

Sports News:  
The Siuslaw News  
P.O. Box 10  
Florence, OR 97439  
Fax: (541) 997-7979  
Email: sports@thesiuslawnews.com

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## A Sporting View

By Mark Vasto

### The greatest fight held that day

Will all the hand-wringing and wrangling lead to a Ringling Brothers-worthy spectacle? Can a “should have happened five years ago” championship fight between Floyd Mayweather and Manny Pacquiao on May 2 really be considered “the fight of the century?”

Will this fight settle, once and for all, if the undefeated Mayweather is “TBE” (the best ever)?

The answer to all of the above is “no.”

At face value, we are talking about two boxers who undeniably are past their primes. The day of the fight, Mayweather will be 38 and Pacquiao will be 36. There will be commentators for the fight younger than them. Both have lost a step.

Pacquiao has lost two fights, once getting dumped like a sack of rice — a shot so vicious that everyone, including this writer, had to worry about his health, and still do.

Also at face value? Ringside tickets at the MGM Grand will be available only to gamblers with a \$250,000 line of credit that they must put in play that weekend. Floor seats will

See **VIEW 3B**

## On the Bite

A weekly fishing report for the local region

[www.dfw.state.or.us/RR](http://www.dfw.state.or.us/RR)

### MID COAST LAKES:

The rainbow trout stocking program began in many mid coast lakes in early February. Be sure to check out the 2015 stocking schedule for the most up to date information. Fishing

See **FISHING 3B**

## Sports Calendar

### Spring sports

- March 17  
SHS baseball at Taft HS  
3 p.m.
- March 19  
SHS track  
SHS Icebreaker  
4 p.m.
- March 20  
SHS softball hosts Bandon  
5 p.m.

## Good cheer



Ned Hickson/Siuslaw News

Members of this year's mostly freshman Viking cheerleading team perform at halftime during Siuslaw's final game of the basketball season last week. The squad placed eighth at the 4A state tournament on Feb. 14.

# Something to CHEER about

At 4:15 a.m. on Feb. 14, members of Siuslaw's cheerleading squad weren't home dreaming about their Valentines. While most of us were sleeping, all nine members of the mostly freshmen Viking squad were already loaded onto a bus and heading to Portland to compete in the OSAA's 4A state cheerleading tournament.

BY NED HICKSON  
Siuslaw News

After a 4-hour trip down the I-5 corridor before dawn, the group would have a total of 2-1/2 minutes to demonstrate the culmination of a season's worth of preparation by executing a series of stunts, jumps, tumbles and motion techniques honed along the hardwood perimeter at basketball games.

“You're always thinking about the chance to compete at state,” says longtime Siuslaw coach Diane Conlee.

“Every practice, every game the team is thinking about how to improve its skills in order to earn the most points at state.”

Before the team hits the mats to perform in front of judges, it gets a chance to warm up in a series of rooms that eventually leads to the main floor. Because Siuslaw was one of the first teams to be scheduled, there was little time for nerves.

“We hardly had time to breath,”

Conlee says. “It seemed like we got there, took a deep breath — and then we were on.”

After weeks of training and performing, as well as competing in two OSAA-sanctioned meets in order to qualify for state, everything comes down to 150 seconds.

“There's no consolation round or wrestleback,” says Conlee.

See **CHEER 3B**

## Undersea glider can ‘think like a fish’

OSU project will help identify oceanic hot spots with help of robot

CORVALLIS — Oregon State University researchers have received a \$1 million grant from the W.M. Keck Foundation that will allow them to outfit a pair of undersea gliders with acoustical sensors to identify biological “hot spots” in the coastal ocean.

They also hope to develop an onboard computing system that will program the gliders to perform different functions depending on what they encounter.

In other words, the scientists say, they want to outfit a robotic undersea glider to “think like a fish.”

“We spend all of this time on ships, deploying instrumentation that basically is designed to see how ocean biology aggregates around physical features — like hake at the edge of the continental shelf or salmon at upwelling fronts,” said Jack Barth, a professor in OSU's College of Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences and a principal investigator on the project. “But that just gives us a two-week window into a particular area.

“We already have a basic understanding of the ecosystem,” Barth added. “Now we want to get a better handle of what kind of marine animals are out there, how many there are, where they are distributed, and how they respond to phytoplankton



Tristan Peery/OSU

OSU's fleet of undersea gliders will expand to 21 by the year 2012.

blooms, schools of baitfish or oceanic features.

“It will benefit a variety of stakeholders, from the fishing industry and resource managers to the scientific community.”

Barth is a physical oceanographer who knows the physical processes of the coastal ocean. He'll work with Kelly Benoit-Bird, a marine ecologist, who specializes in the relationships among marine organisms from tiny plankton to large whales.

Her work utilizes acoustics to identify and track animals below the ocean surface — and it is these sensors that

will open up a new world of research aboard the gliders.

“Our first goals are to understand the dynamics of the Pacific Northwest upwelling system, find the biological hotspots, and then see how long they last,” Benoit-Bird said. “Then we'd like to learn what we can about the distribution of prey and predators — and the relationship of both to oceanic conditions.”

Using robot-mounted acoustic sensors, the OSU researchers will be able to identify different kinds of marine

See **GLIDER 3B**

## TIDE TABLE

Entrance Siuslaw River

High Tide Low Tide

Feb. 28

7:55am / 7.0 1:56am / 3.3  
9:36pm / 5.9 3:02pm / 0.7

March 1

8:54am / 7.0 3:01am / 3.1  
10:20pm / 6.1 3:52pm / 0.5

March 2

9:45am / 7.1 3:54am / 2.7  
10:57pm / 6.4 4:34pm / 0.4

March 3

10:29am / 7.2 4:38am / 2.4  
11:28pm / 6.6 5:10pm / 0.4

March 4

11:09am / 7.2 5:17am / 2.0  
11:57pm / 6.8 5:43pm / 0.4

March 5

11:46am / 7.2 5:53am / 1.7  
6:13pm / 0.5

March 6

12:25am / 7.0 6:28am / 1.4  
12:22pm / 7.1 6:43pm / 0.7

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148 Maple St.  
Florence  
541-997-3441