

Siuslaw News Sports & Recreation

On the Bite

A WEEKLY FISHING REPORT FOR THE LOCAL REGION

www.dfw.state.or.us/RR

MID COAST LAKES:
Most of the North Coast lakes were stocked with trout recently. Water temps are great and fish should be hungry, so go catch them. Stocking of Mid Coast lakes has ended for the

See **FISHING 3B**

SPORTS Calendar

UPCOMING

• **AUG. 5**

GOLF TOURNEY
COOL AT THE COAST
AT OCEAN DUNES
10 A.M.

• **AUG. 7-10**

SHS FOOTBALL
ANNUAL KIDS CAMP
HANS PETERSEN FIELD
K THRU 4TH GRADE:
NOON TO 1:30 P.M.
5TH THRU 8TH GRADE
3 TO 5 P.M.

TIDE TABLE

Entrance Siuslaw River

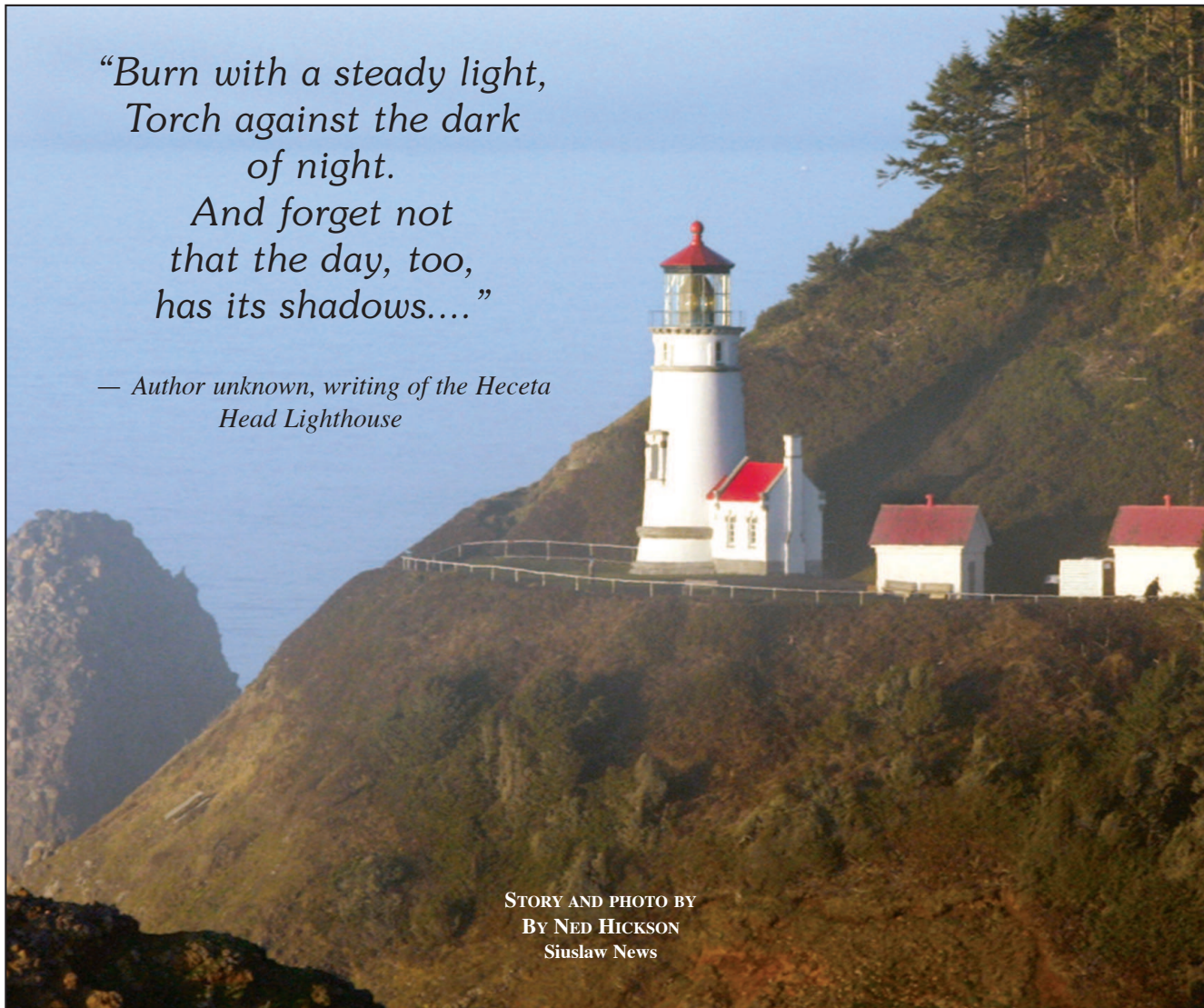
High Tide	Low Tide
July 22 12:34am / 6.2 11:53pm / 8.4	6:04am / -1.9 5:57pm / 1.9
July 23 1:21pm / 6.6	6:52am / -2.1 6:50pm / 1.7
July 24 12:43am / 8.3 2:06pm / 6.8	7:38am / -2.0 7:42pm / 1.5
July 25 1:33am / 8.0 2:50pm / 6.9	8:22am / -1.7 8:33pm / 1.4
July 25 1:33am / 8.0 2:50pm / 6.9	8:22am / -1.7 8:33pm / 1.4
July 26 2:23am / 7.5 3:33pm / 6.9	9:05am / -1.2 9:26pm / 1.3
July 27 3:13am / 6.9 4:16pm / 6.8	9:48am / 6.9 10:20pm / 1.3

SIUSLAW NEWS
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TIME'S SILENT SENTINEL

*“Burn with a steady light,
Torch against the dark
of night.
And forget not
that the day, too,
has its shadows...”*

— Author unknown, writing of the Heceta Head Lighthouse



STORY AND PHOTO BY
BY NED HICKSON
Siuslaw News

NED HICKSON/SIUSLAW NEWS

For 123 years, the Heceta Head Lighthouse has stood resolutely overlooking its charge along the Oregon coast.

Perhaps it's the need to connect with something that remains solid and virtually unchanged even as the world changes around it that draws us like inquisitive fireflies to the rotating beam of our lighthouses.

Braced against both time and nature, there are few icons along the coast representing a stronger image of resoluteness and unwavering loyalty. In some ways, they're our fathers — strong, silent types offering safe passage through troubled waters, and whose momentary beam both inspires and comforts in the span of a lazy wink.

Long before August was declared Lighthouse Month in Oregon by Governor Ted Kulongoski in 2007, people have been coming to visit these silent sentinels along the coast. Last year alone, more than 45,000 visitors climbed the gravel path leading up to Heceta Head Lighthouse, averaging 200 people per day. This year has been no different — and, in fact, will more than likely surpass last year's figures.

Altogether, there are 11 beacons still perched along Oregon's coastline, the intention of which was to allow each distinctive beam to meet and cross with the other so that ships would never be without sight of light during their passage. While global

positioning devices and high-tech warning systems have essentially made lighthouses obsolete in terms of stark necessity, the fact that six out of the 11 remain in operation (with seven still open to the public) hints that our connection with them runs deeper than

“There's just something about them. It's like stepping back in time and connecting with history.”

— Debra Bender, Oregon State Parks Ranger

surface logic and thoughts of efficiency.

In June 2000, when Heceta's beam was extinguished because of mechanical failure after 106 years of continued service, a grass roots campaign began spreading throughout Florence and beyond with the help of fishermen, community leaders and local citizens who demanded that the light be reignited — a notion that even kindled the support of U.S. House Rep. Peter DeFazio who, a year later, attended the rededication ceremony when the lighthouse resumed operation.

“There's just something about them,” said Debra Bender, a ranger

with Oregon State Parks who helped oversee operations at the lighthouse. “It's like stepping back in time and connecting with history. It's still there, still working, and you can see it, feel it — and at night, it's really beautiful.”

Which is why, on an overcast Thursday evening, two dozen or so people made the short trip from nearby Washburne State Campground for a chance to see the Heceta Head Lighthouse at night. Even though it wasn't a planned tour, it only took a few hours to get the word out via a small note attached to the park's activities board, and a little word of mouth.

After a brief introduction of the area, two dozen flashlights suddenly illuminated the darkened path as the group began making its way uphill toward the beacon.

Coming up on the old lightkeeper's house, everyone saw the rotating shafts of light for the first time as eight sequential beams swept over the surrounding trees, across the shoreline, and 21 miles out to sea in a one-of-a-kind pattern repeated once every 10 seconds.

“Whoa!” was the response from one young boy, as well as a few adults, as the group continued up the road.

See **LIGHTHOUSES 3B**

STATE FIRE MARSHALL URGES CAMP FIRE SAFETY

As Oregon's summer travel season gets in full gear, State Fire Marshal Jim Walker is cautioning all campers to heed campfire safety rules and tips.

“Camping is an excellent way to enjoy all of the outdoor beauty and recreation Oregon has to offer, said Walker. “However, that beauty can only be maintained if people follow campfire safety.”

The OSFM encourages everyone to follow these campfire safety guidelines:

- Check if campfires are allowed in

the area in which you will be staying.

- Keep a shovel and water nearby to extinguish any escaped embers.
- Select a site away from grasses, shrubs, overhanging branches, and firewood. Existing fire pits in established campgrounds are best.
- Scrape away leaves and debris to bare soil, at least 10 feet on all sides of the fire pit.
- Circle your campfire pit with rocks; start your fire with paper or manufactured fire starters, never use gasoline;

keep the fire small and add wood in small amounts.

- Never leave a campfire unattended.
- Before going to bed or leaving the campsite, drown the campfire with water, stir the coals, and drown again. Repeat until the fire is out and the coals are cool to the touch.

For more wildfire prevention information and restrictions, visit www.keeporegongreen.org and the Oregon Department of Forestry at www.oregon.gov.

Public meeting set on halibut, bottom fish seasons

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife is seeking input from recreational anglers to help shape the 2017 Pacific halibut and 2018 and 2019-2020 bottomfish seasons.

Anglers are encouraged to participate in the season-setting process by attending one of four public meetings in late July.

“It is important that we hear from a wide range of anglers before making decisions,” said ODFW Recreational Halibut and Bottomfish Project Leader

Lynn Mattes.

Meetings will be:

- Tuesday, July 25, 6 to 8 p.m., in Newport, at the Marine Resources Program office, 2040 SE Marine Science Dr. This meeting will also be webcast.
- Wednesday, July 26, 6 to 8 p.m., in Salem, at ODFW Headquarters (4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE) in the Commission Room.
- Monday, July 31, 7 to 9 p.m., in Brookings, at the Best Western

Beachfront Inn (note time is different than the other meetings).

- Tuesday, Aug. 1, 6 to 8 p.m., in North Bend at the Public Library.

Anglers who wish to provide input but cannot attend a meeting in person or via webcast can contact Lynn Mattes at 541-867-4741 ext. 237, or email her at lynn.mattes@state.or.us; or Maggie Sommer at 541-867-4741 ext. 227, or email her at Maggie.sommer@state.or.us.

“Time Out”

BY LLOYD LITTLE
Retired teacher, coach
and game official

(With more than 55 years as an athlete, coach, official, parent and spectator, I've gained some insights and perspectives regarding athletics. In this weekly column, I share what I've learned about sports from these multiple points of view.)

Playing sports requires dedication and commitment from both players and parents.

That's not easy.

Family and school obligations often conflict, which means athletes and parents must be willing to accept the responsibilities for athletic competition on both the school and home fronts.

Players and parents are given handouts that include practice times, game schedules and behavior guidelines and expectations.

This is in addition to an athletic handbook students must sign before participation in any sport.

Coaches plan practices for an entire team and missed practices disrupt team coordination, meaning that players need to inform their coach, before practice, if they will not be at practice.

In my 11 years of playing football, I missed one practice. I was in college, and my older brother thoughtlessly decided to get married during football season.

It may sound silly, but I still wondered if I missed some football knowledge that had been shared that day.

While practices and home games present their own challenges for athletes and parents, away games present their own kinds of challenges.

For one, they can be expensive, not to mention time consuming. Often, parents are unable to miss work to attend these away games, prompting them to choose home games instead.

One week, my wife and I traveled to Klamath Falls for a basketball play-off game. With the win, both the boys and girls teams were in Corvallis for state play-offs, with the teams competing on alternate days. We logged more than 1,100 miles in seven days to support our children and their teams.

Keep in mind that state play-off tickets cost more than regular season admission, too.

While traveling on the bus, some athletes utilize that time to do homework and maintain grades that can be a deciding factor in scholarships and college admission later.

Nutrition is also an important consideration, along with getting the proper rest. An athlete requires both components to perform their best on the field or hardwood, as well as in the classroom.

It's up to parents to make sure their student

See **COACH 2B**