

NEW LEGISLATION MOST SIGNIFICANT WILDLIFE CONSERVATION IN A CENTURY

Two bills — one signed by the Governor earlier this month (HB 2829), and one recently introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives (HR 3742) — offer the most significant opportunities to fund fish and wildlife conservation in a century.

This year, the 2019 Oregon State Legislature passed HB 2829 to create the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund to conserve and manage Oregon's fish, wildlife, and their habitats.

The bill puts \$1 million in General Fund aside, to be matched by \$1 million in private funds raised by ODFW, as

seed money towards an alternative, sustainable funding source.

It also creates an Oregon Conservation and Recreation Advisory Committee to recommend how to spend monies from the Fund.

The 2019 bill was based on the recommendations of a Task Force created by the 2015 Oregon State Legislature that explored alternative funding for fish, wildlife and outdoor recreation.

Among other uses, the new Fund will be used to implement the Oregon Conservation Strategy, a blueprint for conservation in Oregon that sup-

ports voluntary actions to conserve species and their vital habitats before they become more rare and costly to protect.

“In 2016, the Task Force for funding for Fish, Wildlife and Related Outdoor Recreation and Education conducted a survey of Oregonians. It was clear from the survey that Oregonians strongly value our state's fish and wildlife, including many people who don't hunt and fish. Yet the majority of the funding for ODFW's programs are funded by hunters and anglers,” said Mark Labhart, Chair of the Task Force. “The Legislature agreed and HB 2829 gets us started

and well on the way to implementing the Oregon Conservation Strategy.”

“The Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund will help ensure that future generations of Oregonians can continue to enjoy the incredible natural landscapes that are so central to our way of life,” said Representative Ken Helm (D-Washington County), who was one of the sponsors of HB 2829.

Another significant funding source on the horizon is the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (H.R. 3742), introduced on

See WILDLIFE 2B

ODFW REGIONAL FISHING REPORT

www.dfw.state.or.us/RR

MID COAST LAKES:

Stocking of the mid-coast lakes began the first week of February and will continue into June. Check the stocking schedule online for dates and locations of stockings. These early stockings include: Alder and Dune Lake, Cleawox, Lost Lake, Munsel Lake, Thissel Pond, Mercer Lake, Big Creek

See FISHING 2B

Calendar

July 31

- Florence Softball 5:30 p.m. Welton vs ACC (North) Beachcomber vs Lofy (South) 7 p.m. Welton vs Beachcomber (North) ACC vs Lofy (South)

Aug. 6

- SYSA registration National Night Out on at Miller Park Or register online at www.siuslawsoccer.com. For more information, call 541-600-4409 or email siuslawyouthsoccer@gmail.com.

Tide Tables

Entrance Siuslaw River

High Tide	Low Tide
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June 27 9:23am / 4.6 8:43pm / 6.9	3:06am / 0.7 2:26pm / 2.8
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July 28 10:29am / 5.0 9:35pm / 7.3	4:01am / 0.0 3:30pm / 2.9
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July 29 11:24am / 5.4 10:27pm / 7.7	4:52am / -0.7 4:29pm / 2.8
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July 30 12:13am / 5.8 11:18pm / 8.1	5:39am / -1.3 5:23pm / 2.5
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July 31 12:57pm / 6.1	6:25am / -1.8 6:15pm / 2.2
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Aug. 1 12:08am / 8.3 1:40pm / 6.5	7:10am / -2.0 7:07pm / 1.8
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Aug. 2 12:59am / 8.3 2:22pm / 6.8	7:54am / -2.0 7:58pm / 1.5
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JARED ANDERSON/SIUSLAW NEWS

2019 Siuslaw High School graduate Lexi Smith has been invited to play catcher for America's Team, which will compete against softball teams from around the globe.

SMITH TO CATCH FOR AMERICA'S TEAM

By JARED ANDERSON
Siuslaw News

It started with a fake bunt. “There was a runner on second, and they went to steal third,” softball catcher Alexis Smith said of a summer ball game she played a few years ago.

If Smith were to go by the book, “the second basemen gets a lead almost on third base to get us to throw to the shortstop on second. And then, when we throw to second, the runner on third would score,” Smith said.

But that's not what happened in this case.

“I was smart enough to throw to third because I knew what they were doing,” she said. “There was a runner on second, and the runner went to steal third. But I threw down to third to get her. It got past her, and then the shortstop was backing her up. The shortstop got it, and the girl was running home — and she threw it to me and I caught it.”

The runner was in a pickle, going back and forth between bases.

“We were just throwing it back and forth and she was running. And then I got it and



NED HICKSON/SIUSLAW NEWS

Lexi Smith played catcher for the Lady Viking for two years, receiving all-league honors both seasons.

she wasn't stopping. So, I just put my guard up and she ran into me. And she fell, but I was still standing. Most of my teammates didn't know what was going on, they were confused. But I knew it. I just threw to third. It takes a lot of playing to realize what people are doing, and what ways you can score runs.”

Smith has been standing tall as a catcher in a wide variety of teams throughout her career. As a catcher at Siuslaw High School, where she just

graduated, she was Sky-Em League Second Team All-League honoree and was selected from among the Oregon School Activities Association's 4A classification of all-league rosters throughout the state.

And Smith was just chosen for America's Team, an educational program that brings various sports — from softball to volleyball — to different countries in an attempt to bridge cultural divides through sports.

“She established herself as one of the top catchers in 4A softball this year. She is a hitter that will provide a lot of pop in our lineup,” said Brittany Hendrickson, who is the head coach at Mount Hood and is coaching team Oregon for an 11-game tour in Australia next year.

“I got an email from the

See SMITH 3B

TIME OUT

By Lloyd Little
Retired teacher, coach and game official

With more than 55 years as an athlete, coach, parent and spectator, Lloyd Little has gained some insights and perspectives regarding athletics. Each week, he shares what he's learned about sports from his multiple points of view.

The 'Next Level'

Until you are a professional athlete playing in an all-star competition, athletes everywhere are moving to the “next level.” As young athletes, most of our competition is age-related. Birth certificates are carried by worrisome parents thinking their early maturing super star may be accused of being too old.

This was definitely my question a few years back when I watched the NFL punt, pass and kick competition on TV. One 13-year-old male participant had a full beard and towered over his fellow competitors. As athletes compete in skills competition in a variety of sports, the goal is to reach the next level. Most often, I read about college athletes foregoing their remaining years of eligibility to move on to that next level. The rising salaries and increasing prize money rewarding professional athletes seems to have an influence on the decision of some underclass players to turn professional.

Once athletes enter a middle or high school's selected sports programs, their “next level” is generally dictated by their grade levels with progression following a grade-appropriate level of competition, i.e., athletes advancing from seventh-grade to eighth-grade sports teams. Upon entering high school, there are multiple levels of team selections. Depending on the sport and skills an athlete possesses at the high school level, progress generally moves from frosh to junior varsity to varsity. Smaller schools, like Mapleton, will often have fewer levels, with teams are chosen by coaches from players who show up for tryouts. It is then that an athlete's “next level” may sometimes warrant skipping the lower-tier teams.

See LITTLE 3B

MARINE BOARD WARNS PADDLERS, FLOATERS OF LOW WATER LEVELS

Marine board warns paddlers, floaters of low water levels

It's that time of year when lower water levels create safety challenges for paddlers and floaters, especially inexperienced recreators who are unfamiliar with how to safely maneuver their craft around obstructions near the banks or

just below the surface of the water.

The Oregon State Marine Board offers the following tips on how to have fun and stay safe:

- Always float with a friend, especially in paddlecraft or float tubes. Have at least two boats or float devices and a plan if you become separated.

Always fill out a float plan or give detailed information to a friend or family member about where you're going, when you expect to return, what clothing you're wearing, and who's with you. Also, put contact information on your craft so if you get separated, the craft can be returned.

- Keep your wits about you.

Boating in rivers can be extremely relaxing; so much so, that it's easy to be hypnotized and less aware of your surroundings. Always keep a sharp lookout and routinely scan from left to right and right to left for logs, submerged objects, and the watch the

See LEVELS 2B