## ODFW working to simplify state fishing regulations

SALEM — For new anglers, Oregon's complex fishing regulations can be daunting. Even seasoned anglers claim they frequently need a law degree to help them understand what's allowed and what's not.

Over the years, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) has heard an earful from the fishing community about how its regulations make fishing less fun, and pose a barrier to new anglers getting started.

Earlier this year, the agency anglers, the simplification embarked on a process to try to simplify the state's trout and warmwater fishing regulations in time for the 2016 seasons.

"We've looked at every water body across the state, trying to develop common regulations, consistent language, and increased fishing opportunities," said Mike Gauvin, ODFW recreational fisheries program manager.

Because of their popularity and appeal to beginning process is beginning with trout and warmwater fisheries, Gauvin added.

"We're excited to share with the public the progress we've made simplifying fishing regulations," Gauvin said.

Working with local district fish biologists and Oregon State Police officers, the simplification process took aim at the many "special regulations" that applied to individual water bodies across the state.

The goal was to reduce the for trout.

number of special regulations

to those with a clearly identi-

fied biological or management

purpose, and to streamline the

remaining regulations into

fewer, more consistent cate-

opener and (with a few excep-

tions) opening those areas to

Examples of some of the

gories, Gauvin said.

changes include:

year-round fishing.

• Maintaining consistency in the how the regulations are listed.

"There still will be a few exceptions to the general rules," Gauvin said, "but they will be far fewer and easier to understand."

Not only will the rules them-• Eliminating the April trout selves be simplified, but there will be an easier-to-read format and clearer language in the sport fishing regulations book-• Standardizing catch limits let.

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Beginning in 2016, regulations will be adopted, and new regulation booklets will be printed, every two years instead of every year.

"Trout and warmwater regulations don't change much from year-to-year, and in-season regulations for salmon are posted on the ODFW website, so we saw an opportunity to save some money and time by printing regulations less often," Gauvin said.

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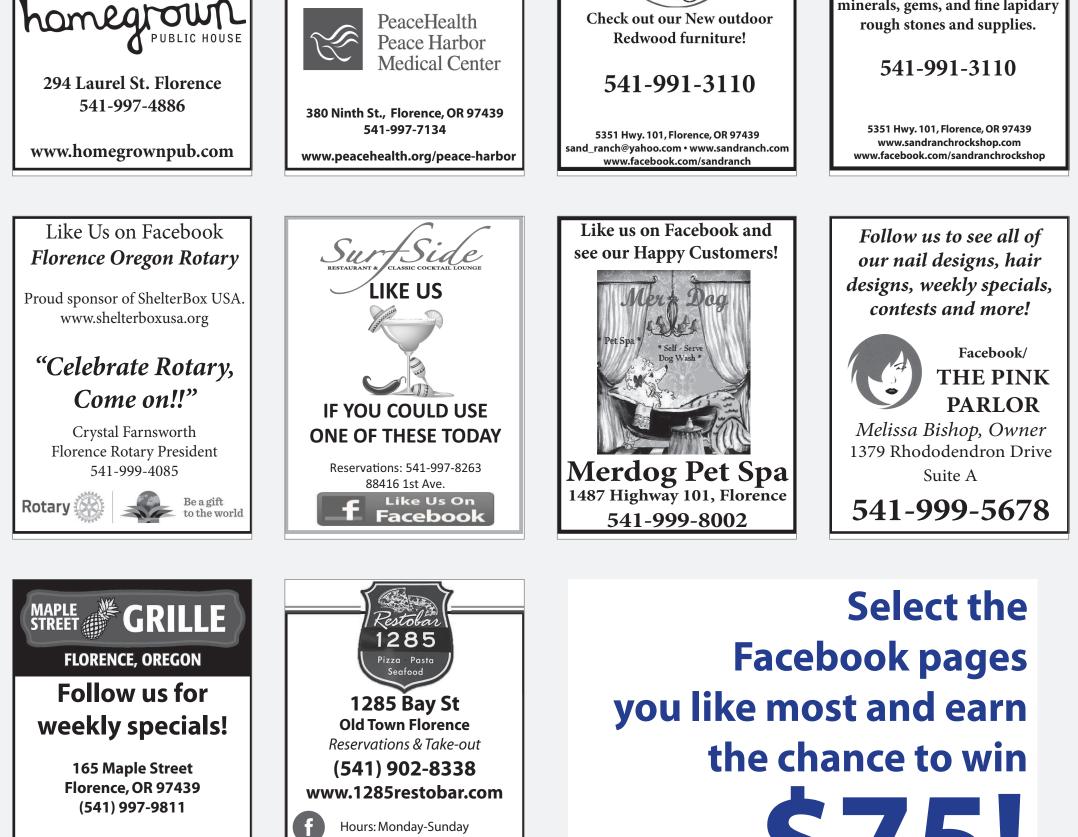
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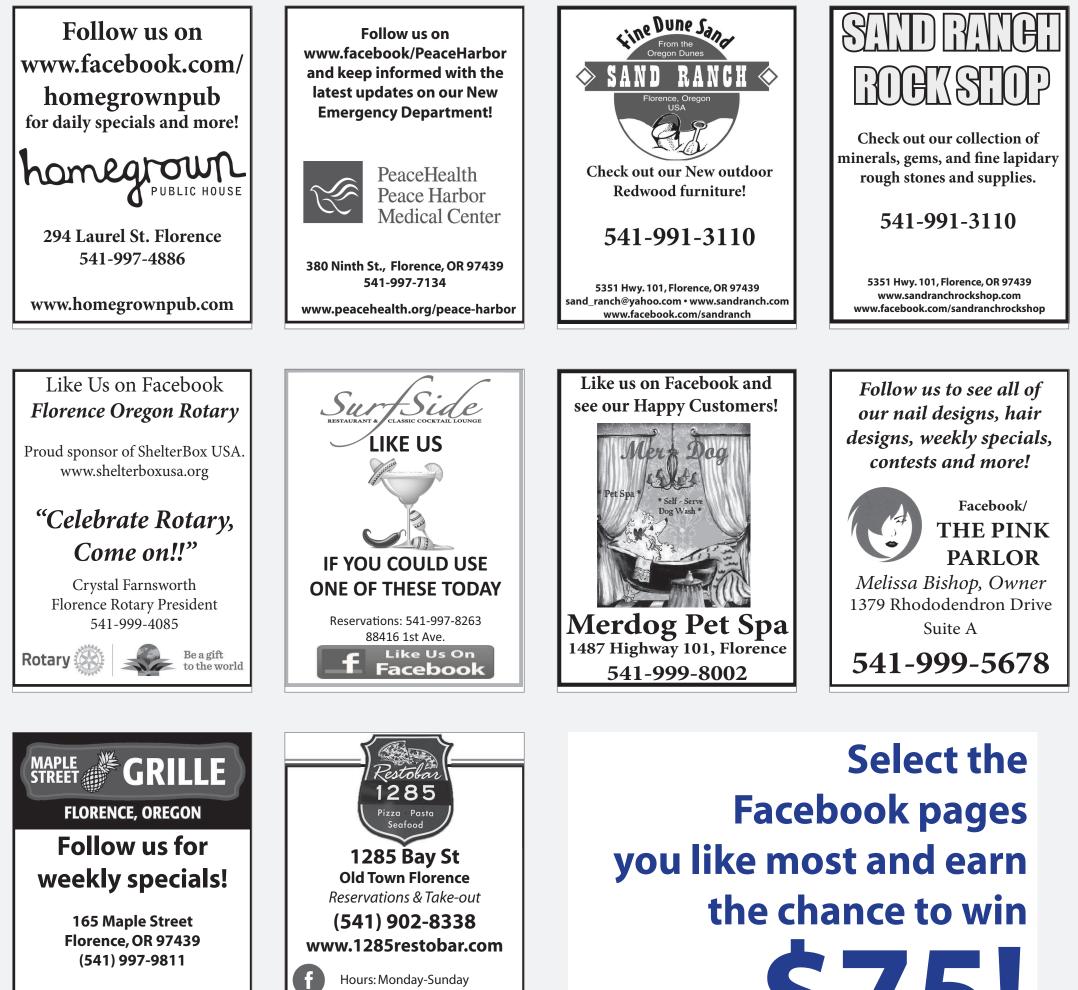


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