

Last chance to purchase STEP raffle tickets this weekend

Raffle tickets for the Florence Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program fundraiser can only be purchased during Memorial Day weekend at Three Rivers Casino's Event Center.

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 fundraiser.

Cost is \$2 per ticket or three

for \$5 and may also be purchased from any member.

Members of the club will be at the STEP booth in the event center from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

On Monday, members will be there at 10 a.m. The prize drawing will begin around noon, according to Bill Hennig, fundraiser coordinator for the club. North Country Lures and Flies, a major sponsor of the fundraiser, will also be on hand with a booth selling their lures,

flies, rods and reels.

STEP is a non-profit organization and 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.

Last month, ODFW returned nearly 80,000 steelhead smolt to Whittaker and Green creek. The smolt were raised from eggs taken by STEP during the winter of 2014.

"This is our only fundraiser of the year," said 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 purchases."

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.

Volunteers needed for Heceta Lighthouse tours

Summer is quickly approaching and Heceta Head Lightstation's Interpretive Center is preparing for the tour season.

Each year, the Interpretive Center hosts thousands of visitors from all over the world. Volunteers share the fascinating history of the beautiful Queen Anne style Keeper's House, from its construction in 1892 to the present day.

Discover what life was like for those at the turn of the century and why it took a unique individual to enjoy living the life of a light keeper. Learn what you can do to help keep the house alive as an historic site in our community.

Tour season begins Memorial Day weekend and lasts through Labor Day, with

tours given from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m., Thursday through Monday.

Volunteers are needed to help share the history about this historic landmark. Here is an excellent opportunity to develop your public speaking skills, brush up on some local history and spend time at the beautiful Heceta Head Lightstation.

Volunteer 35 hours during the tour season and receive a free night's stay in the bed and breakfast during the winter months.

For more information about volunteering or our historic tours, contact Steven Bursey at 866-547-3696 or email keepers@hecetalighthouse.com.

STEP

from 1B

take the insulation off the aquariums, so students had a much more interactive experience with the life cycle study."

Students in all grades eagerly watched the development of the eggs, and celebrated as they hatched out. When most of the fry were swimming, STEP volunteers emptied the aquariums and brought the fry to the Munsel Lake boat ramp. There, they met the first graders, who travelled by bus to the lake.

Each student was given a clear plastic cup with steelhead fry to release by the boat ramp.

Next on the club agenda was fin-clipping the 10,000-plus coho fry on May 19. The fry were raised at the club's small hatchery facility in Florence. Volunteers helped clip the adipose fin off of each coho so that the fish can be identified as hatchery-raised.

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



PHOTO BY BECKY GOEHRING

A young Girl Scout proudly displays her first fish, a rainbow trout caught on Cleawox Lake. STEP volunteers spent the day helping scouts learn to cast, reel and bring in a fish during the weekend camping trip for Eugene-area scouts.

Rule

from 1B

causes of injury in high school basketball.

Protecting the free-throw shooter is another area of emphasis for next season. The

committee noted that the rule change last year allowing a player occupying a marked lane space to enter the lane on the release of the ball by the free thrower calls for added protection of the free-throw shooter.

The final point of emphasis concerns the use of NFHS mechanics and signals.

"Communication is vital to the game of basketball, to the officials and all others involved in the game," Wynns said. "It is essential for officials to master

and use only the NFHS-approved mechanics and signals."

The rules committee also devoted significant time to updating the NFHS 2015-17 Basketball Officials Manual.

Wynns said the revised publication will be improved and expanded to include diagrams helpful to new officials as well as the more experienced ones.

A complete listing of the basketball rules changes is available on the NFHS website at www.nfhs.org.

Click on "Activities & Sports" at the top of the home page, and select "Basketball."

According to the 2013-14 NFHS High School Athletics Participation Survey, basketball is the third-most popular boys sports nationwide with 541,054 participants and second-most popular girls sport with 433,344 participants. In terms of school sponsorship, it ranks No. 1 for both boys and girls with 18,126 schools for boys and 17,754 for girls.

Free

from 1B

shoreline as families line the banks to try to catch some of the thousands of rainbow trout that have been planted into Cleawox Lake for the event. Others will staff a fish cleaning station, so that the catch can be taken home, ready to cook.

There is a free hot dog bar-

becue, free fish print tee-shirt making and a practice casting station.

Last year, more than 200 young anglers participated in the day's activities.

The first weekend in June is Free Fishing Weekend throughout Oregon. No license is required to fish that weekend, in an effort to invite more people to try their luck and learn the delights of fishing.

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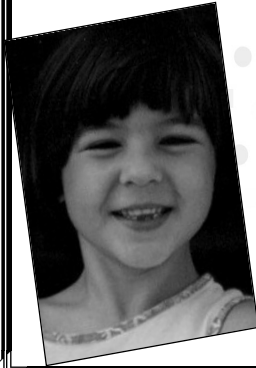
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