

# Jr. Viks narrowly fall to Newport



MIKE SMITH PHOTO

On Sept. 26, the Boys and Girls Club 5th- and 6th-grade tackle football team played host to the Newport Jr. Cubs at Siuslaw's Hans Petersen Field. After allowing two quick scores in the first quarter, the Jr. Vikings' defense held Newport scoreless for the remainder of the game while forcing four fumbles and an interception. On offense, a 60-yard touchdown run brought Siuslaw close, but not to overcome a narrow 12-8 defeat. The Jr. Vikings have a chance at payback on the road this Saturday, Oct. 3, when they travel to the Cubs' den. Kickoff is set for 11 a.m. The Jr. Viks' next home game will be Saturday, Oct. 24, against Siletz Valley.

# Reserve best seats final Viking home games

Viking football's final two home games of the regular season will be this Friday, Oct. 9, against Marshfield, and Friday, Oct. 16, for the Homecoming game against Douglas.

At the beginning of the season, premium seats were \$25 apiece. At the midseason mark, they are discounted to \$15 per seat for the rest of the season — or \$8 per seat per game.

These seats offer a premium midfield view of the field, Back rests for all seats, and a guaranteed seat no matter what

time you arrive.

These seats will be first come-first served for seat location. Ticket holders will also get first dibs on reserving seats for postseason games and again for next season.

There will be an additional discount for booster club members, families of current SHS fall sport athletes, and holders of the fall season general admission family pass.

For more information or to reserve premium seats, call Siuslaw High School at 541-997-3448.

# STEP to hear history of OHRC at tonight's meeting

Dr. David Noakes, senior scientist at the Oregon Hatcher Research Center and OSU Professor in Fisheries and Wildlife, will be the guest speaker at tonight's meeting of Florence Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program (STEP).

The meeting begins at 7 p.m. in the Elks' Lodge on 12th Street in Florence.

Dr. Noakes will review the history of the OHRC, an overview of the facility and highlight some of the research that has been carried out. To conclude, he will discuss three major research projects that are currently underway and part of the OHRC Research plan.

There will be a silent auction held at the meeting, beginning at 6:30 p.m. and concluding 15 minutes after the meeting is adjourned.

Fishing gear, donated by the estate of Larry Phillips, will be available to bid on by members and guests.

Prior to Dr. Noake's talk, there will be a short business meeting, fishing reports and a look ahead to any trap preparations and hatchery status.

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# OHA expands advisory to include gaper clams

The Oregon Health Authority is updating an existing health advisory to include gaper clams (*Tresus capax*), which were found to contain high levels of naturally occurring arsenic.

The advisory was updated today by the OHA Public Health Division after gaper clams were tested during a second round of sampling. It now applies to soft-shell clams (*Mya arenaria*) and gaper clams collected anywhere along the Oregon Coast.

OHA recommends removing the skin from the siphon, or "neck" of soft-shell and gaper clams before eating them. This is because the inorganic arsenic that is harmful to human health is concentrated in the siphon skin.

Removal of the skin before eating reduces the inorganic arsenic to levels that are not harmful.

The advisory is most important for recreational harvesters who dig their own clams. Soft-shell and gaper clams are collected primarily from estuaries and intertidal regions of the Oregon coast.

Limited commercial harvest and sale of gaper clams for human consumption occurs in Oregon.

The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) regulates the safety of commercially harvested shellfish. ODA will ensure that commercial dealers instruct retailers and consumers to remove siphon skins

from gaper clams before eating them.

Those planning to eat soft-shell or gaper clams with or without siphon skins should review OHA's recommended meal limits, available at [www.healthoregon.org/fishadv](http://www.healthoregon.org/fishadv).

Two other clam species, cockles and butter clams, also were tested for arsenic during the same sampling period. Arsenic levels in both of these species were found to be well below the level that is harmful to human health, so cockles and butter clams are not included in the health advisory update.

As previously mentioned, California mussels and purple varnish clams also can be har-

vested and consumed without concern.

Public health officials say that since the arsenic detected in clams is naturally occurring, the advisory is likely to be permanent.

In addition to arsenic, testing included a wide variety of other potential contaminants to shellfish, including metals, pesticides, polychlorinated biphenyls, dioxins, tributyltin, flame retardants and other substances.

None of these other contaminants were present in any of the species at high enough concentrations to pose a risk to human health.

By issuing the advisory, health officials hope to increase

awareness of shellfish contaminants and ways to reduce human exposure to them.

While it is important for people to know about contaminants in shellfish, it is equally important to include shellfish as part of a healthy diet.

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