

Coast Guard: Boaters, make safety a priority this weekend

The Coast Guard would like to remind boaters there are several important safety measures they can take prior to going out on the water this Memorial Day Weekend:

- Get a free vessel safety check conducted by the Coast Guard Auxiliary to ensure your vessel is seaworthy.
- Auxiliarists will also ensure you have necessary safety equipment.
- File a float plan with a responsible friend, family member or local harbor master. A float plan should include your information, the information of your boat, where you intend to go, when you intend to return and other data. If you do not return at the designated time, a search and rescue mission can be initiated for you.
- Check the weather before venturing out on the water. Weather conditions at sea can change quickly and without warning. Ensure the weather is safe and if conditions do not look suitable, it is advised you alter your plans until weather conditions improve.
- If in doubt, don't go out.
- Do not mix alcohol use

with boating. If you're planning to drink alcohol, ensure you have a designated boat operator.

Operating a boat while intoxicated is not only dangerous, it is illegal.

• Wear a lifejacket. Personal flotation devices significantly increase your chances of survival if you fall overboard.

More than 80 percent of drowning victims were not wearing lifejackets.

Boaters are also encouraged to purchase and register an Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon.

An EPIRB is an important and highly effective piece of life-saving equipment that can send a distress signal to the Coast Guard via satellite.

Other essential safety equipment includes a fire extinguisher, a first aid kit and a GPS.

It is highly recommended boaters maintain a VHF radio aboard their vessels at all times. A cell phone can be useful, but it should not be relied upon as the primary piece of communications equipment.

Cell phone signals can weaken greatly as you go offshore,



Ned Hickson/Siuslaw News

as well as in some inland areas, and may not be useful during an emergency.

Boaters are discouraged from using the term "Mayday"

when conducting radio checks; "Mayday" should be used in distress situations only.

Flares and emergency signaling devices are other key pieces

of safety equipment. Boat operators should know how to properly use flares in the event of an emergency.

Signal flares are for emergencies only. Improper use of flares often becomes a false alarm. Anyone who accidentally fires a flare should notify the Coast Guard immediately.

While boaters in distress should not hesitate to call the Coast Guard immediately, it is important that mariners remember to notify the Coast Guard if they are no longer in need of assistance. If you do require assistance or rescue, notify the Coast Guard through VHF channel 16 immediately.

Boaters in distress should not hesitate to call for help; the Coast Guard does not seek reimbursement for rescue services provided.

The Coast Guard highly advises boaters to not place hoax calls. Hoax calls needless-

ly waste time, money and divert resources from responding to actual emergencies.

Penalties, under federal law, for knowingly placing a hoax call can include prison time, a \$5,000 civil fine, a \$250,000 criminal fine and restitution to the Coast Guard for costs incurred while responding to the hoax.

Boaters are encouraged to teach children how to properly use the radio for emergencies but also instruct them that it is not a toy. Parents will be held responsible for improper radio use committed by their kids.

For tech-savvy boaters, the Coast Guard has released a new Coast Guard mobile app.

The smart phone app allows users to find the latest safety regulations, check safety equipment, request a vessel safety check and perform several other functions.

The mobile app does not replace the VHF radio, which is still considered the primary and most reliable method of requesting Coast Guard assistance.

PeaceHealth offering free sports physicals to local student athletes

On Wednesday, May 27, PeaceHealth Medical Group in Florence will be at the Siuslaw Middle School to provide Free Sports Physicals to students participating in athletics for the upcoming school year starting in September for both Siuslaw and Mapleton School Districts, as well as home schooled students.

Sports physicals are required in order to participate in extracurricular sports in grades

6 through 12, and for some youth sports leagues.

PeaceHealth Medical Group provides the physicians and medical assistants. During Sports Physical Day, students receive a Sports Pre-Participation Examination.

This examination includes height, weight, blood pressure, and pulse check, eye chart exam and examination by a physician. Also included is a health history questionnaire

that asks about the student's history of injury, illness and conditions, such as asthma, to help ensure that they are being properly cared for and that coaches are aware of any conditions a student may have.

If a provider encounters a medical issue with a student, this information will be documented on their sports physical form and the parents and/or guardians will be notified by an employee from PeaceHealth

Medical Group so any issues can be addressed by their primary care physician.

This helps ensure that the student can participate in the sporting activity of their choice.

This pre-participation physical exam is an important part of safe sports participation. The exam can help screen athletes for potential illness or conditions that may limit or restrict their ability to participate in a

school sport. It also helps ensure that students who play sports are physically capable of meeting the demands of the

sport in which they choose to participate and don't have any conditions that may be aggravated by intense exercise.

Registration begins for 18th Fore Kids Golf Classic

Join the excitement as the Boys and Girls Club of Western Lane County host its 18th annual Fore Kids Golf Classic on Saturday, June 6, at the Sandpines Golf Links.

The event will help provide

continued support for Western Lane County youth being served by the Boys and Girls Club.

The four-person scramble tournament will kick-off with a shotgun start at 10 a.m. and

will feature numerous contests, including putting, closest-to-the-pin, longest drive and a hole-in-one contest.

It will be followed by post-tournament awards barbecue, live auctions and raffles.

The cost for the scramble is \$109 per golfer and includes green fees, cart, range balls, barbecue, raffles, wine, beer and more.

Register early by email at jeria@sandpines.com.

View from 1B

and sewer."

I'm not going to go too deep into this situation, but if you've ever felt weird about letting somebody use the bathroom in your house, you probably don't want to think about letting them use the bathroom in your RV where, if you're not hooked-up to a sewer pipe, you will in essence (no pun), have a souvenir of their visit to your bathroom stored in a tank underneath your bed for days — maybe weeks.

But I am not here to disparage the use or purchase of RVs in this space or make fun of RVers, for as Father Damian once said to the lepers of Molokai, "I am now one of you."

Many RVers know what they are doing and knew full well what they were getting into before they made their purchases. They did the research, maybe they rented an RV for a bit, or drew upon youthful memories of camping or military experience. Then there are those who buy an RV during a manic phase, midlife crisis or for an application that the RV owner soon will find out he cannot use the RV for without incurring the wrath of the insurance industry.

I pondered those things one morning, as I watched the sun rise over the wilderness pines, sipping my hose-water-flavored instant coffee, cursing the battery life on my iPad and handing out \$100 bills to the mechanic underneath my RV who was securing my water

tank to the under carriage, something that is essential for driving but not covered under my warranty, "extended warranty" or insurance.

It could have been worse, of course — it can always be worse — this could have happened a day's hike out in a desolate location in the middle of bear country and not this one, which if I were to hike 75 yards straight through the line of trees in front of me, would take me to the backside of the

Kissimmee Panda Express.

It was then and there that I decided to gather my thoughts and add them to the din of RV help sites that are scattered around the web. I'll start with the three things you definitely must have in order to have an all-around great experience RVing, be it full-time or vacation only.

- No. 1: A sense of humor; No.
- 2: Money. Lots of money; No.
- 3: Anticipation.

Siuslaw News

garage sale GUIDE

Memorial Day weekend
23rd & 24th at
Ocean Breeze MH Court
1699 27th St.

Picker's Dream Estate Shop Sale
Fri 5/22-Sat-5/23
8:30am-4:00pm
85139 Hwy 101 S.
Bygone years of welding, car repairs, lots of miscellaneous

Fri. 5/22-Sat. 5/23
9am-2pm
4864 Oceana Dr
TOOLS, Garden & household items

Storage Unit/Garage Sale
Sat 5/23 9am-?
Behind quilt shop
north of Fred Meyer

BIG Yard Sale
Sat 5/23-Sun 5/24
9am-?
4790 Greenwood Dr
Lots to see

Fri. 5/29-Sat. 5/30
9am-4pm
1968 Seabrook Lane
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Fishing equip., clothes,
household, & treadmill.

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