

STRANDED SEA TURTLE RESCUED BY GOOD SAMARITAN

NEWPORT — The Oregon Coast Aquarium admitted a severely injured and hypothermic olive ridley sea turtle this morning for care.

Civilians found the turtle yesterday afternoon while walking near Horsefall Beach in North Bend, Coos Bay. Pictures and a video of the sea turtle were posted in a Facebook group, “What’s Happening Coos Bay.” Unfortunately, due to the rising tide and dangerously large surf, the turtle was not able to be retrieved before washing back out to sea.

A good Samaritan, Misty White, saw the post on Facebook and a comment linking to the aquarium’s sea turtle rehabilitation program. “I didn’t think the sea turtle would make it through another high tide,” she explained. “And if the aquarium could rescue it, then all I had to do was find it.”

White gathered her family to search for the missing sea turtle on the beach after dark during low tide. At 9:52 p.m., the aquarium received a picture of the turtle via Facebook message: “I found the turtle on the beach and called State Police.”

In the late-night hours that followed, White assisted in transporting the sea turtle to the Horsefall Beach parking lot, where it was picked up by

State Trooper, Josh Mullins. Mullins brought the turtle to a nearby state police office until early this morning, when aquarium staff traveled south to Reedsport to retrieve the reptile.

Upon pickup, Oregon Coast Aquarium Curator of Fish and Invertebrates, Evonne Mochon-Collura reported extreme injuries sustained by the turtle, with external bleeding and broken scutes on its carapace and plastron, or top and bottom of shell, respectively. Its body temperature measured 46° F, which is about 30° lower than the healthy, standard temperature of a sea turtle.

Staff are currently evaluating the turtle’s condition, administering fluids, taking X-Rays and performing a blood draw.

Oftentimes in cases of extreme cold-stun and injury, the animal is compromised beyond repair. Cold-blooded reptiles like sea turtles are slow to get sick and slow to recover. While the prognosis is uncertain at this time, if a sea turtle is left in the ocean or on the beach, it will die without question.

“Thank you to Misty for finding the turtle and making the call to Oregon State Police,” said Mochon-Collura. “If there is even a slight chance of rehabilitation, the Oregon

Coast Aquarium will give it our best shot.”

The Oregon Coast Aquarium is the only rehabilitation facility in Oregon authorized to rehabilitate sea turtles. Partnership with other organizations, like the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Oregon State Police, Seattle Aquarium and SeaWorld, is essential to the successful rehabilitation and release of these endangered species.

To donate to sea turtle rehabilitation at the Oregon Coast Aquarium, please visit www.aquarium.org/give.

Sea turtles are not found on Oregon or Washington beaches unless stranded. The aquarium typically sees these extremely sick turtles in the winter, possibly due to the cold water temperatures, changing currents, and high frequency of harsh storms that wash the hypothermic turtles ashore.

If you find a sea turtle on the beach, immediately note its location, remain nearby to observe it, and contact the Oregon State Police Tipline at 800-452-7888 or the Marine Mammal Stranding Network in Oregon, Washington and California at 1-866-767-6114.

The aquarium is open every day from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information visit aquarium.org or call (541) 867-3474.

ODFW SEEKS CANDIDATE FOR FISH SCREENING TASK FORCE

SALEM — The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife is seeking a candidate to represent fishing or fish conservation interests on the state’s Fish Screening Task Force.

The ODFW Fish Screening Program helps water users install and maintain fish screens to prevent fish from entering water diversions. The Task Force advises ODFW on program development, implementation, monitoring, technology, funding and reporting.

“Task Force members represent a variety of groups and interests, which is important in creating a program that’s responsive to fish and social needs,” said Ken Loffink, ODFW fish screening coordinator.

The Task Force meets three times a year at various locations, and meetings may include a field trip to project sites in the area.

The seven members of the Task Force are appointed by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission. Three members represent agricultural inter-

ests, three members represent fishing or fish conservation interests, and one member represents the public at large.

Members serve two-year terms and may be reappointed.

Applications are due by Jan. 11, 2019. Individuals interested in serving on the task force

can apply by completing the application form found on the fish screening program website and submitting the completed application via email to ken.j.loffink@state.or.us or by mail to Ken Loffink, ODFW Fish Screening Program, 4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE, Salem, OR 97302.

Vikings from 1B

fourth period.

Hennessee led Siuslaw with 9 points, with 5 points from Thornton, 4 points from sophomore Jacob Foskett, 3 points from senior Dylan Wynn and two points from senior Nick swift.

The Viks hosted Pleasant Hill last night (after press deadlines) and will host Stayton this Tuesday, beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Siuslaw from 1B

12 points for the rest of the game.

The Lady Vikings (2-5) hosted Pleasant Hill last night (after press deadlines) and will host Stayton in another non-league match-up at home this Tuesday.

Tip-off is set for 7 p.m.

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