

ROTARY DONATES TO YOUTH SOCCER



COURTESY PHOTO

At the Aug. 9, Rotary meeting, president-elect Craig Sanders presented a check for \$500 to the Siuslaw Youth Soccer Association of Florence for equipment and youth scholarships.

Dreams from 1B

The 15-year-old lefthander was one of some 150 top players from around the country invited to the camp, now in its second year.

Simington was one of only two from Oregon.

The other Florence native Ricky Jones, who has been playing his baseball at Riverside Military Academy, an all-boys college preparatory school in Gainesville, Ga.

Simington was scouted in the early part of the Vikings' past season by Hall of Fame baseball coach Jim Dietz, an Oregon native who led the San Diego State Aztecs for more than three decades.

Dietz returned for a late-season assessment, then helped punch Simington's ticket to Vero Beach.

"It was so surreal," Simington said. "One day I'm playing summer baseball in Florence, then I'm in this camp. It all happened so fast."

Simington was considered underage by the airlines, so he flew from Eugene to San

Francisco to Orlando, Fla., with Jones, all of 17, acting as his guardian.

"It was my first time flying, but it wasn't bad," the 6-foot-3, 250-pound Simington said. "It was relatively fine, sometimes a little cramped."

He still may not have touched ground emotionally when he arrived at Dodgertown, where he was to rub elbows with some outstanding young talent while taking instruction from former major league stars.

"I don't remember the names, but a lot of them were wearing World Series rings," he said.

The training was intense. Bullpen sessions. Workouts. Seminars. And it was hot work, the thermometer hitting 107 degrees with 86 percent humidity.

"It was pretty miserable," Simington said.

And it was all business. A trip to Disney World?

"No, actually," he said. "It was all about baseball. We didn't leave the facility until we flew out."

Of the 150 players, only 15

were pitchers, so that allowed for some one-on-one tutoring.

"It was a very pleasant surprise to find that they worked on us so much individually," Simington said. "I learned a lot of good stuff."

"I didn't know, in my head, that I had a lot of mechanical issues, but they pointed them out, and there were a lot of little things. Even the little things they fixed."

They also had him test a baseball speed gun.

"I got clocked at 94 miles per hour," he said. "That was around average (in the camp). A lot of the kids were talented, very talented, and consistently fast."

And a lot of them were older. Simington was at the low end of the 15-17 age range, and a fastball nearing 100 mph may be in his future.

"They had a good feeling that if I take care of my body, like I do now, a lot of my baby fat will go away and my velocity will go up," he said.

And if he continues to improve, Simington will get two more visits to Dodgertown.

"You can go again if you put

in the work," he said. "You have to prove yourself. You have to be better (each year) than you were before."

Simington wants to be a big leaguer, but he sees a lot of school in his future first. He has three seasons ahead with the Vikings, then he'd like perhaps four with the Beavers at Oregon State.

"I don't want to go to the major leagues out of high school," he said. "Others have done that and it hasn't gone so good and they regretted it, wished they'd gone to college."

Simington already has a plan in place.

"I want to major in human physiology and minor in strength and conditioning," he said, "so if my baseball career doesn't go anywhere, like MLB, I can be a coach or trainer."

"You definitely want something to fall back on."

Fishing from 1B

slow. The water is low and clear, so use lighter gear and target the deeper holding areas. Trout angling should be fair.

YAQUINA RIVER: *Cutthroat*

For cutthroat trout casting small spinners, spoons or fly fishing streamers or dry flies can be very effective. Angling for all species in streams above tidewater is restricted to artificial flies and lures until Sept. 1.

COOS COUNTY LAKES AND PONDS: *Trout, warmwater fish*

There are trout available for kids in the Millicoma Pond at the Millicoma Interpretive Center and fishing is excellent.

Millicoma Pond is set aside for kids fishing only and is a great chance for them to hook into fish. Call before traveling to Millicoma Pond to make sure the gates are open. The phone number is 541-267-2557.

Fishing for largemouth bass is best in mornings and late evenings. Bass will be found in a little deeper water associated with cover, like weed-lines or other structure.

Bluegill fishing is picking up with many fish found in or near shallow water. Plastic worms, shallow crankbaits, topwater lures, and spinner baits are good to use for bass. Bluegills will bite on worms, small jigs, or flies.

UMPQUA RIVER, SOUTH: *Bass*

Trout fishing is catch-and-release only in the South Umpqua and tributaries. Bass fishing should be good with warmer water temperatures.

TENMILE BASIN: *Trout, bass, yellow perch*

Trout fishing has been slow

in Tenmile Lakes due to warm water. Trout anglers should fish in the deep water and fishing is usually best in the mornings.

Largemouth bass fishing has been good over the past month. Anglers are catching bass near structure or on the deep end of the weed lines.

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Archie Knowles campsite reservations available online

Lane County Parks has announced the campsites at the newly re-opened Archie Knowles Campground near Mapleton can now be reserved online.

Reservations can be made through the Lane County Parks Reservation System at www.reservations.lanecounty.org.

"Each year, Lane County welcomes visitors from all over the world who are looking to camp and enjoy our fantastic parks and natural areas," said Parks Analyst Charlie Conrad. "Many visitors have already enjoyed staying at Archie Knowles on a first-

come-first-served basis since it re-opened in June.

"Now people can have a sense of security knowing they will be able to enjoy a beautiful and scenic campsite during their trip."

The reservation site can be used to reserve camping and RV spots, group sites, day-use and picnic shelters and moorage slips, as well as purchase single-day or annual passes at home.

The website contains additional information such as: campground maps, site photographs and site specific characteristics.

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Siuslaw News

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Sat 8/20
9am-3pm
Florentine Estates
Entry at 30th St. & Munsell Lake Road.
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2 Estate Sales!
Florentine Estates
8/19-8/20
9am-3pm
Use Munsell Creek entrance only!
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Sat 8am-3pm
Sun 8am-?
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Sun 10am-3pm
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Sat 8/20
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