

Sharing the warmth



COURTESY PHOTOS

The quilters of New Life Lutheran Church (NLLC) have donated 20 quilts to the Florence Warming Center, which is in the process of relocating to property owned by First Step. Not only are these quilts warm and cozy, but they are beautiful. The group of talented quilters includes: Ardel Braley, Carol Slaugh, Doris Creager, Betty Livingston, Myla Ostrem, Joy McCourt, Jan Hirsch, and Jodi Brigman. Over the years, the quilters have sent quilts to many countries of the world to provide warmth and sometimes shelter to needy people but due to the pandemic transportation has been halted. New Life Lutheran Church is located at 21st and Spruce streets. This group is a community effort and any person wishing to apply for membership in this group can call the church at 541-997-8113 for more information.

State parks booking changes to six months

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) bagen accepting new reservations from one day to six months ahead beginning this past Thursday. The change is the latest step in managing future reservations during the COVID-19 pandemic. Early last summer, the reservation booking window temporarily changed from one day to two weeks, then to 30 days, while OPRD slowly re-opened camping after a two-month closure. In normal times, the reservation window is one day to nine months. “A shorter reservation window helps us deal with the uncertainty posed by state management of the COVID-19 emergency, and the financial hit of changing, cancel-

ing and refunding reservations,” said Lisa Sumption, director of OPRD. State parks are funded by revenue from park visitors, a small share of the Oregon Lottery, and a portion of state recreational vehicle registrations. “Although revenue stopped during the two-month closure and continues to be less than what we’ve earned in past years, we’ve adjusted our operations and now are comfortable extending the reservation booking window,” she said. “All of us extend a heartfelt thank you to our visitors as we continue to evaluate our operations to better serve campers and day-use visitors as we head into the spring and summer.” In addition to the reservation booking window change,

all new campsite, yurt and cabin openings will become available at 6 a.m. each day rather than midnight. This minor change is being made to improve customer service. “No more staying up to midnight to make an online reservation,” Sumption said. “If you try to reserve a site beyond the 30-day window at midnight Jan. 14, you will see the sites marked with an ‘X’ for unavailable. All available sites will be marked with an ‘A’ at 6 a.m., Jan. 14, and each day going forward. More changes to the reservation window are possible as the year goes on. Oregon State Parks reservations are accepted online, and by phone at 800-452-5687, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday (closed holidays).

Elks help provide Christmas for local special needs families

Each year, the Florence Autism Family Support Group has had the opportunity to join forces with the Arc of Lane Counties Family Connect and Oregon Family Support Network to bring local families of special-need and autistic children a Christmas party. Initially, it was believed the annual party would have to be cancelled because any plans for fundraising for many of these organizations. In addition, there were the the limitations of COVID-19 guidelines to adhere to. When reaching out to the Florence Elks Lodge to let the organization know it was doubtful this year’s Christmas party would happen, The Elks immediately stepped up to the challenge. The Elks worked to give Florence families a party, funding the meals as well as gifts for families. This included stuffed animals and bags of candy made for



COURTESY PHOTO

Santa was assisted by a “Santa Stormtrooper” during this year’s Florence Autism Family Support Group’s annual Christmas party. every child that came. Thanks to the Elks and the Autism Society of Oregon, Florence families had another successful year of being able to serve more than 75 meals and provide Christmas for more than 25 special-need children. We could never have been able to do it with out them,” said Danielle Walk of the Florence Autism Family Support Group. “We thank them and look forward to working with them again next year. We also wish to thank the wonderful volunteers who cooked meals, helped with clean up and passing out gifts. “Thank you Santa and our holiday Stormtrooper for all the help as well.”

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.

Traveling Support

If you are planning to have your children participate in the world of sports competition, make sure you have a well running automobile. Better still would be a vehicle capable of transporting your children, their teammates, with non-traveling parents, equipment and a cooler with water. This transportation is normally used during the summer sports competition, when the school is not involved. And have *good* insurance on your car.

Seeing is believing, or so I am told. Instead of writing in general terms about the thousands of miles my wife and I put on our Caravan transporting and supporting our children’s teams, I have decided to list those towns alphabetically with the round-trip mileage for each. I am listing towns just once but keep in mind we had four athletes competing in three and four sports each year. This included multiple trips to the same league opponents no less than three times each year. The cities include travel for Elks Free throw competitions, NFL Punt, Pass and Kick competitions, softball, basketball, baseball and track clinics or camps for extra skills development. In the book I wrote for our children, I listed these cities in the chapter on our traveling for support of their sports. Oh, the places we did go and the competitions we did see! They were: Albany 200, Ashland 416, Azalea 156, Aloha 340, Bandon 146, Bend 360, Brookings 312, Beaverton 340, Boardman 510, Canby 314, Central 210, Clatskanie 390, Coos Bay 102, Coquille 136, Corvallis 180, Cottage Grove 170, Creswell 150, Dallas 244, Dayton 260, Douglas 210, Elmira 100, Eugene 120, Estacada 310, Gardiner 40, Gold Beach 254, Grants Pass 310, Harrisburg 150, Heppner 560, Hillsboro 316, Henley 490,

See LITTLE 2B

ODFW invites artists to compete in annual wildlife art contest

Artists in Oregon and throughout the world are invited to compete in one or all three of ODFW’s 2022 stamp art competitions. The winning artist in each contest receives a \$2,000 award and winning artwork is used to produce collector stamps and other promotional items with sale proceeds benefiting Oregon’s fish, wildlife and their habitats. For more information on contest rules and to order art prints, visit www.dfw.state.or.us/stamp_contest/index.asp **Stamp art contests:** Habitat Conservation Stamp Art entries must feature an eligible species from the Oregon Conservation Strategy in its natural habitat. Species include birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, fish, invertebrates, plants and algae. See contest rules and entry

See ART 2B

ODFW REGIONAL FISHING REPORT

www.dfw.state.or.us/RR

Local Lakes and Ponds:

North Coast lakes are done with trout stocking until next spring, but many lakes have holdover trout from earlier season’s stockings. Warmwater fishing should be over for the year as water temperatures are too cold to keep those species active. Mid-coast lakes will receive trout stockings the first couple weeks of February. These lakes include: Cleawox, Munsel, Alder and Dune lakes. Wild coho fisheries in Siltcoos and Tahkenitch lakes are open and provide a unique opportunity to catch a coho in a coastal lake. **SIUSLAW RIVER:** Winter steelhead Winter steehead fishing on the Siuslaw has been blown out with the recent high water. Expect the first good push of fish to be around when the river drops back into shape this week-end and next week. The Whitaker Creek area is the best place to target returning hatchery fish. Hatchery fish are also planted in Lake Creek and are released into hatchery fish will start to show up in December and peak in January and February. **ALSEA RIVER:** Winter steel-head Winter steelhead fishing is picking up on the Alsea River. The recent high water has put fish on the move headed for the hatchery on the NF Alsea and anglers are catching them. Conditions will be good this

See FISHING 3B

Tide Tables	
Entrance Siuslaw River	
High Tide	Low Tide
Jan. 16 2:34am / 7.0 8:07am / 2.9 1:47pm / 7.5 8:38pm / -0.2	
Jan. 17 3:13am / 6.9 2:33pm / 6.9	8:57am / 2.8 9:16pm / 0.5
Jan. 18 3:52am / 6.98 9:51am / 2.7 3:23pm / 6.2 9:53pm / 1.2	
Jan. 19 4:31am / 6.8 4:21pm / 5.6	10:50am / 2.6 10:33pm / 1.9
Jan. 20 5:11am / 6.8 11:53am / 2.4 5:30pm / 5.1 11:16pm / 2.6	
Jan. 21 5:54am / 6.9 6:52pm / 4.8	12:59pm / 2.1
Jan. 22 6:40am / 6.9 12:08am / 3.2 8:17pm / 4.9 2:01pm / 1.6	