

Gold panning topic at tonight's STEP meeting

Opportunities for gold mining exist in Oregon streams and dredging for gold will be the topic for guest speaker Brian Cole at tonight's, May 6, meeting of the Florence Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program (STEP).

The group meets at 7 p.m. at the Elks' Lodge in Florence and the public is invited to attend.

Cole, a pioneer hunter and fisherman, dredges for gold in

area streams using a water vacuum in the creek. With a background in geology from the University of Oregon, Cole has been active in a number of issues relating to the outdoor environment in the Siuslaw region, including serving on the Oregon Dunes Restoration Council, as well as the committee overseeing the Western Snowy Plover — among others.

Cole has also served as president of the Florence Rod and Gun Club and is owner of BJ's Ice Cream.

"There is a lot of controversy surrounding dredging," Cole said. "And a lot of misconceptions. There is a bill in the Oregon legislature that will try to regulate and even stop dredging, citing harm to fish populations and other environmental concerns."

"With a background in geology and hydrology," Cole continued, "I will talk about the natural stream flows and how dredging impacts the streams. We can talk about whether there is an impact on fish, as many claim, or if there are benefits to the habitat because of dredging work."

Cole recommends that prior to the meeting, members go to YouTube and watch a video

about dredging and lead in the Umpqua River. Once signed into YouTube, search for "Lead Dredged Out Of The Umpqua River, Oregon 2013."

Dredgers took seven buckets of lead out of the river in five days, near Tyee.

Lead, which is a known contaminant, leaches from the sinkers and weights that are lost each year in rivers during fishing season.

Prior to the talk, the club will review the 2015 steelhead season and look forward to a busy May.

The main focus now shifts to the annual fundraising raffle, with the drawing held Memorial Day Monday.

Anyone interested in learning more about STEP can attend a meeting or contact club president Ron Caputo at 541-997-4961.

Florence Lions to host 32nd annual Bass Tournament

The Florence-Siuslaw Lions Club has announced its 32nd annual Elliott Fun Bass Tournament to be held June 6 and 7. Two-person teams will fish from boats on Siltcoos Lake from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, June 6, and from 6

a.m. to 11 a.m. Sunday, June 7.

This is an open tournament that welcomes any anglers interested in friendly competition.

The cost of entering the tournament is \$60 per team for early registration and \$75 for

registration on-site. Interested parties can contact Jerry Coffindaffer at 541-997-8108 or Mark Meyers at 541-999-9104.

There is a 49-team limit.

The tournament is headquartered at Ada Fishing Camp.

Weigh-ins are at noon and 5 p.m. on Saturday, and 11 a.m. on Sunday. All fish are released back into the lake.

The last practice day is Saturday, May 30.

Trophies are awarded for the first 10 places in the tourna-

ment, as well as in the categories of "Saturday Big Fish," "Sunday Big Fish," "Women's Tournament Big Fish," and "Youth Big Fish."

Optional Big Fish Pools and

Option Pool also are available.

During these two days, teams are treated to a chili lunch. In addition, the Lions Club is offering hamburgers and hot dogs at its food booth.

Run wild at Flippers, Feathers and Fins Fun Run

NEWPORT — Wild animals are a centerpiece of visitor experience at the Oregon Coast Aquarium.

The morning of May 16, however, humans will take center stage as they compete in the Flippers, Feathers and Fins 5K and Kids' Dash.

Runners and walkers of all ages are invited to flock to Newport for the annual event, now in its third year.

The scenic route winds through the aquarium and

along the Yaquina Bay estuary where racers will be greeted with facts about native wildlife.

The 5K is open to runners and walkers 10 years and older. The closed-course 1K Kids' Dash race is perfect for aspiring little athletes ages two to nine years old. Parents are invited to accompany their children on this run through the aquarium's grounds.

Flippers, Feathers and Fins 5K and Kids' Dash participants will receive an official

finisher medal, post-race refreshments and free admission to the aquarium for the day.

Race entry is \$35 for the 5K, and \$20 for the Kids' Dash. A \$5 early registration discount is available through May 3.

Discounts are also available for aquarium members. All proceeds benefit the animal care and marine science education programs at the aquarium.

Tech race shirts are available to preorder for \$5. Shirts will

also be available for sale on race day, but size availability may be limited.

Racers with strollers are welcome but should be aware the course has uneven ground with some gravel.

The Flippers, Feathers and Fins 5K and Kids' Dash is made possible thanks to the support of the Newport New Times, Samaritan Pacific Health Services and Portland Running Company.

Drivers: Know rules of sharing roads with cyclists

There are many bicycles on today's roads. More people are using bicycles as a means to commute for entertainment and for exercise. Some of the more common reasons include low cost to operate, reducing the consumption of fossil fuels, and exercise.

Motorists should remember these tips when sharing the road with a cyclist:

- A bicycle is considered by law to be a vehicle. When a cyclist has stopped and remains astride their bicycle at an intersection and/or for a traffic signal, they are to be treated as a vehicle waiting for their turn to proceed.

- Many children riding bicycles on the street may lack the necessary training and skills for safe cycling. They may not be aware of all dangers.

- Be alert for small children on oversized bicycles. This may increase the likelihood for loss of control.

- When you are preparing to make a right turn, watch for cyclists who may pull up alongside your vehicle.

- Remember to shoulder-check your blind spots.

- When you are about to make a right turn, do not pull up beside a cyclist and then turn directly in front of them and cut them off.

- When parked at the curb, always check for cyclists before you open your vehicle door. It's the driver's responsibility not to open the vehicle door into traffic.

- Cyclists are entitled to make left turns in the same manner as motorists. Since they are more exposed to traffic on left turns, they will need extra consideration, especially on multi-lane roads.

- Cyclists are required to ride as close as practicable to the curb, however they may need to ride further out when they have to steer away from drainage grates, pot holes, debris, loose gravel or sand, wet or slippery surfaces, rutted or grooved pavement and even dogs. Be aware of the roadway conditions that may affect a cyclist.

- Do not sound your horn

unnecessarily when you are overtaking a cyclist. It may startle them and cause them to lose control. If you feel that you must use your horn, tap it quickly and lightly while you are still some distance away from the cyclist.

Cyclists should also remember that, when they are riding their bicycles on streets and highways, they are considered by law to be a vehicle.

Therefore they are required to obey all the rules of the road,

which apply to other (motorized) vehicles, plus those that apply only to bicycle operators.

Cyclists using the streets and highways should:

- Never ride against traffic. It is one of the leading causes of crashes, accounting for 15 to 20 percent of all crashes with cars.

- Not hold onto, attach themselves, or attach the bicycle to any other moving vehicle.

- Only ride side by side on the road with another cyclist

when it does not impede other traffic. If traffic doesn't have enough room to pass you safely, ride single file.

- Ensure the bicycle is equipped with at least one white light to the front and a red light and or red reflector mounted on the rear of the bicycle when riding between sunset and sunrise.

- Ensure the bicycle has effective brakes.

— Lincoln County Sheriffs



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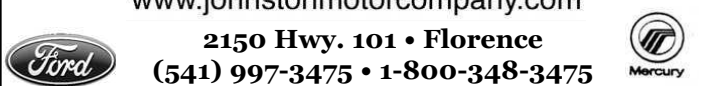
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Siuslaw News Garage Sale GUIDE

PLANT SALE
Florence Garden Club
Saturday, May 9th,
9 AM to 1 PM,
Disabled American Veterans,
1715 21st St.
(across Hwy. 101 from McDonalds)

Many varieties, great selections.
No sales prior to 9AM.
Proceeds for local Scholarships
Also Giant Raffle, Lots of Prizes to give away!

Sat.-Sun.
10am-6pm
4785 Laurel Ave.,
Westlake Oregon

Thurs.-Sat.,
8am-4pm,
Estate Sale.
5452 Bouchet Dr.,
just N of Laurel Bay Gardens.

Garage/Moving Sale
Fri-Sat May 8-9
9am-4pm
82804 Ocean Blvd., Westlake
Freezers, housewares,
fishing gear

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THIS WEEK'S LUCKY WINNERS:

Tuesday 4/28	Brad Hanscom Tanny Cosko	Florence Florence	Safeway Safeway
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Thursday 4/30	Maryann Olsen Mary Bumgarner	Florence Florence	Tree Rivers Casino Resort Safeway
Friday 5/1	Laird Krieger Jimmy Davis	Florence Florence	Safeway Safeway
Saturday 5/2	Kevin Bass Norma Saxon	Florence Florence	Safeway Safeway
Sunday 5/3	Carol Tucker Donna Riggs	Florence Florence	Grocery Outlet On Your Feet With A Splash
Monday 5/4	Dennis Sydow Jerry Martin	Florence Florence	Rite Aid Jambo World Crafts

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