

Siuslaw News Sports & Recreation



NED HICKSON/SIUSLAW NEWS

World Champion Gabe Cruz will return to defend his title Saturday.

Sandboarder showdown Saturday

BY NED HICKSON
Siuslaw News

When the annual X-West Huck Fest “Big Air” competition gets underway Aug. 15, it will kick off a weekend that will appeal to sand enthusiasts of all kinds.

That’s because not only will the world’s best sandboarders be competing on Florence’s dunes — with Gabe Cruz defending his title — but local beaches will be the canvas for sand-sculpting artist Lorie Gordon, who will be teaching a free clinic for

people of all ages.

“It’s going to be a blast,” said Lon Beale, owner and operator of Sand Master Park, the world’s first sandboarding park. “The sport has grown tremendously over the last few years, so we’re expecting an amazing competition full of big air and big tricks.”

The X-West Huck Fest is a Pro/Am all-jumps contest with world champion competitors from around the world, including Mexico, Peru, Chile and many parts of the United States. The tournament is sanctioned by Dune Riders International, the

governing body for international competitive sandboarding, as an official event on the World Sandboard Tour 2015.

Cruz, the current DRI world champion, is from Coos Bay and is trailed closely in point scoring by his brother, Jackson Cruz.

Events start at 2 p.m. at Sand Master Park, and will eventually move to the Honeyman State Park dune area until 5 p.m.

Sand Master Park is four miles

See **SHOWDOWN 2C**

On the Bite

A WEEKLY FISHING REPORT FOR THE LOCAL REGION

www.dfw.state.or.us/RR

MID COAST LAKES

Fishing for the various warm water fish species is fair to good during the summer months. There are numerous lakes in the Florence area that can provide good opportunity and have boat and bank access.

SIUSLAW RIVER:
Cutthroat trout

The cutthroat trout fishery is slow to fair. Fishing during the early mornings or in the larger tributaries is the most productive. River conditions are very low and warm for this time of year. Bait is not allowed above the head of tide but small spinners, spoons and fly fishing can be very productive.

ALSEA RIVER:
Cutthroat trout

The cutthroat trout fishery is fair in the mainstem and in some of the large tributaries. With the low and warm river conditions the best opportunities will be in the early morning when water temperatures are the coolest. Small spinners are typically productive as well as small spoons or fly fishing with nymphs or streamers.

SALMON RIVER:
Cutthroat trout

Cutthroat trout fishing is slow to fair with the early morning being the most productive. Using small lures like spinners, spoons or various flies can be productive.

SILETZ RIVER:
Steelhead, cutthroat trout

Summer steelhead fishing is fair in the upper river. Low flows and warming river temperatures are making new fish race up into the cooler holding waters of the gorge area. New fish will continually be moving into the river through the summer with peak numbers typically in July.

River flows are much lower than normal for this time of year so think small and subtle presentations.

Typical steelhead tactics apply such as bobber and jig/bait, or casting spoons or spinners.

Cutthroat trout are now also open to harvest and can be found throughout the main stem river and many large tributaries.

WILSON RIVER:
Steelhead, Chinook, cutthroat
Spring Chinook fishing

See **FISHING 3C**

TIDE TABLE

Entrance Siuslaw River

High Tide Low Tide

Aug. 12
12:04pm / 6.0 5:36am / -0.6
11:25pm / 7.3 5:33am / 2.2

Aug. 13
12:42am / 6.1 6:17am / -0.7
6:17pm / 1.9

Aug. 14
12:08am / 7.2 6:53am / -0.7
1:15pm / 6.3 6:57pm / 1.7

Aug. 15
12:47am / 7.1 7:27am / -0.5
1:46pm / 6.4 7:35pm / 1.5

Aug. 16
1:25am / 6.9 7:59am / -0.2
2:17pm / 6.5 8:13pm / 1.4

Aug. 17
2:02m / 6.6 8:30am / 0.1
2:47pm / 6.5 8:51pm / 1.3

Aug. 18
2:40am / 6.3 9:01am / 0.6
3:18am / 6.5 9:30pm / 1.3

INNER CITY YOUTH LEARN FOREST STEWARDSHIP

For a third consecutive year, young people from the Portland Public School District and nearby metro area spent three days on the Oregon coast learning about its natural resources and performing stewardship work.

In late June, about 20 teenagers from the Inner City Youth Institute (ICYI) explored the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area and Cape Perpetua Scenic Area with Siuslaw National Forest field rangers, and then removed invasive weeds for a day from the Drift Creek Wilderness.

“Experiences like these can be transformative for young people who might not have access or much exposure to the outdoors,” said Stacey Sowers, ICYI program manager for Oregon State University.

The ICYI is a high school mentoring program sponsored by state and federal organizations that encourages

underrepresented or underserved young people to discover the outdoors, consider careers in natural resources and perform service learning projects.

“This will definitely be one of the highlights of my summer,” said Rebekah Bailey,

one of several field rangers who instructed and worked alongside the youths during the day, and then joined them for campfire programs and camaraderie in the evening.

“I’m very proud of our partnership with the ICYI program,” said Central Coast

District Ranger Michele Jones. “When I hear a young person come away from an experience like this saying, ‘I know where I want to go with my life, and I’m never going to forget this,’ I know we’re truly serving the greater good as an agency.”



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of the Inner City Youth Institute with Siuslaw National Forest rangers

Dune riders benefit from DuneFest raffle

UTV Invasion brand owner and organizer Dave Kuskie, of Fullerton Sand Sports Tires and Wheels in California, and Junior from Boondocker presented a \$2,000 donation check to the Florence-area group Save The Riders Dunes (STRD) last week in Winchester Bay.

The donation was raised from a raffle held during the UTV Invasion at Winchester Bay benefiting the STRD this past June.

Almost 5,000 UTV enthusiasts from the USA and Canada attended the



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of Save The Riders Dunes accept a check for \$2,000 raised during the recent DuneFest event in Winchester Bay and Reedsport.

four-day event.

Dunes riders from along the central Oregon coast formed Save The Riders Dunes in 2011 in response to U.S. Forest Service proposals to close portions of the Oregon dunes to riding. Through STRD’s input and members’ involvement, government focus has moderated to one of restoring the dunes and reclaiming areas from invasive plant species and rider-made trails, instead of outright closure of some areas.

See **DUNES 3C**

SPORTS Calendar

Aug. 15

• X-WEST
SANDBOARD
COMPETITION
AT SAND MASTER
PARK
2 TO 5 P.M.

Aug. 22

• SIUSLAW OPEN
GOLF TOURNEY
AT SANDPINES
9 A.M.



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I hope everyone is having a fantastic summer!

We are very lucky to live where we do, especially with all the fires, tornados, flooding, and unrest in other parts of the country. I feel very blessed to live in Florence and that's why I've lived here and enjoyed it since 1979.

This has been a busy summer for sales, one of the best since 2005. Most sales are under \$300,000. but we've had a number of higher priced homes sell also.

Since we have been so busy, our inventory has dropped. So if you are thinking about selling your home, now is the time!

Come see me, I'd love to help.

100 Hwy. 101, Florence, OR • 541.997.7777

“We’re next to the Bridge.”

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