

USCG Auxiliary offering boating safety class

In the State of Oregon, a boater education card is required for all persons operating any type of watercraft over 10 horsepower, and youth age 12 to 15 years old, operating any type powerboat.

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary is presenting an Oregon State Marine Board approved class in Florence to obtain a mandatory boater education card.

The class will be held Saturday, Dec. 9, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue, 2625 Highway 101.



DEBORAH HELDT CORDONE, USCGAUXPA3

The USCG Auxiliary will host a mandatory boater education class in Florence next Saturday, Dec. 9.

Cost is \$15, and pre-registration is required and space is limited. To register, contact Rick Parsons, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, at 541-463-1797.

Hatfield Visitor Center to close for maintenance

NEWPORT — The Visitor Center at Oregon State University's Hatfield Marine Science Center, which annually draws some 150,000 visitors, will close Tuesday, Dec. 5, for maintenance and renovation work.

The visitor center's front exhibits and auditorium are

tentatively scheduled to reopen on Feb. 1, though there will be no public access to the back exhibits.

The rest of the Visitor Center is scheduled to reopen on March 25.

"A couple of the larger tanks in the back exhibits need to be re-secured to the foundation,

and we'll take the opportunity to do some additional plumbing and renovation," said Bob Cowen, director of the Hatfield Marine Science Center. "We're sorry for the inconvenience, but the maintenance is overdue."

Some of the Visitor Center's exhibits include a large octopus

tank, tanks with near- and off-shore sea life, touch pools and coral tanks, as well as displays featuring marine studies and current research, three wave tanks, an augmented sand table and a variety of other hands-on educational exhibits.

STEP meeting to feature talk on Siuslaw salmon returns

Are the salmon returns to the Siuslaw getting better or worse? Local Salmon Trout Enhancement Program (STEP) president Ron Caputo will speak about the salmon returns to the Siuslaw Basin on Wednesday, Dec. 6.

His presentation will show what the ODFW fish surveys say about Chinook and coho

and steelhead runs. Florence STEP meetings are held the first Wednesday of every month in the back room of the Florence Elks club, beginning at 7 p.m.

The public is welcome to attend STEP meetings.

For more information, call Ron Caputo at 541-997-4961.

Siuslaw from 1B

relative handful of seasoned upperclassmen (juniors Madison Reynolds and Alyssa Richards, and seniors Carreina Greenburg, Lexi Curtis and Marika White) find a common tempo.

"It was good to get that first game under our belts and see what we need to work on and what our strengths are," Reynolds said.

Among those strengths is what Reynolds described as a good balance of height, speed and good shooting that he hopes to foster as the team's confidence and experience increases.

In Wednesday night's game, Siuslaw kicked off the opening period and start of the third period by spotting the Bulldogs as many as 12 points before battling back.

"If not for those two bad starts, we would have been close all the way," said Reynolds. "The fact that we still finished within 12 points showed it was pretty even for most of the game — which was good."

Leading the Lady Viks on offense was Long at point guard, who sank 13 points in her high school debut.

From the post, Richards nabbed 6 rebounds for the Lady Viks and White claimed 4 boards, along with 8 points.

With the next five games on the road, Reynolds said the team

"The talent is there. The desire is there. We're going to just use every opportunity to keep getting better."

— SHS girls basketball head coach Greg Reynolds

will use that time to find its rhythm offensively and strengthen its man-to-man defense.

"The talent is there. The desire is there. We're going to just use every opportunity to keep getting better," said Reynolds.

Last night, Siuslaw was on the road at Elmira (after press deadlines).

Tuesday, the Lady Viks will tip off at Newport, beginning at 7 p.m.

Give the gift of Oregon State Parks for Christmas

From now through Dec. 31, the annual parking permit for Oregon State Parks is available for 25, which is \$5 off the regular price of \$30.

Shoppers can round out their gift with holiday gear branded with the iconic Oregon State Parks shield, including hats, water bottles, dog bowls, orna-

ments and stickers. Gift gear and parking permits are for sale online at www.store.oregonstateparks.org.

Parking permits are also sold at major OPRD offices, some state park friends' group stores and selected local businesses throughout the state.

For a complete list of vendors, visit www.oregonstateparks.org. Those who would like to give back to the parks can give a membership to the Oregon State Parks Foundation, which is dedicated to enhancing the state park experience. Those who give a tax-deductible donation of \$45

or more will receive a 12-month day-use parking pass as a thank you.

Learn more at www.oregonstateparksfoundation.org.

Parking costs \$5 a day at 26 Oregon State Parks unless you have a 12- or 24-month parking permit or a same-day camping receipt.

Little from 1B

There are tournaments during the holidays as well.

I remember driving down I-5 to Grants Pass during Christmas break for a girls basketball tournament. During another break, we were in Philomath for a boys basketball tournament.

These are scheduled to tune-up for league games, which start soon after the return to school in January.

The second factor in making winter seem like the longest sports season is darkness. Most, if not all, winter athletes

return to their homes in the dark. (The exception would be Siuslaw football players for 45 years, Lol).

Also, the bus trips are longer. It takes more time to play what sometimes can be three basketball games at one gym for tournaments.

Sitting either before or after you play can be fatiguing.

Meanwhile, some student athletes do homework in the stands. This is necessary as school continues for all students.


There are times when my own children borrowed Dad's flashlight to read required textbook assignments while on the

bus. In 1976, due to a shortage of girls at Spray High School for a basketball team, I joined the John Day Referee Association. I refereed throughout college as a way to pay my bills.


However, I declined my first assignment because of the time I would have spent for very little pay. I was to drive to John Day, then ride with other officials to Ukiah and work the first frosh game, then stay the JV and varsity games before riding back with the other officials to John Day — and then, finally, home.

Thirteen hours for \$15. I said no, thanks.


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