

WORLD OCEANS DAY EVENT AT AQUARIUM TODAY

NEWPORT — The Oregon Coast Aquarium will celebrate World Oceans Day on Saturday, June 30. The event highlights the importance of the ocean and its inhabitants through interactive activities, raffles, and animal presentations.

The theme for 2018 World Oceans Day is "Our Oceans, Our Future."

The goal is to call attention to the ocean's inextricable link to the well-being of the planet, and how reducing plastic consumption benefits the world's largest ecosystem — from plankton to people.

The event will encourage guests to take part in everyday solutions to plastic pollution and marine litter.

Learn from Max the sea lion

and Schuster the sea otter as they show their commitment to recycling by disposing of plastic bottles in the proper receptacle.

Presentations starring JoJo the brown pelican will educate guests on the importance of proper waste disposal so that plastics and fishing line don't endanger seabirds.

Visitors can also chat with the marine mammal team about the aquarium's entanglement rehabilitation cases, like the northern fur seal pup.

Don't miss the once in a lifetime opportunity to see the dissection of a blue shark that was caught as bycatch.

To illustrate the concept of reducing plastic consumption, visitors are encouraged to take

the Better Bag Challenge by pledging to avoid disposable bags for at least one year.

Pledgers will receive a free aquarium tote bag sporting the slogan, "This Bag Saves Sea Turtles".

The annual World Oceans Day event is celebrated by organizations across the globe to promote understanding and stewardship of the ocean.

The aquarium will be hosting the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, NOAA Marine Operations (Pacific), USFS Cape Perpetua, Depoe Bay Whale Center with Oregon State Parks, Whale and Dolphin Conservation, and the American Cetacean Society.

Each organization will engage visitors with displays

and activities that inspire ocean conservation.

"World Oceans Day is a great opportunity to celebrate and honor the blue planet that we all depend on," said Jeff Harms, Education Manager at the Oregon Coast Aquarium. "The aquarium hopes to inspire visitors to appreciate our ocean and to take action in helping to keep it healthy. Working together, we can and will protect the ocean that connects us all."

World Oceans Day activities are free with aquarium admission and advance registration is not required.

For more information or to buy tickets online, visit aquarium.org or call 541-867-FISH.

GEMWALKERS TAKING JAUNT ALONG SALISHAN SPIT TODAY

The Yachats Coastal Gems walking group invites interested walkers on a family fun walk today, June 30.

The walk will be a leisure stroll out the Salishan Spit. Follow signs to Gleden Beach State Park Wayside, just south of Lincoln City, and meet in the picnic shelter of Gleden Beach State Park Wayside on Wesler Street.

Register for and start the walk between 8 a.m. and noon, and the walks finish by 3 p.m. The 3-, 6- and 13-mile walks are fairly level. However, due to sand, none of the walks are suitable for strollers or wheelchairs.

For more information, call Maryann at 541-961-4279 or email yachatscoastalgems@gmail.com.

Golf

traditional World War II biplane flyover by Aero Legends at Ocean Dunes Golf Links at 10 a.m. on Aug. 4.

To register to participate in

the tournament fundraiser, call Ocean Dunes Golf Links at 541-997-3232 or visit www.theforencerotary.org. Registration forms are also available at Ocean Dunes Golf Links, 3345 Munsel Lake Rd.

Little

however, is not decided by time. Its games go down to the last out.

Yogi Berra, former catcher for the NY Yankees, once stated "It ain't over until it's over." He meant "until the final out" but he is known to talk confusingly at times.

There have been many games in baseball and softball decided on a team's final at bat.

The biggest deficit overcome in MLB occurred Aug. 21, 1990.

I had to go to the internet to look up this fact. But I only had to take out my scorebook from 1999 to find the biggest deficit overcome by any team I have coached in over 25 years. The comeback was actually two innings in the same game.

On June 19, 1999, the Florence Junior Softball team played Dallas at the Waldport Tournament. I was the coach that year and we had the first game scheduled to begin at

10:05 a.m. The first three innings were pitcher dominated. Six of first nine outs were strikeouts, including three strikeouts to end the third inning.

We trailed 3-2 entering the fourth inning as Dallas, the visiting team, took advantage of a sudden lapse of defense from our team to score five runs in the top of the fourth inning. As the girls trudged into the dug-out they seemed defeated.

I had to change their outlook.

I walked over to the bat rack and gathered the bats and threw them loudly on the ground. The startled girls asked me what was wrong?

"Nothing. I just needed to wake up the bats," I said. "It seems they slept in this morning and we need them to be alert this inning. Now go hit like I know you can."

We rallied for six runs to tie the score 8-8, with five of those runs coming after two outs. We answered the challenge of Dallas and left the dugout excited

about the game.

The combination of Dallas hitting the ball and Florence unable to field it cleanly led to 8 Dallas runs before its last out. This time, the girls entered the dugout angry at themselves for the errors and poor defense; now Dallas had a commanding 8-run lead at 16-8.

The bottom of the fifth would be our last at bat.

I have a good memory — but I had to go to the scorebook to give you the following play-by-play of the fifth inning.

Our first batter, Millie, walked. Brandy followed with another walk but was thrown out at second on an attempted double steal. With 1 out, Miranda walked to put runners at the corners on first and third.

Next, Melissa singled to score the first run of the inning, making it 16-9. Allison then flew out to leftfield.

We now had two outs and trailed by 7 runs. The dugout and fans were quiet until Kelsey singled to score a run. Then

Amanda doubled to score 2 more runs and put us within four runs (16-12) as our fans were stirring.

Krista got aboard on a walk as our two-out rally continued — with Stephanie walking to load the bases.

At that point, as the Dallas team was getting worried, we are getting more and more excited. Take my word for it: there's nothing quite as loud as 11 young girls yelling and screaming.

Fortunately for me I was coaching at third base.

That's when the parents and fans joined in making noise and the excitement continued as Lara singled to drive in 2 more runs to put us within 2 runs of tying the game.

At 16-14, Molly walked to bring Tatjana to the plate, where she quickly fell behind in the count with a pair of strikes before unleashing the bat for a double, scoring all three runners — including Molly, who beat the throw to the plate for the winning run.

Florence had scored 15 runs in the final two innings, includ-

ing 13 of those runs with two outs on the board.

There are few lessons in life to match what happened on that softball field. They girls learned to trust in their teammates, have confidence in their own ability and, most of all, never give up.

Whenever I hear "It ain't over until the last out" I think of that game from almost 19 years ago. It still ranks as the most thrilling game I have ever coached, watched or played in.

No matter how he said it, Yogi was right.

Tracy Wolfard

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