

Hunter education classes now online

Oregon's hunter education students can now register for a class or field day online at ODFW's licensing sales website under the "Classes/Workshops" tab at www.dfw.state.or.us.

Students may also register at any license sales agent or ODFW office that sells licenses and tags. Previously, students or their parents had to sign up by emailing or calling class instructors.

"Students and their parents have been asking for this for years, and we're thrilled to finally be able to offer it," said James Reed, ODFW hunter education coordinator. "It should streamline the sign-up process for students and our dedicated staff of volunteer hunter education instructors."

Oregon is the first state in the U.S. to integrate hunter education registration with its licensing sales system," Reed added.

To register, students will need to purchase a hunter education class application fee, which is \$10. When registering, the student chooses the date and time of their desired class or field day. Contact information for the class instructor is printed on their receipt.

Students who do not have internet access or cannot go to a license sales agent should contact the Hunter Education Department at 503-947-6028 to sign up for a class or field day.

Hunter education is mandatory for all hunters under the age of 18, and recommended

for any new hunter. The course covers topics like firearms safety, hunter ethics, wildlife identification, hunt preparation and techniques and outdoor survival. The program certifies about 6,000 new hunters each year. Classes are taught by ODFW's network of volunteer hunter education instructors.

Students may choose to take the hunter education course entirely in a classroom setting or by independent study (online or by workbook). Independent students must pass a required field day that includes live fire exercises before getting certified.

More information at www.dfw.state.or.us/education/hunter/index.asp.

Bits & Bites

By Jacqueline Ramsay



A chilly December morn to you. Once in a while I see the sun. Do you remember what it looked like? A couple of days ago I saw it set and five minutes later I saw a full moon shining a bright cold orange.

The latest on my trip down "the road to recovery". I got the brace off, and a bunch more exercises to do, a week ago. The good news was they canceled my Friday treatments, that means therapy only on Mondays. Yippee, but then I awoke Sunday morning to a pain in my right ear and oozing goo. So off to the E.R. I go. Blocked ear canal, power pills and ear drop meds. A trip to an ear specialist. He cleaned out all the wax, gave me a hearing test, and said, "If it is still not open on the 30th, come back and I'll punch a hole in the drum so it will drain out." At this point, I'm looking to return and get a drain tube. Oh yes, one more thing, to exercise my fingers I now play with marbles and macaroni. But, I am back to writing, knitting, but no dishes, sweep no floors or lift anything over the weight of a glass of water or a cup of tea. That's the GOOD (for me), the BAD and the UGLY (for my grand-daughter). Ho Ho Ho.

One more thing to marvel at – the forsythia (with all the cold) still has fresh blooms on it.

Christmas is getting too close. Our church had the "Angel Tree" Christmas for the children. Our Bible Study group had our Christmas party today. All I have to do now is get some small nails, dress for the North Pole, go outside and put up my outdoor lights and set up Santa and Frosty under my Hinoki cypress.

I've rattled about me long enough, so how about you all? Are you sick or well? Cold or not? Bored or happy and on the go? Ready or not, Christmas is only 13 days away at present (but when you read this it will be December 21) and then it will be 2012 before you read me again. So...

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you and yours from,

Jacqueline and Shadow in the Concrete Jungle.

Marine Board seeks public opinion

The Oregon State Marine Board seeks public comment on proposed rules that would identify a list of invasive species that are approved for removal by groups participating in the program, along with protocols to follow and the development of best management practices to guide program activity.

The 2011 Oregon Legislature, through HB 3157 directed

the Marine Board to update the Adopt-A-River Program. These rules will clarify program compliance and requirements. The public meeting, beginning at 4:00 p.m., is scheduled for December 28, at the Marine Board office, 435 Commercial Street NE, Salem. Written comment will be accepted through December 31.

Written comments can be submitted via email to osmb.

rulemaking@state.or.us or by U.S. mail to June LeTarte, Rules Coordinator, 435 Commercial Street NE, Suite 400, P.O. Box 14145, Salem, OR 97309-5056. Comments via telephone cannot be accepted.

To review the proposed rule language to make public comment on, visit www.boatoregon.com/OSMB/admin/OSMB_Rulemaking_Newpage.shtml.

24 Years Ago This Month

The December 24, 1987, issue of *The Independent* included the following news story on the front page:

Vernonia's water treatment plant can pump more than a million gallons of water per day, the city's superintendent of public works, Mike Smith, told the city council on December 21 as he contradicted statements at the December 7 council meeting that the plant didn't meet specifications.

At the earlier meeting, water superintendent Tom West responded to a question by saying the plant couldn't meet the specifications. The council responded by requesting more information from West and Smith before referring questions to the city's consulting engineers.

Smith, who was unable to attend the early December

meeting, presented mathematical data that, he said, West misunderstood and that showed the plant's capacity. Smith said West was confusing data on the plant's in-line booster, which pumps water through the filter, with main pumps, which run only part of the time.

If the main pumps ran for 24 hours, Smith added, they would pump 1,008,000 gallons of water.

The council instructed city attorney Tom Kohl to amend the city ordinance to allow one citizen from outside the city limits to serve on the planning commission because, they felt, that legitimate involvement by people outside the city should be recognized.

A separate telephone line for the city library was approved at the December 7 meeting. Librarian Sandy Nimz told the

council that a small state grant, plus a donation from the local Lions Club, would pay for the phone for the remainder of the fiscal year, and requested that an expenditure be included in the next budget to continue this service.

Nimz quoted increased library usage as one reason for having a separate line, and was supported by city recorder Don Dunaway who said he felt it would be an improvement. The recorder's office and library have been sharing the same line.

The December 24, 1987, issue of *The Independent* included the following news story on page 3:

The rezoning of most of the 800 block of Madison Avenue, from residential to commercial, received its second approval at

a public hearing held by the Vernonia City Council on December 7, 1987.

The change was requested by Howard "Pat" Knight, owner of the first two lots north of Bridge Street, on the west side of Madison, so he could rent one of his properties to a small laser manufacturing business.

Scott Sword, a resident of 891 Madison, said he had no objections to the zone change, but wanted to know where the

cars generated by the business would park.

David Smith, owner of the laser business, said he planned to use an adjacent vacant lot, also owned by Knight, for parking.

The change approved by the council was for the east side of the block, and for 3/4 of the west side of the block. Two residential properties remain unchanged.

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