

Enjoy free fish, crab or clam weekend

Fishing, crabbing and clamming are great Oregon traditions and, on June 6-7, Oregonians can do it all for free.

June 6-7 is Free Fishing Weekend so on those two days you won't need a fishing or shellfish license to fish, crab or clam anywhere in the state. You also don't need to buy any additional tags. (But all other current fishing and shellfish regulations will still apply.)

"If you've never been fishing, or if you've always wanted to try clamming or crabbing, Free Fishing Weekend is a great time to discover how much fun they can be," said Rick Hargrave, Oregon Department of Fish and

Wildlife deputy administrator for information/education.

"Oregon offers an incredible variety of fishing opportunities, whether you're looking for a nearby pond where you can take the kids or a remote mountain stream you can have to yourself," he added.

To help beginning anglers get their feet wet, ODFW and its partners are offering over 30 free fishing events throughout the state. At most events there will be free loaner equipment for novice anglers, special events for children, and lots of volunteers to help. For a complete list of events with times and locations, go to http://www.dfw.state.or.us/resources/event/s/free_fishing/events.asp

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"Even if you've never baited a hook, we can show you how to fish," Hargrave said.

For anglers who would like to explore any of the state's hundreds of lakes, rivers and streams on their own, ODFW offers an Easy Angling Oregon guide, Warmwater Fishing in Oregon booklets, and an extensive Web site to help you decide where to go. Visit www.dfw.state.or.us to find out more.

Free Fishing Weekend is always the first weekend after the first Monday in June. But remember, it's always free fishing for kids under 14 years-old.

Fundraiser Festival, June 20

Time is growing near for the second annual Celebrate Cornelius Community Fundraiser Festival on Saturday, June, 20, from 11-2 p.m. The festivities will take place in the lot adjacent to Murphy's Furniture at 2962 Baseline in Cornelius, two minutes west of Hillsboro on the TV highway.

Plan to attend if you are ready for some good old-fashioned family fun. Hot dogs, popcorn and refreshing lemonade (all courtesy of Grande' Foods) will be sold benefiting the boys and girls club satellite programs in Cornelius sponsored by the wonderful Sports Look Volunteers. Plenty of activities will be happening for kids and parents alike including, face paintings, the balloon toss and a classic favorite, the cakewalk.

Volunteers from the Boys and Girls Club, Washington County's "Sky's The Limit" educational programs and Murphy's Furniture staff will be demonstrating true civic pride. The Monster Inflatable slide will be there as well. It brought many squeals of fun and smiles last year to the young and "not so young" attendees who heard the call to climb to the top. The Cornelius library will be "pitching the virtue" of their

coin toss booth as well as supplying information on their summer reading programs. Cornelius fire and police departments will be on hand with trucks and squad cars to view, and some helpful summer safety tips. The most exciting addition this year is the all-new Cornelius Celebrity Dunk Tank. What an awesome opportunity to send your favorite local high profile luminary – like Mayor Bill Bash, City Manager David Waffle, Grandè Foods Owner Tom Evans, and Echo Shaw Principal Rogelio Martinez – "Down with a Splash!". (All in the name of raising lots of money for the Boys & Girls Club, of course!) There are still a few spots available for more brave Notable Personages who dare to be a "sitting duck" for charity.

For more information, call Murphy's Furniture 503-640-1124.

Practice 10 summer water safety tips

For many Americans, being pulled from the end of a long, slim tow line attached to a speeding motorboat is a summer rite of passage. The BoatU.S. Foundation for Boating Safety has these top 10 summer watersport safety tips for waterskiers, wakeboarders and tubers that will guarantee everyone has a great time:

1. Float first: Ensure anyone being towed has a properly fitting life jacket that won't ride up over a wearer's head if they take a spill. A Type III vest is best because it has the extra buckles to provide a snug fit and is built for taking a hard fall.
2. Talk to the hand: A rider has very little control over a tube, and skiers and boarders

need control help, too. Before anyone jumps in the water, go over a few standard hand signals, such as stop (hand slashing the neck), slow (thumb down), speed up (thumb up), OK (tip of index finger and thumb together), turn (point finger upwards in a circular motion) and return to dock (pat head).

3. Engine off: Always turn off the boat's engine when a rider is entering or exiting the water. Not only can a prop rotate while the motor is in "neutral," the engine exhaust produces carbon monoxide. Also, never back up to retrieve a fallen rider.

4. Wait for the OK: Once a skier is in the water, wait until they are far enough away from

the boat and signal that it's OK to start the engine.

5. Spotter is a must: It's very important to have constant visual contact with anyone being towed. It's also the law in most states.

See water safety page 22

Farmers Market open Mondays

The 2009 Banks Farmers Market opened on Monday, June 1. The market will be held at Log Cabin Park on Main St., every Monday until September 28, from 3:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

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