

# Siuslaw News Sports & Recreation

SPORTS

## Calendar

**Dec. 2**

• MHS BOYS BB  
AT POWERS  
7 P.M.

**Dec. 4**

• SHS GIRLS BB  
HOST COQUILLE  
6 P.M.  
• SHS BOYS BB  
HOST COQUILLE  
7:30 P.M.

**Dec. 10**

• MHS GIRLS BB  
AT BROOKINGS  
6 P.M.

**Dec. 21**

• WRESTLING  
AT BAY CITIES  
TBD



NED HICKSON/SIUSLAW NEWS

New Siuslaw girls basketball head coach Clint Tatum watches as players run a new defensive move during practice Monday.

## NEW COACH, NEW HOPES FOR VIKS

BY NED HICKSON  
Siuslaw News

When previous coach Carl Johnson announced he was turning in his whistle at the end of last season, players who planned to return to the hardwood this year began looking to Clint Tatum.

After nearly three years as the program's assistant, he was ready for the opportunity to grab the Vikings' helm.

"The girls sort of swayed me, but the truth is I jumped at the chance when the opportunity came my way," says Tatum, who has more than just an interest in the program as its coach; as husband of Siuslaw High School principal Kerri Tatum and father to junior team member and returner Destinie Tatum, he also has a personal interest in assuring its success.

It's a combination that Tatum juggles easily thanks to a low-key approach and solid relationship he's already established with his team.

"Coming into this, the girls and I

**"We are completely reformatting the program to take advantage of our strengths and build a new foundation."**  
— Clint Tatum, Viking girls head coach

knew and understood each other and the expectations," says Tatum.

That meant no wasted time trying to establish a rapport and figuring each other out, and more time getting to the nuts and bolts of the new program — a crucial advantage in a year that means starting from scratch in terms of new offense, defense and execution.

"We're changing the way we do things to match what we have," says Tatum. "We have several kids who are coming here from either running or

volleyball. We have a lot of quickness, which is a strength we're going to use to our advantage.

"You won't see us running a half-court defense very often."

With only eight girls on the roster, that means conditioning. And lots of it.

"We don't have a lot of depth, so we're going to need to be in good shape in order to run our offense and defense the way we want to," says Tatum, who will be counting on his key returners — Taylor Dotson, Claire

Waggoner, Sierra Potter and Destinie Tatum — to push the ball and the boundaries on the hardwood.

"We're going to be an aggressive, in-your-face kind of team, which we'll need to be in order to compete at the level I think we're capable of," Tatum says.

Coming off of what he called a "great summer of basketball," Tatum says it's tough losing several of those players to club sports this winter.

"There's an all-league team walking the halls, and none of them are on the roster this season," Tatum says. "Hopefully, with some success this season we can turn that around next year."

Still, Tatum says he couldn't be happier with what he's seeing in practices, and with the bond the players are forming.

"Because we have a mix of experienced and inexperienced, we rely on our older girls to help teach the

See **TATUM 4B**

## TIDE TABLE

Entrance Siuslaw River

High Tide	Low Tide
<b>Dec. 2</b> 5:06am / 6.6 4:30am / 5.9	11:05am / 3.2 11:10pm / 1.2
<b>Dec. 3</b> 5:58am / 6.6 5:41pm / 5.5	12:16am / 3.0
<b>Dec. 4</b> 6:47am / 6.7 6:55am / 5.3	12:04am / 1.7 1:23pm / 2.6
<b>Dec. 5</b> 7:33am / 6.9 8:07pm / 5.3	12:59am / 2.2 2:21pm / 2.0
<b>Dec. 6</b> 8:14pm / 7.2 9:08pm / 5.5	1:52am / 2.5 3:09pm / 1.4
<b>Dec. 7</b> 8:53am / 7.4 10:01pm / 5.8	2:41am / 2.7 3:51pm / 0.9
<b>Dec. 8</b> 9:30pm / 7.7 10:47pm / 6.0	3:26am / 2.9 4:29pm / 0.4

**SIUSLAW NEWS**  
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## 'Discovery Series' kicks off Saturday at Cape Perpetua

YACHATS — Dave Thompson was a summer seasonal ranger in California's Redwoods National Park. He lived an idyllic life in a trailer within the park, where most evenings he'd set out a chair to observe the bear, elk and even mountain lions, which frequented the property.

It was a peaceful co-existence until the night Thompson found himself in the middle of a hunt, standing between

a mountain lion and its prey. Hear the harrowing story neither Thompson nor his audience will forget, while learning facts about the life and behavior of this secretive and often-maligned creature.

Thompson, the Siuslaw National Forest's interpretive specialist, shares his story at 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, as part of the Cape Perpetua Winter Discovery Series at the Visitor Center,

three miles south of Yachats. The Cape Perpetua Winter Discovery Series is an opportunity to explore topics and resources relevant to the Oregon Coast during the off-season months between November and March.

All presentations and guided walks are free, but a Northwest Forest Pass, Oregon Coast Passport or \$5 day-use fee is required within to the Cape

Perpetua Scenic Area. Upcoming Winter Discover Series events will include:

• Dec. 19, at 2 p.m. — Old-Growth Forest Hikes: Learn about the characteristics and ecology of coastal old-growth forests during ranger-led hikes.

All ages and hiking abilities are

See **CAPE 4B**



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With Christmas just around the corner, try to remember those less fortunate. There are many great clubs and service organizations that help those in need- such as Soroptomist Christmas baskets, the toy drive, SOS, and Helping Hands Coalition just to name a few. Remember it doesn't always need to be cash donations but just giving of your time can be even more fulfilling. This is a great and generous community we live in and am proud to call it home.

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"We're next to the Bridge."



CYAN MAGENTA YELLOW BLACK