

Siuslaw News

Sports & Recreation

On the Bite

A WEEKLY FISHING REPORT FOR THE LOCAL REGION

www.dfw.state.or.us/RR

MID COAST LAKES

The coho salmon fisheries in SILTCOOS and TAHKENITCH lakes are slow to fair. This time of year is typically the most productive. Recent rains and big tide should help to move new fish into the lakes.

The West Lake Boat Ramp at Siltcoos has been close for repairs but there is a neighboring private ramp that can be utilized. Look to fish near the lake outlet and by the major tributaries that enter the lakes. Casting or trolling spinners or various plugs can be effective.

Fishing for the various warm water fish species tends to be slower during the winter months. There are numerous lakes in the Florence area that can provide good opportunity and have both boat and bank access.

SIUSLAW RIVER:

Chinook, steelhead

The fall Chinook fishery is very slow and basically over for the season. Any remaining fish are in spawning condition.

December is considered to be the start of the winter steelhead run. Look for small numbers of fish to be in the lower river above the head of tide this early in the season. Casting lures or bobber fishing can be productive during low clear flows.

ALSEA RIVER:

Chinook, steelhead

The fall Chinook fishery is very slow. Most remaining fish are actively

See **FISHING 3B**

SPORTS

Calendar

Jan. 5

• SHS GIRLS BB

AT ELMIRA

5:45 P.M.

• SHS BOYS BB

AT ELMIRA

7:15 P.M.

• MHS GIRLS BB

AT ALSEA

5:30 P.M.

• MHS BOYS BB

AT ALSEA

7 P.M.

Jan. 6

• MHS GIRLS BB

AT SILETZ

5:30 P.M.

• MHS BOYS BB

AT SILETZ

7 P.M.

Spout scouts



COURTESY PHOTO

Visitors to the Oregon coast will have a great opportunity to see whales as they migrate to warmer waters near Mexico this week.

WATCHING FOR WHALES BEGINS SUNDAY

Visitors to the Oregon coast are invited to watch for migrating whales with trained volunteers during the annual winter Whale Watching Week from Dec. 27 through 31, hosted by Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD).

Volunteers with the “Whale

Watching Spoken Here” program will be stationed at 24 sites along the coast from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. this week to help people spot gray whales heading south to Mexico.

Visitors will also learn about whale migration and feeding habits. The winter migration typically lasts from now

until mid-January.

A map of the watch sites is available online at whalespoken.org. Camping, including yurts and cabins, is available at state parks along the coast. Go to www.oregonstateparks.org to check availability and make a reservation.

OPRD reminds visitors to check

www.oregonstateparks.org and www.tripcheck.com for weather-related alerts and closures before heading to the coast.

Be safe and aware of winter storms and high waves, and respect beach closures, stay off the sand and watch storms from an elevated location.

Salmon spawning season underway

BY BECKY GOEHRING
Special to Siuslaw News

With the spawning of three fin-clipped coho at the club’s Munsel Creek trap facility, the 2015-16 hatchery season has officially begun for the Florence Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program (STEP).

Two female and one male coho were spawned by STEP volunteers Dec. 10 with nearly 3,000 eggs fertilized and placed in trays at the club’s hatchery facility in Florence.

Each year, the club raises 10,000 coho at its hatchery site. The fry, usually between 2-3 inches in size, will be fin-clipped and released into the spawning grounds above Munsel Lake in late May.

In preparation for the coho and steelhead broodstock seasons, the STEP group has made modifications to its hatchery site, ensuring that the water that is pumped from Munsel Creek through the trays is safe for the eggs. Water contamination has created issues at the hatchery, according to club president Ron Caputo.

“We think this new system is going to eliminate those problems,” he said. “Our tests prior to opening the hatchery for business saw clean water with



COURTESY PHOTO

STEP volunteers retrieve eggs that will be used as part of the group’s salmon spawning program.

minimal contaminants, coming into the hatchery.”

Next up for the club will be the construction of the steelhead trap at

Whittaker Creek, in preparation for its signature program. That will happen

See **STEP 2B**

Siuslaw grapplers third at Marshfield meet

BY NED HICKSON
Siuslaw News

At the Marshfield Dual Meet Tournament last Monday, the Vikings competed against South Umpqua, Philomath, Douglas, North Bend and Marshfield, finishing third overall in team scoring with wins over the Trojans, Lancers and Bulldogs.

“I like the dual-meet scenario because it shows our younger wrestlers how scoring works match-by-match, and how each win or loss effects the team scoring as a whole,” said Siuslaw coach Neil Wartnik.

The Viks opened the tournament against Marshfield, which included four returning state champions.

“None of them were in the lineup,

but Marshfield is just tough — a powerhouse,” said Wartnik.

The Vikings lost to the Pirates with a respectable team score, 54-30.

“Even though we lost, we left the match with Marshfield knowing we were there to wrestle,” Wartnik said.

In the second matchup, the Vikings

See **SIUSLAW 3B**

TIDE TABLE

Entrance Siuslaw River

High Tide Low Tide

Dec. 26
12:45pm / 7.1 6:10am / 2.7
11:59pm / 8.6 6:56pm / -1.2

Dec. 27
1:28am / 7.1 6:57am / 2.7
12:43pm / 8.3 7:37pm / -0.9

Dec. 28
2:10pm / 7.1 7:44am / 2.8
1:26pm / 7.8 8:16pm / -0.4

Dec. 29
2:51am / 7.0 8:33am / 2.8
2:10pm / 7.2 8:56pm / 0.2

Dec. 30
3:33am / 6.9 9:24am / 2.9
2:57pm / 6.5 9:36pm / 0.8

Dec. 31
4:15am / 6.9 10:21am / 2.9
3:49pm / 6.0 10:17pm / 1.4

Jan. 1
5:04am / 6.8 11:26am / 2.9
4:52pm / 5.4 11:07pm / 1.9

SIUSLAW
News

148 Maple St.
Florence
541-997-3441