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SIUSLAW NEWS
AND RECREATION
SPORTS
SATURDAY

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MARCH 28 • 2015

Lil' Toad wrestlers hop to mats next week

Middle school wrestlers will get high school coaching

By NED HICKSON
Siuslaw News

Beginning next week, Siuslaw Middle Schoolers interested in getting hands-on with wrestling will have the chance to get insight and inspiration from long-time Siuslaw High School coach Neil Wartnik and his staff.

On Tuesday, wrestlers of all experience levels — or with none at all — will meet for an overview of the spring

Lil' Toads wrestling program, which will focus on developing fundamental skills in preparation for high school, as well as creating a love and appreciation for the sport itself.

"We hope to be working with at least 50 kids," Wartnik said of his goal for the program, which will last six to seven weeks and culminate in a competition. "Wrestling is a great sport with a lot to offer in terms of individual development both physically and in terms of maturity."

Joining Wartnik will be high school assistant coaches Stecher Buss and Shawn Mann, as well as alumni and current high school and middle school

wrestlers. Practices will take place at the Siuslaw Middle School wrestling room from 3:30 to 4:45 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Participants will be divided into two groups, with those who are beginners or less skilled in one group, and more advanced wrestlers in a separate group.

"We think it will help maximize the benefit of the program for wrestlers of any skill level," said Wartnik, who has a set of goals established for the program. Among those goals are increased fitness, coordination and balance; creating a love for physical activity; build a knowledge of

wrestling rules, skills and execution; teach the benefits of respect, teamwork and self control; build self confidence; and to have fun.

On Tuesday, information and sign-up sheets for the program will be in middle schoolers' take-home folders. Or, parents can come to the wrestling room that afternoon, between 3:30 and 4:45 p.m., and register their child then.

"We'll have extra forms on hand and can answer any questions wrestlers or their parents may have," said Wartnik. "It's a great sport with so much to offer on so many levels."

"We're excited to see what we can accomplish this spring."

A Sporting View

By Mark Vasto

The ballad of Buckethead Craig

If Rodney Craig did any one thing poorer than most people, it was walking away.

But Craig certainly could hit, and boy could he run. The wiry 6-foot-1, 195-pound switch hitter, who was described as "having a gift for larceny" on the base paths, was the Seattle Mariners' first real prospect to make it to the major leagues, which he finally did in 1979.

His teammates called him "Buckethead," probably for two reasons: his oversized Afro that required an oversized helmet to cover, and his correspondingly gigantic sense of ego and self-pride. And while

See **VIEW 3B**

Sports Calendar

March 31

- SHS baseball hosts J. City 4:30 p.m.
- SHS softball at City 4:30 p.m.

April 1

- MHS track at Reedsport 2 p.m.

April 2

- SHS baseball hosts Sutherlin 4:30 p.m.

April 3

- SHS softball at Sutherlin 3 p.m.

April 4

- SHS track at J. City noon
- SHS baseball at C. Grove noon

Local equestrians saddle up for state



Kelly Carroll photos

Mapleton High School equestrian team member Chet Geddes competes in the steer daubing event.

Mapleton's Geddes brothers already have their tickets to state

The Mapleton and Siuslaw high school equestrian teams will be wrapping up their seasons Friday, April 3, through Sunday, April 5, at the Oregon Horse Center in Eugene.

Siuslaw High School's Maryann Holdren and Jd Geddes and Chet Geddes from Mapleton High School will compete. The biggest days of the three-day competition will take place Friday and Sunday.

Holdren will be jumping Friday morning and the Geddes brothers will be in the saddle most the afternoon roping and competing in cow events beginning at 1 p.m.

Chet has already qualified for state in steer daubing, while he and his



Mapleton's Jd Geddes leaves the gate in the calf roping event.

brother, Jd, are poised in first and second place in roping and steer daubing. Together, they are ranked fifth in

team penning — and likely headed to

See **EQUESTRIANS 3B**

Viks winless on the diamonds this week

By NED HICKSON
Siuslaw News

Both Siuslaw ball clubs came away with losses this week on the road, beginning on Monday with the Viking baseball team. For the opening day of the Wilsonville tourna-

ment, Siuslaw dropped both of its games in close match-ups. In game one, senior Trey Cornish took the loss on the mound, 6-4, then came back to 3-for-4 at the plate in game two to lead the Viks' offense in a high-scoring loss, 15-11.

The Viks finished the tournament

Tuesday with a 14-3 loss to Forest Grove.

On the softball diamond, Siuslaw was on the road in Lincoln City Thursday, where the Viks' lost both games of a doubleheader against Taft, 18-1 and 16-3.

On the Bite

A weekly fishing report for the local region

www.dfw.state.or.us/RR

MID COAST LAKES:

The rainbow trout stocking program is underway with many of the mid coast lakes been stocked. Most water bodies will be stocked multiple times until early June. Be sure to check out the 2015 stocking schedule for the most up to date information.

Fishing for the various warm water fish species can be productive during the winter months. Anglers may need to target different areas of a lake (typically deeper) versus when fishing more shallow areas in the spring or summer.

SIUSLAW RIVER:

Steelhead

The winter steelhead fishery is slow to fair in both the Siuslaw and Lake Creek. River conditions are low and clear. Fishing the mid to lower river and focusing on the deeper holding water will produce the best results. The next good rain event should produce a good push of fish.

ALSEA RIVER:

Steelhead

The winter steelhead fishery is slow to fair. River conditions are low and clear. Look to fish the deeper holding water and use smaller more subtle presentations. Casting lures, bobber and jig/bait or drifting beads along the bottom can be effective techniques.

SALMON RIVER:

Steelhead

Winter steelhead fishing

See **FISHING 4B**

TIDE TABLE

Entrance Siuslaw River

High Tide	Low Tide
March 28 7:15am / 6.3 9:00pm / 5.7	1:23am / 3.2 2:20pm / 1.0
March 29 8:26am / 6.1 9:55pm / 5.9	2:40am / 3.1 3:21pm / 6.1
March 30 9:30am / 6.2 10:38pm / 6.1	3:44am / 2.7 4:13pm / 1.0
March 31 10:24am / 6.3 11:14pm / 6.4	4:35am / 2.2 4:56pm / 1.0
April 1 11:11am / 6.5 11:45pm / 6.7	5:18am / 1.7 5:33pm / 1.0
April 2 11:52am / 6.6	5:56am / 1.3 6:07pm / 1.0
April 3 12:14am / 6.9 12:31pm / 6.7	6:31am / 0.9 6:39pm / 1.2

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