child's life) and kids to get moving outside at your next picnic or outdoor playtime.

- Chalk Art: Find

a good place on your driveway or sidewalk and get creative with some chalk art!

- 'Boxstacle' Course: Place three cardboard boxes several feet away from one another in a safe space outside. Number them with "1," "2," and "3." With your child, choose a different activity to do at each box (e.g., "Roar like a lion" "Do 5 kangaroo hops"). Together, run from one box to the next, completing each activity. Time yourselves and try to set a personal record!

- Shadow Tag: Get your family together for a twist on the classic game of tag! In shadow tag, the person who is 'it' runs after the others but can only tag other players by stepping on their shadows. Once 'frozen', a player can only rejoin the game if another player steps on his/her shadow!

Want to hang out with other dads? Join a free Family Connection parenting program! RSVP at thefamilyconnect.org or call 541-734-5150 x1042.



free parenting classes & workshops
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SUMMER CAMP 2022!
Ages 5-13

Call now to get signed up!
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KZ KID ZONE

A Royal Birthday Unlike Any Other

Once Upon a Song has been proud to service the Rogue Valley area for the last few years. We pride ourselves on providing top-tier costumes and professional level actors and actresses to portray beloved fairytale characters for children's parties and events.

Our princesses will bring themed games and activities, as well as sing and provide a truly unique experience for the special birthday child. Our character list is extensive, and we are happy to provide any of the popular characters that your little one may love to watch, read about, or sing along to at home. In recent years our Ice Sisters have been fortunate to attend hundreds of parties and with regular discounts on booking multiple characters, we can understand the appeal of having two dynamic princesses for an event.

Does your child have a Spring birthday that you want to make extra special? We recommend having Rapunzel visit with some crafts they can enjoy in the sunshine



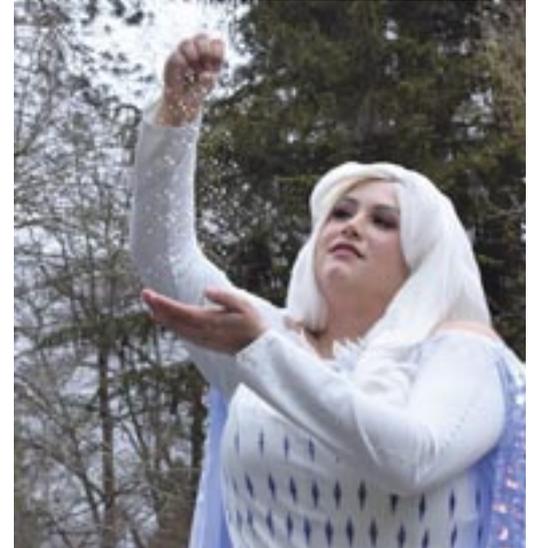
or the Tinker Fairy who would be happy to flutter by to the enjoy the flowers and play outdoors with new friends.

Are you looking for the perfect addition to a summertime birthday? Consider hiring our Little Mermaid, either in her fin or on her feet and don't forget about her handsome prince

who will regale your little ones with fascinating tales of his travels with his mermaid princess.

If you don't want to wait for a birthday to have a special one-on-one experience with a princess, we offer tea party and playdate packages that can be tailored to any time of the year. Our chief goal as a company is to bring magic, curiosity, and joy to children of all ages through the characters that they know and love.

Over the course of the year, we plan to host semi-regular events at local parks where parents can tip the performers and enjoy games and activities with the princesses. Our updated event information, as well as party inquiry forms, can be found on Facebook: www.facebook.com/onceuponasongllc. You can also visit our website: www.onceuponasongllc.com for any other questions.



Children's Party Entertainment
Book your favorite fairytale character for your next party in Southern Oregon!
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Summertime Fun!

During the summer many families will be looking for summer camps, summer daycare and other summer time programs to keep their children engaged and busy. As important as finding the right activity to match your child's interests is finding an activity that is going to be safe. Here are a few tips to keep in mind when you are doing your research:

- Ask the administrator of the program, what policies are in place to reduce the risk of sexual abuse of participants in their program.
- Ask about what the rules are about adults being alone with children and the rules about supervision of younger children by older children.
- Do staff members and volunteers have to go through a screening process? What does that process include? Do you do criminal background checks?
- What is the organization's policy when there is an allegation of abuse against a staff member? Does the staff member continue to have contact with the children in the program while an investigation is going on? Do they make reports to law enforcement first or do they do their



- own investigation first?
- What kind of safety training is each staff member and volunteer required to undergo before being in charge of children?
- Ask the director or person in charge how many abuse and neglect allegations or licensing violations against the organization have been made?
- How do they enforce their policies? And what do they do as an organization when a staff member or volunteer violates those policies?

- What are their technology policies? Are camp staff members allowed to have contact through social media or other electronic platforms with the children enrolled in their program?

It can be a daunting task trying to find safe activities for your children. It is important to do as much as you can to educate yourself around the organization's safety policies in order to make good decisions about who will be in charge of your children over the summer. If you would like to know more about reducing the risk

of children in your life being sexually abused, contact the Children's Advocacy Center and take a class facilitated by our Protect Our Children program. It's free and will be time well spent!

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Head Start does not provide busing. Staff is available to discuss transportation resources.

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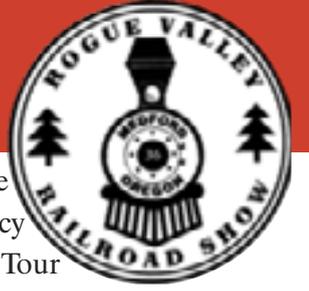
ORIENTATION JULY 17 - 1:30PM
CLASSES - JULY 18 - JULY 22 &
JULY 25 - JULY 29 5 - 7PM
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City of Medford Railroad Park Opens for the Season



Opening day for Medford Railroad Park is Sunday, April 10th! Dozens of volunteers have been working hard to bring you an even more special park! Ride diesel trains and a motor car, view unique model railroad layouts and the Hogwarts Express, ride Thomas and Percy, tour historical railroad equipment and more. Bring the whole family, pack a lunch or eat at the Park. It's fun for all ages.

Medford Garden Railroaders. See a G-scale logging railroad, trolley barn and lines, and seaport areas, including five water features! A separate Thomas and Friends garden railway will especially please the youngest railroad lovers, and the Hogwarts layout, added for Harry Potter fans, is designed so that tweens can run the Hogwarts Express train by remote control. This year children have a second public layout to run the miniature trains by themselves.

Rogue Valley Model Railroad Club. Ten HO scale trains, engines whining and horns blaring, operate across hundreds of scale miles of track, through working signals and crossing gates at the Highway 99 railroad crossing, between Medford and Klamath Falls, on the Pacific and Eastern Railroad, including the heavily forested climb out of Keno along the Klamath River. Children can help operate trains on a special HO layout.

The Southern Oregon Live Steamers. 2022 is their 41st year of offering free train rides to the public. Pulled by a variety of locomotives on almost two miles of track, each exciting train ride takes about nine minutes to go over and through all the tunnels, bridges and hills. The park favorite for the very young



is the Thomas and Friends loop encircling the large Garden Railroad layout, with Thomas and Percy leading special trains built for small kids only. Tour restored 1910 and 1942 cabooses and a 1959 flanger (a type of snowplow), and view restoration work under way on Medco 4 — a local 1925 steam locomotive. Ride the motor car, visit the Museum, and the “Learning Caboose. Visitors can ring a real steam locomotive bell and operate an authentic railroad wigwag signal.

The Railroad Park is open to the public from 11:00 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the second and fourth Sundays of each month from April through October. The park is operated by volunteers, and admission and parking are free. No tax monies are used in the operation of this park. All four clubs rely on the generosity of the public for donations to help offset the various costs involved in maintaining and expanding this one-of-a-kind Northwest attraction. This popular attraction is a unique collaboration between the City of Medford

Parks and Recreation Department, and the four volunteer-based clubs.

The Railroad Park is located adjacent to Fire Station No. 4 at the intersection of Table Rock Road and Berrydale Avenue in Medford, just a few blocks north of the Rogue Valley Mall.

Note: Parking is limited. We encourage visitors to carpool or use public transport when possible.



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Rogue Valley's premiere, award-winning contemporary dance studio, training dancers ages 3 and up since 1989!



Our beautiful new dance center facility location : 405 SE 6th St., Grants Pass

Specializing in Kids Combo Classes, Hip Hop, Jazz, Tap, Contemporary & Ballet
Check out our Summer Class schedule and pre-register at our website

More Info: SouthernOregonDanceCenter.org

Look for us in the Boatnik Parade!

Don't miss our production of CELEBRATE DANCE '22 at the Grants Pass Performing Arts Center, June 11th @ 7pm ... tickets via our website available in May
We always respect medical privacy and personal family health decisions for each individual dancer.

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kids who like to have fun!

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CONTACT SABRINA GIOMI-BROWN-BROWN AT 541-858-7260 FOR MORE INFORMATION

The Crest's Nature Summer Day Camp

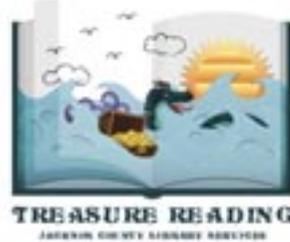
Campers (ages 6-11) will explore the forests, hiking trails, and turtle pond on Willow-Witt Ranch's 445-acre property while playing games, engaging with environmental science, adventuring with goats, collecting chicken eggs, service learning, and so much more.



The Crest is offering 12 weeks of camp during Summer 2022, June 13th through September 2nd. Camps will run Monday through Friday, 9:00am - 3:30pm, with bus transportation from three stops in the Rogue Valley to Willow-Witt Ranch!

Visit www.thecrestatwillowwitt.org to register!

"Treasure Reading" Summer Reading Program at Jackson County Library Services June 1 – August 31



Read books, attend programs, and earn prizes! Jackson County Library Services (JCLS) launches its annual Summer Reading program on Wed., June 1. This year's theme is "Treasure Reading," highlighting adventures with pirates and dragons as well as the treasures we discover in books and stories. Now through August 31, residents of all ages are encouraged to participate in this free program by reading books, attending programs, and earning prizes.

"If you have a child in school, the summer reading program is a great way to maintain reading skills and avoid the 'summer slide' (when reading skills drop over the summer) during break," said Brystan Strong, Youth Services Coordinator at JCLS. "Parents can model good reading habits by taking part alongside their kids. It's also never too early to introduce your baby or preschooler to the library and the wonderful world of books and reading."

Participants are eligible for systemwide grand prizes. Winners in the children's age group will be able to choose between STEM science kit subscriptions, ScienceWorks or KidTime museum memberships, and fort-building or play tent kits. Teen winners will choose between Fujifilm Instax Camera, jet boat tour, Audible or Owl Crate YA book subscription, or Bluetooth ear buds. Adult prize options will also be available.

Additionally, each branch will award prizes for all age groups. To participate, register through the Beanstack app at jcls.beanstack.org. Participants can download a reading log at jcls.org or use the app to record books read or minutes spent reading to earn virtual badges and real-world prizes.

The Summer Reading program includes engaging in-person and virtual programs for patrons of all ages. Sponsors include the Kenneth A. and Lucille D. Hulburt Fund and The Friends of the Jackson County Libraries. For more information, contact your local branch library or visit jcls.org.



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¿Necesita ayuda? ¿Tiene preguntas?

Por favor, envíe un correo electrónico a enrollment@soesd.k12.or.us o llame al (541) 776-8590, ext. 1190.

To learn more and to see if your family may qualify please visit: www.soesd.k12.or.us/preschool-finder

Para obtener más información sobre los programas participantes, vea nuestro localizador en línea de programas participantes en www.soesd.k12.or.us/preschool-finder



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541.479.0007 • www.grantspasscsl.org

Grants Pass
Center for
Spiritual Living™



While you're at work, they're at the Y



Summer Programs
Open now through August

Rogue Valley Family YMCA
www.rvymca.org 541-772-6295

2022 AMAZING SUMMER CAMPS
REGISTER NOW FOR TO LOCK IN A SPOT
(SPACE IS LIMITED)



 June 20 - 10am-12 Ages 3-9 \$29 Encanto Dance Camp	Aug 1-2 - 1-4pm Ages 6+ \$79 Gymnastics/ Tumble Camp
June 21-22 - 1-4 pm Ages 5-12 \$79 Super Hero Camp	 Aug 18 - 10am-12 Ages 5+ \$29 Messy Kids Camp
 June 27 - 10am -12 Ages 3-6 \$29 Paw Patrol Camp	Aug 22-23-24 - 10am-12 Ages 4+ \$99 Cheer Camp (cheer at a NMHS Football game)
July 25-26 - 11am -1 Ages 6+ \$54 Tie Dye & Tumble	Aug 29 - 10am-12 Ages 6-12 \$39 (incl. a POP it) POP It's Trading N Tumble Camp
July 27 - 10am-12 Ages 5-12 \$29 Ninja Warrior Camp	Register Today Scan QR Code With Your Camera >>>>>
July 28 - 10am-12 Ages 6+ \$29 Hip Hop Dance Camp	

Text 541-941-2450 For Questions
4779 Airway Drive (off Villas rd) Central Point




APRC
ASHLAND PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

Photo courtesy Bob Palermini
AWMF (Ashland World Music Festival)



ASHLANDPARKSANDREC.ORG |
Check out Summer with APRC
Bike Swap • Bird Day • AWMF
Swim • Lacrosse • Nature Play • YCC
Youth Conservation Corp.

541.488.5340 | ParkInfo@ashland.or.us
@AshlandParksandRec
Fun, it's in our Nature!



KID-O-COPIA
A Kids Dash & Frog O' Faire Partnership

JUNE 11th 2022 FREE Super Fun Activities For Kids!

- ✓ Tie-Dye
- ✓ Bubble Fun
- ✓ Books
- ✓ Arts & Crafts
- ✓ Races
- ✓ Asante Carnival

Free lunch for those under 18!

Russ Werner Field
Grants Pass High School
Kids Dash: 8:30am-12pm
Frog-O-Faire: 10am-3pm



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ANY CLOSER, & YOU'D BE LUNCH!



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GET TICKETS ONLINE AT
WILDLIFESAFARI.NET**