

Detroit Lake fishing open despite toxic algae alert

ZACH URNESS
STATESMAN JOURNAL

It remains safe to go fishing at Detroit Lake despite a toxic blue-green algae alert put in place.

Anglers can safely catch, harvest and eat trout, kokanee and other fish from the reservoir by following special precautions, said Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife biologist Elise Kelley.

Kelley said before eating fish caught at the lake, anglers should make sure to remove the skin, organs and fatty tissue around the belly of the fish and cook it thoroughly.

She also recommended anglers avoid drinking the water or swimming in the reservoir.

Water testing at Detroit Lake confirmed toxin levels that can be harmful to humans and animals, according to the Oregon Health Authority.

The toxic bloom was located in the Heater Creek arm of the reservoir when testing was conducted on May 31. However, the advisory applies to the entire reservoir because the bloom often moves across the reservoir to different areas, said David Farrer, public health toxicologist for the OHA.

Exposure to toxins can produce a variety of symptoms including numbness, tingling and dizziness that can lead to difficulty breathing or heart problems, and require immediate medical attention, OHA said in a news release.

The toxin the algae bloom tested positive for is called cylindrospermopsin, Farrer said. It was tested at a level of 70



ANNA REED/STATESMAN JOURNAL

Water testing at Detroit Lake found toxin levels that can be harmful to humans and animals.

parts per billion. OHA issues a health advisory for anything above 20 parts per billion.

The last time cylindrospermopsin sparked a health advisory at Detroit Lake was 2015.

Children and pets are at increased risk for exposure because of their size and level of activity. People who bring their pets to Detroit Lake for recreation

activities should take special precautions to keep them from drinking from or swimming in the lake, OHA said.

Kelley asks anglers to report fish that are underweight, sluggish, or unresponsive in behavior to the ODFW Mid-Willamette district office (541-757-4186).

Lawmakers unveil major budget constraint bill

DIANE DIETZ
STATESMAN JOURNAL

Lawmakers think they can save almost \$700 million in coming years by reducing administrative health care costs, cutting supplies and not refilling vacant state worker positions.

The newly written cost containment legislation, Senate Bill 1067, is estimated to save \$691 million in coming years as individual measures are phased in. The bill got a first reading in the Senate on June 5.

The bipartisan bill requires a review of spending in each biennial budget, resulting in similar potential savings in the future.

Democratic leadership, including

Gov. Kate Brown, Senate President Peter Courtney and House Speaker Tina Kotek, are committed to passage of the cost containment bill whether or not Republicans agree to raise taxes on business, Kotek said.

"It shows we're serious about cost containment which is part of the deal with the overall business community," Kotek said.

The first hearing on Senate Bill 1067 was expected in the Joint Ways & Means subcommittee on capital construction at 1 p.m. June 10 in Hearing Room F.

The hodgepodge of measures include: » Combining the health care system for state workers (PEBB) with that for educators (OEBB) to save on administrative costs — and cap the rate of growth at

3.4 percent annually. Also, peg payments for certain services to a percentage of rates paid by Medicare. **Savings: \$266 million.**

» Eliminating automatic inflation increases to agency services and supplies budgets. **Savings: \$211 million in 2017-19.**

» Delay hiring at state agencies. **Savings: \$145.3 million in 2017-19.**

» Eliminating positions left vacant for more than six months and recouping the funding associated with the positions. **Savings: \$67.8 million in 2017-19.**

The bill calls for these additional cuts, but the state cannot quantify the savings:

» Limiting the number of state employee full-time equivalent (FTE) positions to 1 percent of state population (currently, 1.5 percent.)

» Changing debt collection practices: The state currently has \$3.3 billion of uncollected debt on its books.

» Adding rigor to vendor contracting process.

» Requiring legislative review of position reclassifications and the addition of steps to the top of salary ranges.

» Requiring the Department of Administrative Services to report on future costs of collective bargaining agreements.

» Using the available money for smaller capital projects rather than issuing bonds.

» Establishing a target for capital spending on deferred maintenance.

Fight over DHS' putting foster children in hotels resumes

JONATHAN BACH
STATESMAN JOURNAL

The Oregon Department of Human Services is again in a legal battle over housing children in hotels and other places that aren't foster homes.

Settlement talks failed between the state and lawyers representing two girls in foster care who sued over where children removed from their homes can be held when DHS can't immediately place them in foster homes, according to court records.

Children who come into the Oregon's foster care system because of alleged abuse or neglect don't always have a proper placement to head to right away.

They are deemed "children in need of placement," known internally as CINOP.

As a temporary solution, state workers sometimes board these children in hotels. Staff remain with them around the clock, according to DHS spokeswoman Andrea Cantu-Schomus.

How many children in hotels?

DHS has housed some 130 Oregon foster youth in a hotel at least one night, Cantu-Schomus said, citing data collected since mid-2016.

The number is a rough estimate since exact the number of children was not collected the whole year, Cantu-Schomus warned.

On an average day, 7,600 children spent time in foster care last fiscal year, DHS data show.

At a rally Tuesday outside the Capitol, child protective services worker Alexandra Sergeeva said a hotel "is not a place where children can start healing

from trauma," according to video of the event.

"There are at least 13 children in Multnomah County waiting for a home right now," Sergeeva said. "This is unacceptable."

The state argues putting children up in states offices and hotels is a "safety valve," court documents show. Opponents argue the practice means "DHS has functionally rendered children in its care homeless."

An interim settlement reached in November paused court proceedings as the fighting parties tried to figure out a permanent agreement.

The November agreement barred DHS from housing children in jails without charges; hospitals without medical reasons "unless there is a safety risk to the child;" state offices unless a safe hotel can't be found in a 30-mile or half-hour radius of the office; and hotels, except in emergency cases.

But the foster children's lawyers called for proceedings to kick back into gear last month, court records show.

It's unclear right now why settlement talks broke down.

Now that court proceedings have restarted, though, both the lawyers and the state received deadlines to file responses to motions that had been in play before the settlement.

Lawyers for the foster children had to respond by May 19 to Oregon's motion to dismiss the case.

They argued in a court filing: "This so-called 'safety valve' is what plaintiffs will prove is the institutionalization of unconstitutional practices that also violate the (American with Disabilities Act)."

"DHS has not lodged a child overnight in an office at any time in the last six months and has permanently ceased that practice," Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum said in a May court filing.

State official: Some kids like hotel

A state official argued some foster youth prefer hotels to other placements.

Kellie Barber, an interim child welfare senior operations manager, said in a May court filing she knew of multiple times when foster children older than 14 wanted stay in a hotel, rejecting other placements.

Barber said a minimum of 12 children have asked to stay in a hotel between January 2016 and when she submitted a declaration in court documents in May.

In another May court filing, a DHS caseworker argued the lawyer of an 18-year-old identified as "RL" had pushed for him to be housed in a hotel.

This was "because he was refusing to return to his foster home claiming he was uncomfortable there," caseworker Kim Berovic said in the filing.

Plans for shelter in play

The state has tentative plans for a shelter for foster youth to open this August, a document obtained through a public records request shows.

Such an opening could reduce the number of children still housed in hotels as they await foster care placement.

The document shows a 12-bed shelter was proposed to open August 1 for foster youth 9 to 20 years of age.

"It is all very preliminary at this

point," DHS spokeswoman Cantu-Schomus said.

Cantu-Schomus declined to comment on the lawsuit.

Kristina Edmunson, an Oregon Department of Justice spokeswoman, declined to comment on the pending litigation.

Richard Vangelisti, whom the court appointed to represent the children, declined to comment on the matter. Lead lawyers for the foster children did not respond to requests for comment.

The lawsuit in federal court centers on two foster girls identified in court records as B.C. and A.R., whom state officials had lodged in hotels, records show.

DHS doesn't generally give out details on foster children in its care.

But court records show A.R., who was 4 years old when the case started, has suffered from post traumatic stress disorder, for which she has received treatment.

She has been with DHS since March 2014.

B.C. was 6 years old as of last year, when the case kicked off, a court filing shows.

The state has had custody of her since May 18, 2016, following an alleged assault by her mother and 19 reports of alleged neglect or abuse.

"She was also housed for one or more nights in at least three different hotels with as many as 15 different caseworkers," her lawyers said in an amended complaint.

Send questions, comments or news tips to jbach@statesmanjournal.com or 503-399-6714. Follow him on Twitter @JonathanMBach.

OBITUARIES

Jeremiah Wright Beck

Nov. 22, 1979 – June 1, 2017

Jeremiah Wright Beck, 37, passed away on June 1, 2017 in Silverton.

Jeremiah was born Nov. 22, 1979 in Silverton. He graduated from Silverton High School, married Katie Tucker and moved to Ashland where he attended Southern Oregon University and studied computer technology. At the conclusion of school, Jeremiah, Katie, and their two children returned to Silverton and he went to work for Pentagon Technologies where he remained for nine years until his death.

Jeremiah enjoyed playing video games with his children, watching

movies, and reading. One of his joys in life was reading to his children from books that had been important to him during his childhood. He also loved being outdoors and was an avid hiker, snowboarder, and disc golfer.

Jeremiah is survived by his children, Adam Beck, 16, and Evelyn Beck, 9. Jeremiah is also survived by his parents, Tim and Anita Beck, siblings Carly Sichley of Silverton and Aiden Beck of Portland, grandparents Bobbie Beck, Vernon and Laura Vogt, and Jerry Wright, along with many uncles, aunts, and cousins. He is remembered for many things, but three stand out: his love for his family, bike rides with his dog, Clyde, and a wry sense of humor.

A memorial service will be held at St. Edward's Episcopal Church in Silverton on June 17, 2017 at 3:00 pm. All are wel-

come. Donations in memory of Jeremiah may be made to Willamette Humane Society.

Lloyd Charles Howell

July 24, 1929 – May 31, 2017

Lloyd Charles Howell, 87, passed away on May 31, 2017 in Mt. Angel Oregon.

Lloyd was born July 24, 1929 in Wells County, North Dakota to Charles Augustus and Mary Jane

Howell.

He graduated from Silverton High School in 1948. After school he worked for a time in the forestry industry. On August 12, 1950 Lloyd enlisted in the Navy. He served as a commissary 3rd class

USN until June 9, 1954 when he was honorably discharged.

November 30, 1951 Lloyd married Rose Marie Torresdal and together they had three sons, Charles, Steven, and Richard. Lloyd and Marie enjoyed 65 years of marriage. After 2 years at Oregon Tech College he made his career choice of being a machinist, working for the state of Oregon until he retired. Lloyd was loved and respected by his friends and family.

He is survived by his wife Rose Marie, sons; Charles (Sheri), and Richard (Julie) eight grandchildren, and 21 great-grandchildren.

A Memorial Service will be held Fri. June 9th, 2pm at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Silverton. Interment will be Fri. June 9th, 1pm preceding service, at Valley View Cemetery.