

## An open letter to Mapleton's students and its community

For 16 years, Mapleton and its athletes have been a part of my life that begins each fall and continues through late spring. Over those years, I've had the privilege of chronicling their achievements. Their disappointments. And their tragedies. While I've certainly made my share of mistakes, I've never been the direct cause of disappointment or sadness. Until this past Wednesday. For those who read through the list of returners for this season's football team in that issue's fall preview and saw Weston's name listed among this season's roster, there are no words to express the regret I feel over what I consider the biggest mistake in my 16 years here at Siuslaw News. There are no excuses. No explanations that can erase that kind of hurt. For any of you. Or for me. Being the only media invited to cover and participate in the memorial service meant a lot to me. It said a lot about the relationship and amount of trust we've forged over the years — and it also makes my regret run that much deeper. There's no apology that is sufficient. Come Oct. 2, I will be there on the sidelines for the first home game of the season — and hoping the relationship we've forged will prove stronger than the biggest mistake of my career. And while apologies aren't enough, please allow me to start with one: I'm so sorry, Mapleton.

— Ned Hickson

## Marys Peak trails, road remain closed for restoration

CORVALLIS — Trails, day-use areas and Forest Road 3010 on Marys Peak in the Siuslaw National Forest remain temporarily closed while meadow restoration work is conducted.

The closures are designed to ensure public and worker safety and are expected to last through mid-November or until work is completed.

The Marys Peak project will restore vistas and historic meadows to this popular and important scenic botanical area. Due to a variety of factors, including past and present human activities on the peak, trees have begun to grow into the mead-

ows.

Not only do these trees impact the scenic view, but they're also changing the ecology of the meadows, which are a rare and important ecosystem in the Oregon Coast Range.

After research by scientists and several years of planning, including substantial public input, contractors for the Forest Service will be removing trees to restore the open meadows and scenic vistas.

Following tree removal in 2015, the area will be treated to prevent the spread of invasive plants, and meadow species will be planted in the newly cleared areas.

"We're proud of this effort that will re-establish meadows in this unique and special place, improve visitors' experience on the peak with expanded scenic vistas, and also put people to work to accomplish our restoration objectives," said Jerry Ingersoll, Siuslaw National Forest supervisor.

Connor's Camp, the East Ridge Trail, and Forest Road 2005, along with Forest Road 3010 are closed between Connor's Camp and the Marys Peak day-use area.

Other area trails (including the North Ridge Trail from Woods Creek) will be closed until restoration work is completed.

In order to get the work done safely, it is necessary to keep visitors out of the way of heavy logging equipment, as well as falling trees, broken tree limbs, debris and more that can accumulate while the work is being done.

By respecting the closures, individuals will ensure their own safety, the safety of the workers, and will allow the project to proceed as quickly and efficiently as possible.

When the trails and day use areas reopen, visitors will enjoy vistas restored to their historic range.

For more information on this project, visit [www.go.usa.gov/3eZGF](http://www.go.usa.gov/3eZGF).

## Oregon razor clamming season still on indefinite delay

ASTORIA — Razor clamming at Oregon's popular and productive Clatsop County beaches will not open Oct. 1 as scheduled.

Razor clamming along the entire Oregon coast has been closed since May 14 due to elevated levels of domoic acid in the clams. The most recent test results, released Sept. 18, show levels too high for the season to open next Thursday, said Matt

Hunter, ODFW shellfish biologist.

Hunter said Oregon beaches will re-open to razor clamming only after two consecutive samples show domoic acid is below the alert level. Exactly when that might happen is impossible to predict because the clams are very slow to eliminate the toxin.

"The only way for razor clams to reduce the level of domoic acid is

through spawning or growth," Hunter said. "We saw a big reduction in domoic acid levels after spawning in June, but we haven't seen much growth in adult clams since then that would bring the levels down even more."

While razor clamming will remain closed for the entire Oregon Coast, the harvest of bay clams and mussels is now open on all Oregon

beaches.

The harvest of Dungeness crab also remains open in Oregon.

Harvesters can visit the ODA shellfish closures webpage at [www.oregon.gov/ODA/programs/FoodSafety/Shellfish/Pages/ShellfishClosures](http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/programs/FoodSafety/Shellfish/Pages/ShellfishClosures) for the latest closure information.

## Sailors from 1B

home to host McKenzie for what proved to be a grinder.

"The girls really fought to turn things around," said Crook. "Though we lost the match, it was the best

we've played all season. Lots of grit, passion and determination."

After losing the first sets, 20-25 and 17-25, the Sailors rallied in the third game for a 25-21 victory led by Richards, who ended the night with 21 attacks and 13 kills, along with seven aces.

The Sailors also got two aces each from Hannah Rodet, Haley Wells and Nicol, and four aces from Alexis Gierke.

Game four went to the Eagles, but only narrowly on a 25-21 win.

"Digging is still our weakness, but attitude and perseverance made the

difference in helping keep it a close match," Crook said. "I think it was a breakthrough kind of night for us."

Next week, the Sailors will play host to Triangle Lake and Siletz, beginning with the Lakers on Tuesday and then the Warriors Thursday night.

Both matches begin at 6 p.m.

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