

Siuslaw News Sports & Recreation

SPORTS Calendar

Dec. 5

- MHS GIRLS BB
HOST BROOKINGS
1 P.M.
- MHS BOYS BB
HOST BROOKINGS
2:30 P.M.
- SHS BOYS BB
AT PHOENIX
2 P.M.
- SHS BOYS BB
AT PHOENIX
3:30 P.M.

Dec. 8

- SHS GIRLS BB
HOST NEWPORT
6:30 P.M.
- SHS BOYS BB
HOST NEWPORT
6:30 P.M.



COURTESY PHOTO

The tail of a migrating gray whale appears off the coast near Cape Perpetua.

Annual winter gray whale migration will draw thousands to the coast.

For the holiday season, share the gift of whale watching on the Oregon coast. From Dec. 27 through 31, Winter Whale Watch Week is one of the best times of the year to spot gray whales off the stormy Oregon coastal shores.

Approximately 18,000 whales will travel 12,000 miles south to Mexico, where they will give birth to their calves.

There are nearly 40 different volunteer staffed locations where you can spot gray whales on the Oregon Coast, including the 10th floor of the prestigious Inn at Spanish Head in Lincoln City.

From the top floor, visitors can spot these creatures nearly every hour in late December as they make their journey.

For a more up-close and personal view, Dockside Charters in Depoe Bay offers daily whale watching excursions starting in mid-December.

Just 8 miles south of Lincoln City, Depoe Bay is considered the "Whale Watching Capital of the Oregon Coast" and is also home to the Oregon State Parks Whale Watching Center.

"We offer 90-minute whale watching excursions for the winter," says Loren Goddard, one of the owners of Dockside Charters. "Typically our excursions are an hour long, but



NED HICKSON/SIUSLAW NEWS

Last year, U of O student Job Chen and his wife, Manchi Chor, spent Chen's 29th birthday whalewatching.

visitors spot the mighty mammals.

Its "Whale Watching Spoken Here" signs identify the volunteers. They will point out special behaviors such as spy hopping, breaching, and spouting, as well as discuss whale feeding, courtship and migration patterns.

Just a few years ago, the whale population dipped to 1,800 making them "commercially extinct."

Today, under the protection of the Mexican and US governments, the population has grown to more than 20,000 whales.

Gray whales can grow up to 45 feet in length (13.7 meters) — longer than a city bus — and weigh more than 45 tons (41,000 kg).

To schedule a whale-watching trip, contact Dockside Charters at 541-765-2545. To learn more about the winter and spring whale-watching seasons, contact the Depoe Bay Whale Watching Center at 800-551-6949.

because the whales are moving fast to Mexico, we have to accommodate for that. We recommend that visitors make reservations early because the winter excursions are very popular."

Goddard says what makes the trips so popular is that "Visitors are curious about whales on the coast. And the whales are just as curious about us as we are of them," Goddard explains. "The best part is when they come right up to the boat. Seeing these mammals up-close is a very special experience."

During the winter and spring months, Oregon State Parks posts trained volunteers at prime viewing points along the Oregon Coast to help

TIDE TABLE

Entrance Siuslaw River

High Tide Low Tide

Dec. 5
7:33am / 6.9 12:59am / 2.2
8:07pm / 5.3 2:21pm / 2.0

Dec. 6
8:14pm / 7.2 1:52am / 2.5
9:08pm / 5.5 3:09pm / 1.4

Dec. 7
8:53am / 7.4 2:41am / 2.7
10:01pm / 5.8 3:51pm / 0.9

Dec. 8
9:30pm / 7.7 3:26am / 2.9
10:47pm / 6.0 4:29pm / 0.4

Dec. 9
10:06am / 7.9 4:08am / 3.0
11:29pm / 6.2 5:06pm / 0.0

Dec. 10
10:42am / 8.1 4:48am / 3.0
5:42pm / 8.1

Dec. 11
12:09am / 6.4 5:28am / 3.1
11:17pm / 8.2 6:18pm / -0.7

**SIUSLAW
NEWS**

**148 Maple St.
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New regulations, licenses available for 2016 outdoor season

SALEM — Oregon's 2016 hunting and fishing licenses are on sale now and make great holiday gifts, especially a new youth license for kids that permits fishing, hunting and shellfishing all year for just \$10.

The new 2016 Sport Fishing and Big Game Regulations will also be in stores this week. Hunters and anglers will notice a new look to the regulations this year.

"We've heard from sportsmen that the regulations can be confusing," said Rick Hargrave, ODFW Information and Education Administrator. "We've made an effort

to simplify them and hope they are easier to understand."

The effort included contracting with a different publisher, J.F. Griffin, to produce the regulations. A new searchable web version of the regulations will be available next week at ODFW's regulations webpages online at www.dfw.state.or.us/resources/licenses_regs. In the meantime, PDF copies of 2016 regulations are posted at the hunting and fishing regulations web page.

Prices for adult licenses and tags increase for 2016, the first fee increase since 2010.

However, ODFW will continue to charge lower prices for youth to keep fishing and hunting affordable for families. The popular Juvenile Sports Pac is still just \$55 in 2016 and prices will be lower than in 2015 for some youth sportsmen.

A new combination youth license means all kids age 12-17 (nonresidents, too) can fish, hunt, crab and clam all year long for \$10.

This license includes the Columbia River Endorsement; add a Youth Combined Angling Tag for just \$5. (Previously, costs for youth were: hunting license \$14.50, fishing license

\$9 or \$18.75 with Columbia River Endorsement for ages 14-17, combined angling tag \$8.50 for ages 14-17, shellfish license \$7 for ages 14 and over.)

New license types are also available, including Premium Hunts. These are Oregon's new two or three month any-weapon deer, elk and pronghorn hunts.

Premium Hunts are similar to the auction and raffle tags people pay thousands for, but they cost the same as a regular tag and are an additional

See **FISHING 3B**

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