

RECREATION
REPORT

FREE FISHING
WEEKEND

Saturday, June 1, and Sunday, June 2, is Free Fishing Weekend in Oregon. Anglers don't need a license or tag to fish, clam or crab anywhere in Oregon. All other regulations, including size and bag limits, will be in effect.

BETTER BUSINESS
BUREAU WARNS
ABOUT LICENSE
SCAM

The Better Business Bureau Northwest + Pacific is warning Oregon hunters and anglers about an ongoing online scam selling phony licenses.

The Oregon Department Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) contacted BBB NW+P to share that its employees have been made aware of at least two people who recently purchased items from the website www.fishinglicense.org after searching online for an Oregon fishing license. BBB has also confirmed two Oregonians filed a complaint and a ScamTracker report against fishing license.org just within the last month, according to a press release.

This is not the first time BBB has alerted consumers to this website, but the page is still up and running. ODFW and other state fish and wildlife agencies have been hearing about customers mistakenly buying items from this web-site since 2017.

"While it's not a widespread problem, it's unfortunate that even one person would be misled when trying to buy an Oregon fishing license," said Linda Lytle, ODFW license services manager. "This is not the first time we have heard about this and it isn't just happening in Oregon."

Fishinglicense.org, which claims to operate out of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, has no office.

BIKE FOR THE
HEALTH OF IT
EVENT JUNE 8AT
PHILLIPS LAKE

The Trailhead in Baker City has scheduled a Bike for the Health of It event Saturday, June 8, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the day-use area at Union Creek Campground at Phillips Lake, about 17 miles southwest of Baker City via Highway 7.

This free mountain bike event for kids and families will include guided rides, a kids skills park, basic bike-tuning clinics and terminology, as well as a barbecue to benefit Baker Loves Bikes. There will be a limited number of bikes and helmets available for use.



WesCom News Service file photo

"We hope our Bigfoot campaign will draw attention and create a bigger 'footprint' of wildfire prevention efforts around the state," says a statement by the Oregon fire marshal. Pictured are copies of various Bigfoot footprint molds from members of The Bigfoot Field Research Organization.

State enlists Bigfoot to remind Oregonians about fire safety

By Douglas Perry
The Oregonian

Everybody knows Smokey Bear and his famous saying, "Only you can prevent forest fires."

The Oregon state fire marshal has decided his office can do even better. Smokey has a lot of ground to cover for the

U.S. Forest Service, so Oregon is offering the bear help in the Pacific Northwest. Oregon Fire Marshal Jim Walker has recruited an even bigger celebrity — who happens to be a local resident — for his own fire safety awareness campaign: Bigfoot.

Fire prevention has never

been more important, due to climate change and urbanization. Climate and fire experts have warned of a "new normal" in the Northwest: persistent, destructive wildfires and smoky conditions throughout the hot months — and even beyond.

See **Bigfoot** / Page 2B

A new twist on whistle pig hunting

They say necessity is the mother of all invention, and I wholeheartedly believe that and think that it is a wise saying. But I also think if you show up everyday sometimes the light bulb just clicks. Or maybe it's just that since you are participating you just happen to inadvertently try some weird new twist and it works.

Whatever the case, people who do something often will have more tricks than someone who occasionally participates in that same activity. So with all of the above said, a week ago a buddy of mine, Christopher Robertson, and I went crappie fishing. For whatever reason, I threw in my Benjamin Marauder .22-caliber airgun and Chris threw in a .22.

Good decision.

As we were driving into our hot spot, we started noticing quite a few whistle pigs out scurrying around. We suddenly went from crappie mode to whistle pig hunting mode. We shot a few and were having a good time. Of course, with the airgun they pop back up faster than when using a .22 or especially a .17 HMR or a .223.

I guess it was turkey season but I have never seen a turkey on the route that we were going to be driving. But, never-say-die Chris had thrown in a Quaker Boy Cyclone push box call just in case. We pulled up to a new spot and shot a couple of whistle pigs and then they went under. For whatever reason, Chris pulled out his Quaker Boy Cyclone push box and hit it a few times. Two or three whistle pigs popped up. I unloaded.

We pulled up to another new spot and shot a couple and of course they too stayed down after seeing their bros get wasted. Chris says, "I'll try to call again."



BASE CAMP
TOM CLAYCOMB

See **Twist** / Page 2B

FISHING FORECAST

HIGHWAY 203 POND

Has received its second stocking of 2,250 legal-size and 825 trophy rainbow trout.

MORGAN LAKE

Open to fishing and has been stocked with 500 trophy-size rainbow trout.

PHILLIPS RESERVOIR

Reservoir is about 60 percent of capacity. The second stocking this spring, of about 4,700 legal-size and 2,200 trophy rainbow trout happened in mid May.

Construction of the new boat launch surface at the Mason Dam Boat Launch is now complete and the launch has re-opened to public access. Boaters will find much improved conditions for launching boats.

WOLF CREEK RESERVOIR

Boat launch is operational and the dock is in place. Anglers have had good success recently catching chunky rainbows 12 to 15 inches.

BALM CREEK RESERVOIR

The reservoir is now accessible and fishing for rainbow trout should be good this spring. Fall fish sampling by ODFW indicated that trout numbers are very good, and they are in great condition, running 8 to 15 inches long.

ODFW is conducting an angler opinion survey to determine how the fishery is doing, from the angler's perspective. Displays have been placed at several locations around the reservoir. When fishing the reservoir this spring/summer please take a few minutes to fill out the survey and report your catch.

SOUTH FORK BURNT RIVER

Has been stocked with approximately 2,000 legal-size rainbow trout. To measure the catch rate of trout stocked in the South Fork Burnt River, ODFW marked some of these with an orange colored tag just under the dorsal fin. If you catch one of these tagged fish, report the tag number to Tim Bailey, district fish biologist, at



Jayson Jacoby/Baker City Herald

A new boat ramp is ready for use at Phillips Reservoir near Baker City. The ramp is near Mason Dam. From Baker City drive on Highway 7 for about 15 miles. Between Mileposts 35 and 34, at the top of the grade near the dam, turn left onto the paved access road.

541-962-1829. Some of these tags will have a \$50 reward available.

HAINES POND

Has been stocked with 900 trophy-size rainbow trout.

MURRAY RESERVOIR

Has been stocked with 2,000 legal-size and 900 trophy-size rainbow trout.

NORTH POWDER POND

Has been stocked with 2,000 legal-size and 750 trophy-size rainbow trout.

THIEF VALLEY RESERVOIR

The reservoir is full and was stocked the week of May 13 with 5,000 legal-size rainbow trout. This will be the final stocking for the season. In total, approximately 12,500 legal-size and 500 trophy-size rainbow trout have been stocked this season.

HUNTER POND

This pond is accessible and has been stocked with legal-size and trophy-size rainbow trout. From I-84 take Highway 244 toward Ukiah. At the Blue

Mountain summit, turn left onto Forest Service Road 5160. Proceed for approximately 3 miles to the junction of roads 5160 and 5155. Stay on 5160. Just past this junction on the right take spur 710. The pond is just off 5160.

LUGER POND

This pond is accessible and has been stocked with legal-size and trophy-size rainbow trout. Take the Palmer Junction Road north out of Elgin about 10 miles to Forest Service Road 63. Follow Road 63 for about

9 miles, then left on Forest Service Road 6306. Luger Pond is 2.5 miles on the right, near Luger Springs campground.

PEACH (LADD) POND

The pond has received its second stocking with 1,000 legal-size and 75 trophy-size rainbow trout.

To measure the catch rate of trout stocked in the Peach Pond, ODFW marked some of these with an orange colored tag just under the dorsal fin. If you catch one of these tagged fish, report the tag number to Tim Bailey, district fish biologist, at 541-962-1829. Some of these tags will have a \$50 reward available.

Construction of a new ADA accessible fishing platform is complete.

WALLOWA COUNTY PONDS

Wallowa County ponds on the forest and in the valley received a fresh batch of stocked trout this week and fishing should be good.

Kinney Lake is fishing well for stocked and holdover trout up to 16 inches.

Marr Pond will be the site of a free fishing event for kids on Saturday, June 1, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

WALLOWA LAKE

Kokanee fishing is picking up for anglers. While most are finding moderate catch rates, the quality of fish is very good with kokanee to 4 pounds.

Trout fishing has been good for holdover and recently stocked fish.

BROWNLEE RESERVOIR

Fishing for crappie has been fair. Catch rates have been variable, but the fish being caught are big. Fishing has been good for bass. The reservoir is about 3 feet below full.

HELLS CANYON RESERVOIR

Fishing is starting to pick up for bass, catfish and crappie. Good fishing for trout can be had at tributary inlets.