

A Sporting View

By Mark Vasto

Rise of the machines

Sport, being competitive in nature, lends itself to the act of comparison. This is, of course, by design. In fact, it — sports — is nothing more than a vast and giant conspiracy that has been foisted upon the teeming masses in order to distract us from whatever it is we are supposed to really be paying attention to (and I have a hunch it has something to do with numbers) by bickering over nonsense like Hack Wilson's slugging percentage and Pie Traynor's wins above replacement.

Who cares about what happened to the economic surplus?

It's the man keeping us down, keeping us bickering with one another so we won't get our act together. They tell us it's all about comradery, teamwork and sportsmanship, but put a guy from Michigan and one from Ohio in the same room and shut the door. They'll come out looking like beta fish — you'll see. They'll tear each other to shreds.

And don't let the Internet fool you. Sure, you can go to Sports-Reference.com and glean all sorts of numbers. You can compare and contrast your favorite players from every era and act like you know it all.

There are a million blog sites out there that promise to make you the next Joe Posnanski, where everyone is on a level playing field and Dan Quisenberry can be in the Hall of Fame.

Don't kid yourself.

Time was, in order to glean various statistics you would go to a news stand and purchase a daily newspaper or specialty publication dedicated to the sporting event of your choice. In order to support that industry, you needed statisticians, writers, editors, umpires, judges, referees, linesmen, scorekeepers, equipment managers, groundskeepers and various other gofers.

One by one, they're getting picked off those jobs, but we don't say anything because Mulberry U. got a play-in game against Hooterville Tech in the tournament.

That will shut us up for a few. Soon they'll install the DH in the National League and provide bathrooms and municipal sewer connections at Wrigley Field. They'll take the guesswork out of the games, and we won't say anything ... until it's too late.

Next, they'll get rid of the fans' physical presence (see the Baltimore Orioles). It'll save on stadium overhead, and it's good for the environment.

The athletes will be the last to go ... they're always the last to know when it's over.

Boxing will be banned, and then they'll come for football.

See **VIEW 3B**

OCEAN DUNES GOLF LINKS
541-997-3232
 SPECIAL
18 Holes with cart \$39.95
 EXPIRES 6/30/15
 GET \$10.00 FREE SLOT PLAY
 ONE PER PERSON
 LANE COUNTY RESIDENTS ONLY
 MUST PRESENT COUPON
www.OceanDunesGolf.com
 3345 Munsel Lake Road • Florence

May is Wildfire Awareness Month; prepare today

May is Oregon Wildfire Awareness Month. Oregon experiences its heaviest wildfire activity during the summer, but fires occur all seasons of the year including spring.

During May, federal, state, tribal and local fire agencies will be spreading the word about wildfire prevention and the steps Oregonians can take to stop most fires before they start.

What's at stake?

Lives, forests and property. During the 2014 season, 1.3 million acres in the Northwest

were consumed by wildfire, which includes 868,399 in Oregon and 425,136 in Washington.

The total cost to date exceeds \$460 million. Closer to home, 705 human-caused fires burned around 20,000 acres on lands protected by the Oregon Department of Forestry, nearly six times the 10-year average acres. ODF's gross large-fire costs were \$75.6 million, and timber losses totaled roughly \$227 million.

The fires destroyed numerous homes, threatened large

communities and decimated key fish and wildlife habitats.

Remember that wildfires can start at home. Wildfires that occur in the wildland-urban interface often are started by human activity and then spread to the forest. Once underway a fire follows the fuel, whether it is trees or houses.

"Simple prevention strategies will make the strongest impact in keeping your home, family and community safe," said Kristin Babbs, president of the Keep Oregon Green Association.

Spring is the perfect time, she said, to remove dead flammable vegetation and limb up trees around the yard.

To get an early start on Wildfire Awareness Month, join neighbors and reduce your community wildfire risk by committing a couple of hours, or the entire day, to help raise wildfire awareness and work together with neighbors on projects that can help protect homes and entire communities from the threat of wildfire.

During May, Keep Oregon Green will promote a new

wildfire prevention message via traditional and social media each week to help homeowners and recreationists learn how to prevent their outdoor activities from sparking the next wildfire.

For more information, visit the websites for Keep Oregon Green at www.KeepOregonGreen.org, the Oregon Department of Forestry at www.oregon.gov/odf and the Northwest Interagency Coordination Center at www.nwccweb.us.

Coast Guard offering vessel safety checks to help prevent boating mishaps

Owners of pleasure boats, large and small — including cruisers, fishing boats, pontoon boats, canoes, kayaks, jet skis, and wave runners — are encouraged by the U.S. Coast Guard and local Marine Law Enforcement Officials to have free Vessel Safety Checks (VSC) of their boats.

In our area, VSCs are performed year-round by Certified Vessel Examiners who are members of either the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary (USCGAux) or the United States Power Squadrons (USPS).

Vessel Safety Checks

include mandatory items required aboard a pleasure craft, plus 16 other recommended safety and/or discussion items. A boat passing the VSC receives a Safety Seal Decal.

Skippers needing additional safety equipment may receive a discount on safety-related items at their local Marine Stores.

To locate a convenient local VSC examiner, and to receive a free Vessel Safety Check, visit www.safetyseal.net/GetVSC.

You can also contact Florence resident and Certified

Vessel Safety Examiner Jonathan Yoder directly at 541-991-1181.

Note that boats do not have to be in the water for the safety checks.

"We encourage Marina owners, Harbormasters, yacht clubs, marine stores, insurance agencies and other boating groups to conduct safety days or even safety weekends with vessel checks," said Yoder. "We'd be more than happy to be invited by them to conduct these free VSCs at their locations."

Ocean Dunes tourney to benefit Helping Hands

The Ocean Dunes Golf Club is holding a benefit tournament for the Helping Hands Coalition.

The event will take place Saturday, May 9, with a 9 a.m. shotgun start. All the golfers entered in this tournament begin play at the same time.

The tournament will benefit the Helping Hands Coalition which provides hot lunches, toiletries and other services to those in need in and around Florence.

The tournament is open to

the public and golfers of every level are encouraged to play. Teamwork will be key as this event is a four-person scramble.

The Ocean Dunes Golf Links are located at 3345 Munsel Lake Road in Florence.

The cost is \$25.

Non-members pay an additional \$39.95 green fee, which includes use of a golf cart.

Sign up at the Ocean Dunes Pro Shop no later than noon May 8.

Sheriffs offer safety tips as spring runners take to roadsides

Every runner should take a few moments and consider their safety while running. Running is generally a safe activity, but there are still perils worth considering and preparing for.

For example, running at night, while often pleasant due to lower temperatures and decreased traffic, brings with it the added danger of decreased visibility. The weather can pose running safety risks. Running in extremely hot or cold weather requires special precautions, in addition to running in inclement weather.

Here are some tips to make your run or jog safer and more enjoyable:

Before the run —

- Arrange to run with another person.
- Leave word with someone or write down where you plan to run and when you will return.
- Carry some I. D. and a cell phone.
- Take a whistle with you.
- Don't wear a headset, earphones or anything that dis-

tracts you into being completely aware of your environment.

- Avoid unpopulated areas, deserted streets, lonely trails — and especially avoid unlighted routes at night.

- Vary the route and the time of day that you run.

- Run in familiar areas. Note the location of neighbors you trust along your route.

- Know where police are usually to be found and where businesses, stores, offices are likely to be open and active.

During the run —

- Always stay alert. The more aware you are, the less vulnerable you are. Think about possible escape routes in case of confrontation.

- Take notice of who is ahead of you and who is behind you. Know where the nearest public sites are with some general activity — there is usually safety in numbers.

- When in doubt, follow your intuition and avoid potential trouble. If something seems suspicious, do not panic, but run in a different direction.

- Run clear of parked cars,

bushes and dark areas.

- Run against traffic so that you can observe the approach of automobiles.

- If the same car cruises past you more than once, take down even a partial license number and make it obvious that you are aware of its presence (but keep your distance).

If confronted —

- Run toward populated areas, busy streets, open businesses.

- Ignore jeers and verbal harassment. Keep moving.

- Use discretion in acknowledging strangers. Be friendly, but keep your distance and keep moving.

- Do not approach a car to give directions or the time of day. Point toward the nearest police or information source, shrug your shoulders, but keep moving. If you feel you must respond, do it while moving.
- Don't panic and don't run toward a more isolated area.

— Submitted by Lincoln County Sheriff's Office

Let me Showcase your property.



Richard Beaudro
Principal Broker
541 991-6677



Jensen Ln #613 – Siltcoos Lakefront lot, over 1 acre with septic approval, gentle slope, and power at street. Wind protected location, beautiful area of fine homes. Incredible southern exposure, this is the homesite you have been dreaming of.
\$282,500. #2204-13530383



1749 Highway 101 • 541-997-1200

NOW BUYING USED CARS & TRUCKS
Under 100,000 miles.
JOHNSTON MOTOR COMPANY
www.johnstonmotorcompany.com
 2150 Hwy. 101 • Florence
 (541) 997-3475 • 1-800-348-3475

Brought to you by this newspaper in partnership with Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association

PUBLIC NOTICES
Always in your newspaper: Now in your inbox, too.

If nobody knows what's going on, nobody can do anything about it.

That's why we keep saying your local and state government should keep publishing their public notices in the newspaper.

Now you can stay informed **AND** keep those public notices in the newspaper.

Just go to publicnoticeads.com/or, sign up for the free SmartSearch service, and get all of this paper's public notices delivered to you via email.

publicnoticeads.com/or

VOICE YOUR OPINION!
Write a Letter to the Editor today. Email:
EDITOR@THESIUSLAWNEWS.COM

Siuslaw News Photo Gallery

Coming Soon	Now Showing
Green Fair Rhody Court Showcase	Pow Wow Rotary Easter Egg Hunt Home & Garden Show SHS Baseball & Softball

View at www.thesiuslawnews.com
Photos available for purchase*
 5x7 – \$5⁰⁰ • 8x11 – \$7⁰⁰

Purchase at 148 Maple St. 541-997-3441
 *Photos online are reduced quality – Actual photos purchased are high resolution, high quality.