

BY LAND, BY LAKE AND BY BICYCLE...

Triathlon from 1C



Photos by Ned Hickson/Siuslaw News

STEP begins fundraising event to support ongoing projects

Fishing gear, guided fishing trips, gift certificates from local businesses and restaurants, how-to books and cookbooks, wine, clothing and much more are offered as prizes for the annual Florence Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program fundraiser, currently underway. The club holds its annual raffle drawing on Memorial Day Monday, during the Y Marina Boat Show.

This year, the show is moving to Johnson Motor Company

on Highway 101 in Florence. The STEP group will set up its tables displaying prizes and will be selling tickets throughout Memorial Day weekend at the show. Tickets will also be available at the STEP booth during the Rhody Car Show on Saturday, May 16, in the Grocery Outlet parking lot, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Bridgeport Market, the Port of Siuslaw, and at Randy's Riverview Market in Mapleton. Cost is \$2 per ticket or three

for \$5, and can also be purchased from anyone who is a STEP member. STEP is a non-profit organization that has been working to restore fisheries in the Siuslaw Basin since the early 1990s. Its main effort is the winter steelhead broodstock program. The club live-spawns steelhead during the winter run, begins the fertilization and egg growth at its small hatchery facility in Florence before sending up to 250,000 eggs to

the Willamette Hatchery in Oakridge. On Monday, May 4, steelhead smolt raised from last year's egg take were released into Whittaker and Green creeks. Some 10,000 coho fry will be fin-clipped by club members this month and released above Munsel Lake. Those efforts are re-establishing a coho population in Munsel Creek. The club also was instrumental this year in planning and

coordinating the installation of the new six-person fish cleaning station built and now open at the eastern end of the Port of Siuslaw boat parking lot. "This is our only fundraiser of the year," commented Bill Hennig, coordinator of the raffle. "We rely on the generosity of local businesses who make contributions so that we have some amazing prizes. Our community has been great in supporting us through prize donations and ticket pur-

chases." Education projects are another focus for the club and many hours are spent with youth, introducing them to fishing, sharing the life cycle of the steelhead through the Fish Egg to Fry program in preschool through high school classrooms, and supporting Free Fishing Day and the Siuslaw Watershed Summer Camp programs. To donate a prize, contact Hennig at 541-997-2489.

Sheriffs, Bi-Mart team up for boat safety

The Lane County Sheriff's Office is partnering with Bi-Mart again this year to offer free boat inspections to help boaters get on the water safely. Let the sheriffs' department double check to make sure you

have everything you need. Bring your boat to the Florence Bi-Mart, 4310 Highway 101, on May 30, from noon to 2 p.m., and the Lane County Sheriff's Office will inspect your boat for free.



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