

On the Bite

A WEEKLY FISHING REPORT FOR THE LOCAL REGION

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NORTH COAST LAKES:

Most of the North Coast lakes were stocked with trout this week. Water temps are great and fish should be hungry.

So far this season, **Town Lake** near Pacific City has been stocked with nearly 200 surplus summer steelhead from **Cedar Creek Hatchery**. In addition, 66 early run winter steelhead were released there on Jan. 11. **Nehalem Hatchery** released 200 surplus winter steelhead into **Vernonia pond**, 57 into **Lost Lake** and 60 into **Lake Lytle**. These fish get fairly active in the lake and offer a unique fishing experience, especially when the rivers are blown out. Once in the lake they are considered "trout" and do not require a Combined Angling Tag.

Anglers are reminded, however, that only one trout per day over 20 inches may be retained, and these fish will almost all be

See **FISHING 3B**

OISC reveals new weapon in fight against invasive species

SALEM — Invasive plants and animals are stressing Oregon's native species and have the potential to cost millions in economic damage to the state's water infrastructure systems, agriculture and forestry.

Oregonians and regional partners now have a new coordinated approach to protecting Oregon from these devastating effects: The Oregon Statewide Strategic Plan for Invasive Species 2017-27 and the accompanying working document, the Oregon Statewide Action Plan for Invasive Species.

The Oregon Invasive Species Council (OISC) released the plan after a year of stakeholder engagement and a 2016 Oregon Invasive Species Summit devoted to its development.

Co-chairing the effort and penning a letter to Oregonians at the beginning of the plan, Jeffrey (Jas) Adams and Rian vanden Hooff noted "increasingly, invasive species —

whether introduced by deliberate or unintended actions — present one of the most serious current threats to our economy, ecosystems, infrastructure, and natural heritage."

State wildlife officials are so concerned about invasive species they list them as a Key Conservation Issue in the Oregon Conservation Strategy. "The second largest factor causing native species to become at-risk of extinction in the United States is invasive species," said Rick Boater, Invasive Species Coordinator for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and current OISC chair. "Invasives are a real threat to Oregon's fish and wildlife and their habitats."

Boatner pointed out a few examples of invasive species already affecting some of Oregon's native fish and wildlife.

American bullfrogs and reared slider turtles harm Oregon's two native turtles by competing for nesting sites and food.

Bullfrogs also prey on native turtles, frogs, fish and snakes.

Ringed crayfish compete with native Signal crayfish for food and habitat, and New Zealand Mud Snails can impact native invertebrates and the food chain of native trout.

"All Oregonians have a role in keeping these invasives out of state, and the new plan encourages that," Boatner said.

The new strategic plan sets a long-term vision for a collaborative pathways management approach for invasive species, while the two-year action plan describes detailed actions agencies and organizations can take to achieve the strategic objectives.

"Pathways management is a collaborative approach to invasive species management that leverages limited funding, works across jurisdictional boundaries and supports science-based decision making to protect Oregon," said Jalene Littlejohn, OISC Lead Coordinator.

Eugene Emeralds to host National Anthem tryouts

The Eugene Emeralds will be hosting National Anthem auditions to find performers for the 2017 season on Saturday, May 6, from 10 a.m. to noon at PK Park.

On the day of auditions, participants can enter through the ballpark's 1st-base entrance and register upon arrival. Performances will be a first come, first sing basis.

Singers can leave at the

completion of their audition and will be contacted at a later date.

National Anthem performers will have one minute and thirty seconds to perform the "Star Spangled Banner," and lyrics must be memorized.

For more information on singing the National Anthem at PK Park, or for groups interested in performing, call Anne at 541-342-5367 ext.14.



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OPRD offers overnight for novice campers

Registrations are now being accepted for the "Let's Go Camping Program."

Events will be held at nine different parks. For \$30 per family, Oregon Parks and Recreation District (OPRD)

provides tents, sleeping bags and other gear. Volunteers will help campers set up tents, build campfires, prepare meals in the campsite and more. Activities could include ranger-led hikes, owl prowls, bat chats and plen-

ty of s'mores.

Overnights begin in June.

To register, call 800-551-6949. Most events are limited to 35 people and spots are filling quickly

the spotlight

A weekly roundup of shopping, savings and doings around town.





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Together, Wes Wells and I have served the Florence Area for the past 12 years through our family owned business, Wells Tree & Landscape. We have three children who attend Mapleton High School; Dominic Wells, Haley Wells, and Alyssa West. I recently earned my Oregon Real Estate Brokers license to further help our community. I am eager to share my knowledge of the local area with newcomers and serve local residents in the sale of their home.

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