Some park users ready to take on any cougars

Two young men who come to Gaddis Park almost every day seemed unfazed Thursday to hear a cougar has been spotted near the park, which is in the middle of Roseburg.

junkie." "He'd catch and ride it," joked his friend, 25-

year-old Michael Benson.

"I think I might have fun trying to wrestle

gist with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, said his agency is taking the three sightings very seriously.

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Investigation continues into reported sightings in Roseburg's Gaddis Park, and some are expressing little fear

KATHY KORENGEL

The News-Review

"I personally haven't seen it," said Seth Allen, 22, "but I'm hoping to. I'm an adrenaline

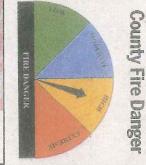
with the cougar," Allen responded. Although the two young men made light of the cougar sightings, Tod Lum, a wildlife biolo-

ougar. Sightings have not yet been confirmed

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homeless woman who camps at Gaddis Park reported seein According to police, the first sighting was 12 days ago.

Lum said he heard that a



Lottery Oregon

Wednesday Wegabucks

Next Jackpot: \$14 million 6-16-25-39-40-45

Multiplier: 4

wildlife officials have not yet been able to confirm the sight-ings. Lum said that is partly because his agency hasn't

learned about the incidents until hours or days after they

Next Jackpot: \$100 million

Thursday Pick Four 1 p.m.: 3-3-6-2 4 p.m.: 3-8-8-9 7 p.m.: 3-7-6-0

Wednesday Lucky Lines 4-7-9-15-20-23-26-31

Thursday Lucky Lines 1-7-9-15-19-23-25-32

Wednesday Win for Life 25-54-63-69

Powerball: 39 Multiplier: 3 Next jackpot: \$80 million Wednesday Powerball 4-32-33-47-55

Tuesday Megamillions 11-19-40-43-44 (33)

Wednesday Pick Four 1 p.m.: 1-5-1-4 4 p.m.: 9-8-0-0 7 p.m.: 2-7-5-4

use scent-sniffing dogs, it's difficult to track animals in the summer. Lum said an animal summer is the summer of mal's scent evaporates quickly in the summer. Trackers

"This is the first one I've ever heard of in Gaddis Park,"

If you encounter a cougar, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife recommends taking the following precautions.

Cougars often will retreat if given the opportunity. Leave the animal a way

the park and nearby sections

Stay calm and stand

Maintain direct eye con-

Seth Allen, left, and Michael Benson swim in the North Umpqua River Thursday near Gaddis Park in Roseburg. Three people have reported seeing a cougar near the park in the last two weeks.

Pick up children, but do so without bending down or turning your back on the

cougar.

Back away slowly.

Do not run. Running triggers a chase response in cougars, which could lead to an attack.

Raise your voice and speak firmly.
If the cougar seems aggressive, raise your arms to make yourself look larger and clap your hands.
If in the very unusual event that a cougar attacks you, fight back with rocks, sticks, tools or any items

It's important for people to know what to do if they

KATHY KORENGEL/The News-Review cougar could be visiting the South Umpqua River near the of the feral ca

attracting cougars to the city, Lum said colonies. He said he recognizes that people feed feral tributes to the problem" of cats because they want to help them. Bu

to the river in search of a sta-ple of its diet He speculat

coming and going to the water Cougars) have got prey near-Lum said it's plausible the well as other

were to relocate the cougar, they might place it in another sightings and capture the cougar, it would be euthathere's no guarantee another one won't wander into the city existing cougar to attack the nized, Lum said. If officials Lum also stressed