

FIRE MARSHAL URGES CAMPERS TO KEEP CAMPFIRE FROM TURNING INTO A WILDFIRES

SALEM — Sitting around a campfire is one of the special times we all enjoy, but campfires are also a major cause of wildfires. May is Wildfire Awareness Month, and Keep Oregon Green, the Oregon Office of the State Fire Marshal, and the Oregon Department of Forestry urge Oregonians to follow these basic outdoor safety tips:

Know before you go

Before going camping, call your local forestry or fire district to learn if there are any current campfire restrictions at your destination. You can also visit www.keeporegongreen.org for planning a fire-

safe trip to the outdoors.

Kick the campfire habit this summer

Portable camp stoves are a safer option to campfires at any time of year. Areas that prohibit campfires outside maintained campgrounds with established fire pits often allow camp stoves.

Select the right spot

Where campfires are allowed, choose a site with an existing ring. Fire pits in established campgrounds are the best spots.

If you choose to build a campfire, avoid building it near your tent, structures, vehicles, shrubs or trees, and

be aware of low-hanging branches overhead.

Clear the site down to mineral soil, at least five feet on all sides, and circle it with rocks. Store unused firewood a good distance from the fire.

Keep your campfire small

A campfire is less likely to escape control if it is kept small. A large fire may cast hot embers long distances.

Add firewood in small amounts as existing material is consumed. Placing a log on the fire rather than dropping it from a height will prevent a big shower of sparks.

Attend your campfire at all times

A campfire left unattended for even a few minutes can grow into a costly, damaging wildfire. Stay with your campfire from start to finish until it is dead out, as required by state law.

That ensures any escaped sparks or embers can be extinguished quickly.

Never use gasoline or other accelerants

Don't use flammable or combustible liquids, such as gasoline, propane or lighter fluid, to start or increase your campfire. Once the fire starts, discard the match in the fire.

Have water and fire tools on site

Have a shovel and a bucket of water nearby to extinguish any escaped embers. When you are ready to leave, drown all embers with water, stir the coals, and drown again. Repeat until the fire is DEAD out.

If it is too hot to touch, it is too hot to leave.

Burn only wood

State regulations prohibit the open burning of any material that creates dense, toxic smoke or noxious odors. Burning paper and cardboard can also easily fly up to start new fires.

Escaped campfires can be costly. Oregon law requires the proper clearing, building,

attending and extinguishing of open fires at any time of year.

A first-time citation carries a \$110 fine. But by far the biggest potential cost is liability for firefighting costs if your campfire spreads out of control.

These can range from a few hundred to tens of thousands of dollars or more.

During Wildfire Awareness Month visit the Keep Oregon Green website, www.keeporegongreen.org for other wildfire prevention tips.

B&G CLUB 21ST ANNUAL GOLF TOURNEY TO HOST GOLF BALL DROP FUNDRAISER

The 21st Annual Fore! Kids Golf Classic happens Saturday, June 2, at Ocean Dunes Golf Links in Florence. Proceeds will assist in funding summer programs such as Brain Gain, field trips and athletics, as well as after-school and educational programs that teach real-life skills to the youth in Florence.

The event hosts more than 130 golfers and typically sells out several days in advance. For those wishing to register individually, as a twosome or foursome, organizers recommend signing up right away.

The \$89 per-player entry fee includes golf cart, hot dogs, beverages, team and individual awards, bar-

becue, and more.

Check-in for pre-registered participants, and day of registration begins at 8 a.m., with a shotgun start at 10:30 a.m. Hole-in-one prizes includes the chance to win a Ford F150 truck.

Entrants can also participate in a \$1 million-dollar shoot-out challenge and a \$5,000 putting contest. Entry forms are available at Ocean Dunes Golf Links, 3345 Munsel Lake Rd., The Boys & Girls Club, 1501 Airport Road, or request an entry via email, nancy@nancypear.com.

The annual helicopter golf ball drop fundraiser happens at 4 p.m. at

Ocean Dunes on tournament day. This year the club is adding a "match-

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ing funds" campaign. If the club raises \$14,000 by May 30, a matching \$14,000 will be donated. The person or representative of a business who donates \$500 or more will be entered

into a drawing to ride in the helicopter and drop the golf balls onto the fairway.

The grand prize for the ball in the cup or closest to the cup is \$1,500, sponsored by The H Group, a wealth management company. Three Rivers Casino Resort sponsors the second grand prize of \$777 for the ball furthest away from the cup.

Tickets are \$5 each. For details or to purchase tickets, call the B&G Club at 541-902-0304.

More than 500 youth are served by the Boys & Girls Club each year in Florence, and even more when school

is out during the summer months. Many of the club kids would literally have nowhere to go during summer break.

These programs are all made possible by the proceeds that are generated from the Fore! Kids Golf Classic and helicopter golf ball drop fundraiser events."

"Help Us, Help Them" is the club's mission statement. Proceeds form these two events also support programs such as SMART Girls, Passport To Manhood, Money Matters and others for youth, grades K-12.

For registration information or to take a tour, call the club or visit www.bgclw.org.

ODA OPENS RAZOR CLAMMING FROM CASCADE HEAD TO YACHATS

SALEM — The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) announce the reopening of razor clamming from Cascade Head to the mouth of the Yachats

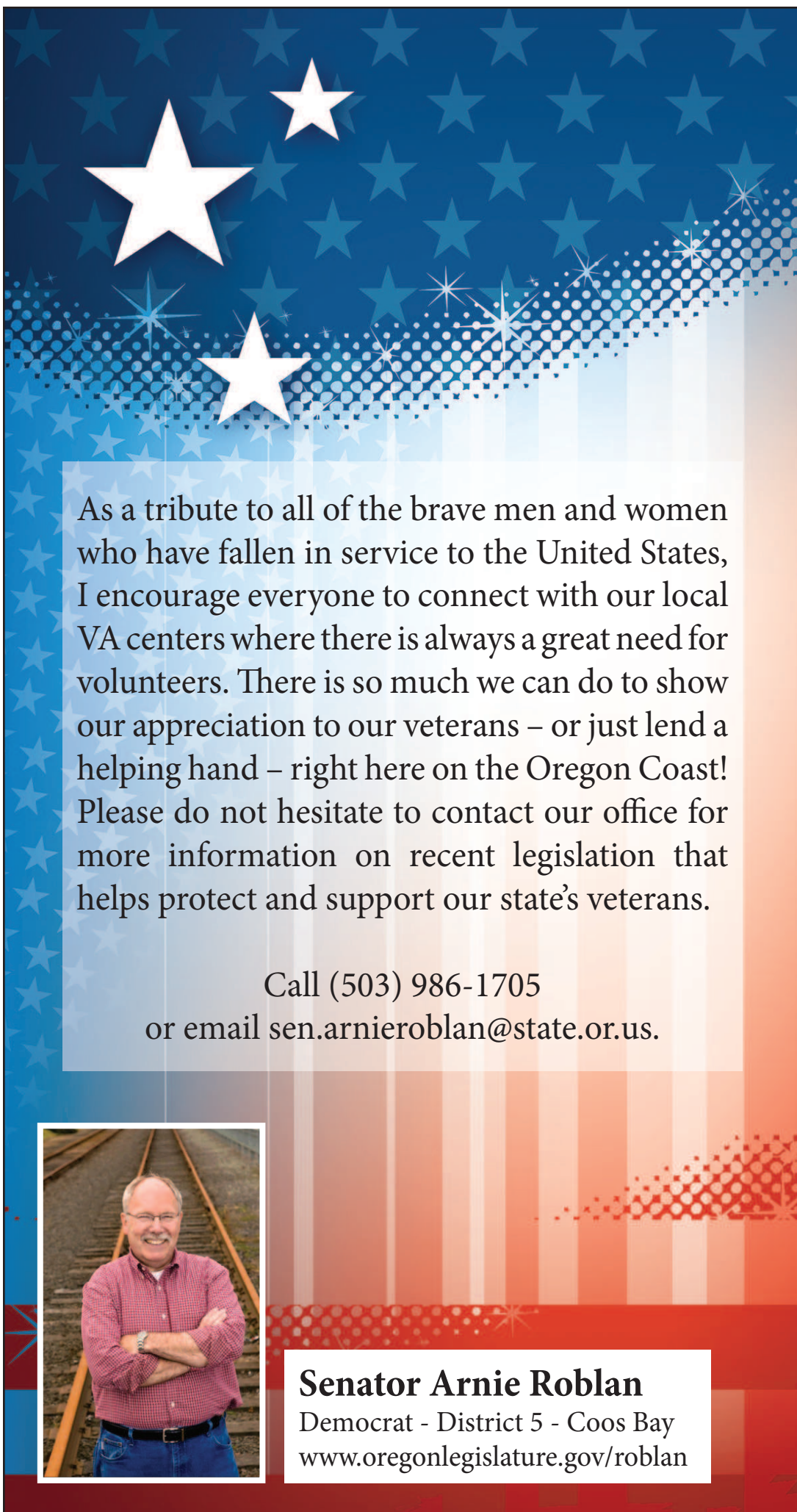
River as domoic acid levels have dropped below the alert level.

The harvesting of razor clams remains closed from Yachats River to the north jetty of the Umpqua River and closed from Cape Arago

to the California border.


This includes all beaches and all bays.

A result below the alert level will allow for the opening of razor clams from the Columbia River to Cape Arago.



As a tribute to all of the brave men and women who have fallen in service to the United States, I encourage everyone to connect with our local VA centers where there is always a great need for volunteers. There is so much we can do to show our appreciation to our veterans – or just lend a helping hand – right here on the Oregon Coast! Please do not hesitate to contact our office for more information on recent legislation that helps protect and support our state's veterans.

Call (503) 986-1705
or email sen.arnieroblan@state.or.us.



Senator Arnie Roblan
Democrat - District 5 - Coos Bay
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