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Silent auction set for next STEP meeting

A silent auction, featuring new fishing tackle and gear, will be held at the Wednesday, Dec. 2, meeting of the Florence Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program (STEP) with proceeds benefitting the STEP Hatchery improvement fund.

The silent auction will begin at 6:30 p.m., prior to the 7 p.m. start of the group's monthly meeting.

The auction will close about 15 minutes after the end of the meeting.

New fishing tackle has been purchased from local vendors, including Bridgeport Market and North Country Lures and Flies.

"It's the perfect time to find that special gift for your favorite angler," said Craig Brandt, who is organizing the auction for the club. "Not only will you get a good deal on some great fishing gear but you'll be supporting STEP's local hatchery, which provides the winter steelhead fishery on the Siuslaw River."

Several members of the STEP group are members of Thrivent Financial, a not-for-profit membership organization whose mission statement is "connecting faith and finances for good." The organization provides seed money to its members which members can use to benefit the communities in which they live.

Thrivent representative John Thurlow will be in attendance and will explain the company's purpose and commitment to supporting and giving back to

its members' communities.

The December STEP meeting of the club will feature Lt. Laura Gallant with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration out of Newport.

Prior to her talk, the club will hold elections for the 2016 board of directors and hear an update about the hatchery improvements and the upcoming winter steelhead program.

For more information about the club, contact president Ron Caputo at 541-997-4961.



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ATHLETE

**OF THE
WEEK**



Chet Geddes

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Football

The Junior lineman was named to the first team all-Mountain West League all star team for his work on both offense and defense. He was also named to play in the 8-man All Star Game to be held in June.

Honorable Mention Dominic Wells

Honorable mention goes to his teammate, Dominic Wells who was named to the first team All Mountain West squad as a wide receiver and as a defensive end. Wells was also recognized with a 2nd team spot as an offensive utility player.

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a semi-formal event to benefit the Oregon Coast Military Museum.

Sunday, November 29, 2015

4pm to 7pm

Florence Event Center

*Beautifully decorated Christmas trees and wreaths
that have been donated by local
businesses & organizations will be auctioned.*

*Tickets are available at the office of
State Farm Insurance*

Champagne welcome and no-host bar

for more information please call 541-997-7161

Traffic on Interstate 5 in the Willamette Valley will be higher than normal on Friday, Nov. 27, and safety advocates are urging travelers to plan ahead, avoid distractions, drive sober — and be patient.

An additional 15,000 vehicles may be on the roads between Portland and Eugene for the annual Civil War football game between Oregon State University and the University of Oregon. It's also the biggest shopping day of the

year, and that means people won't just be traveling to cheer on their teams but rushing to get bargains, too.

No matter what the reason or even the mode of travel, it's critical to make smart, safe choices when you use the transportation system.

Last Thanksgiving, nine people died in traffic incidents, five of them in crashes involving impaired drivers. It's clear, the consequences of unsafe behavior can be tragic.

Improvements at the Woodburn interchange should help reduce backups similar to those experienced in previous years.

Still, drivers should expect

heavy volumes approaching Woodburn from both directions. Through traffic should stay in the left lanes and be especially watchful for over-flow traffic on the southbound off-ramp.

The Woodburn Premium Outlets opens at 6 p.m.

Thanksgiving Day and doesn't close until 10 p.m. Friday; updated parking information is available on Facebook.

The Civil War game, which begins at 1 p.m., will increase traffic not only on I-5, but also on Highway 99W, Highway 34 and surrounding roads. Drivers should consider alternative routes. An alternative to driving is the Amtrak Cascades

train/POINT Bus system, which allows travelers to relax and avoid the hassles of traffic and parking.

If you are driving — going to the game, to the mall or whenever you are behind the wheel — keep these safety tips in mind:

- Before heading out, visit TripCheck.com (or call 511) for the latest road conditions and incident information.

- Avoid distractions and keep your emotions in check while driving; it's going to be hectic out there.

- Watch for pedestrians and bicyclists: they are out, too, shopping, going to the game and more. Slow down and be alert for one another.

- Buckle up and have a sober, rested driver.

- If you have vehicle trouble, get the vehicle to a safe place before getting out. If you can't drive the car, it may still be safer to stay in the car with your safety belt on and wait for help or use a cell phone to summon help.

Standing outside the vehicle near the flow of traffic, under most circumstances, is a bad idea.

- Reminder: it is illegal to use a handheld cell phone while driving (except in emergencies).

For bicyclists and pedestrians:

- Texting and talking while bicycling and walking, especially in heavy traffic, can be especially dangerous. See and be seen: Wear reflective gear and lights.

Lastly, forecasters are calling for colder weather, possibly freezing, in northern portions of the state. Drivers should be prepared with an emergency kit, warm clothes and extra food.

Get more tips for driving in Oregon's winter weather online.

- For Friday game attendees: Immediately after the game, the Pioneer Parkway exit ramp from eastbound Highway 126 will be closed for approximately 90 minutes.

Motorists traveling eastbound on Highway 126 are encouraged to take the Mohawk Boulevard exit and use Q Street to access the north Springfield area.

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