

WATCH FOR NEWLY MARKED PLOVER NESTING AREAS

REEDSPORT — The Western snowy plover nesting season doesn't begin until Tuesday, March 15, but beachgoers will be noticing fences and enclosures earlier this year. Because high tides prevent the safe installation of fencing this week, Forest Service employees erected rope enclosures early around designated nesting sites on the Siuslaw National Forest and within the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area. The Western snowy plover is a federally protected shorebird. Seasonal restrictions from March 15 through Sept. 15 reduce disturbances while the birds are nesting. Campfires, pets, bicycles, off-road vehicles and kites are prohibited within the closure areas as they can frighten nesting adults, causing them to abandon their eggs. "We appreciate everyone's

efforts in helping this species recover on our Oregon beaches," said Cindy Burns, Siuslaw National Forest wildlife biologist. "By sharing the beach, we can continue to make it an enjoyable place to be for all its inhabitants." Signs attached to the ropes notify visitors that the closures won't be enforced until March 15. Nesting areas within the Siuslaw National Forest include:

- Baker/Sutton beaches
- Siltcoos estuary north to within a mile of Sparrow Park Road
- Oregon Dunes Day Use beach
- Tahkenitch Creek estuary
- Ten Mile Creek estuary south to the Coast Guard South OHV Trail

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service listed Western snowy plovers as a threatened species

in 1993. Habitat loss from invasive European beachgrass, as well as human disturbances, including litter and discarded food scraps which attract predators, have contributed to the birds' decline. Part of the Siuslaw National Forest and its partners' Dunes Restoration strategy is aimed at removing European beachgrass near nesting areas to improve habitat conditions. Detailed information about nesting restrictions on the Siuslaw National Forest, as well as links to resources from Oregon State Parks, can be found on the Siuslaw Web site at www.fs.usda.gov/siuslaw.

Beachgoers should watch for signs and roped off areas like these, which designate the area as plover nesting zones.



COURTESY PHOTO

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Reese Siegel

Siuslaw H.S. Vikings Basketball

The Viking senior was named to the All-Far West League Defensive team for his work on the court. He'll also be playing in this week's South Coast All Star game in Coos Bay.

Honorable Mention Destinie Tatum

Honorable Mention goes to Destinie Tatum. She was named to the All Far West League second team and the all Defensive Team. She too will play in the South Coast All Star Game at Southwestern Oregon Community College.

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Volunters needed for fourth annual annual Dunes Triathlon, Duathlon

Dunes City is making plans to host its fourth annual Oregon Dunes Triathlon and Duathlon on Saturday, May 7. Though the city's signature event is several weeks away, organizers are recruiting volunteers to help staff the event. Volunteers provide invaluable assistance to ensure that the races and venues run smoothly and safely. Volunteers also play a vital

support role for all of the participating athletes by providing encouragement and hospitality. Many of the athletes have returned to the Tri/Du each year because they appreciate the enthusiastic volunteers. The commitment is for only half a day and all volunteers will receive a free T-shirt. Again this year, Dunes City will award a \$250 donation to the organization that provides

Anyone interested in volunteering can call Dunes City Hall at 541-997-3338 to register

the most volunteers.

The organization can be a civic club, athletic club, homeowners association or similar type of group. Be sure to include your organization's name when registering to volunteer. If your group has the most volunteers present on race day, your group will be awarded with a \$250 check. Volunteers are needed between about 6 am and 1 pm

on race day. Anyone who has a few hours to spare and wants to be part of this exciting event can call Dunes City Hall at 541-997-3338 to register as a volunteer. You can also register online with the event organizer, Best in the West Events, at www.oregondunestriathlon.com. Just click on the "Volunteer" tab and then the "Registration" button.

Softball from 1C

Practices will start in April, with games starting in May.

Run from 1C

All proceeds will benefit the Siuslaw Middle School cross

The B&G Club will be hosting and traveling to play teams from Waldport, Coos Bay, North Bend, Reedsport, Bandon and Coquille. country and track and field programs. The focus of these programs is on attaining better fitness, learning perseverance and real-

izing personal improvement. The middle school program prepares athletes for the high school cross country program, which has earned great respect

local businesses that are interested in sponsoring a team. The cost to play is \$100 per player, and includes the cost of the uniform. Fundraising helps provide the resources needed to keep the program running strong.

Participants must be a current Boys and Girls Club member (a \$25 annual fee). The B&G Club has income-based scholarships available. For more information, call Eric Tanikawa at 541-997-3518 or email rachellemcampbell@gmail.com.

Fishing from 1C

WILSON RIVER: *Steelhead, Chinook*

Steelhead angling should be good as the river drops from recent high water. Fish are spread out through the system. Angling for Chinook is closed. An error in the 2016 Fishing Regulations mistakenly lists river as open for hatchery Chinook beginning Jan. 1; the correct opening date is April 1.

YAQUINA RIVER: *Steelhead*

The winter steelhead fishery is fair in the Big Elk and should continue to produce over the next few weeks. Look for the next good rain to push in another batch of fish. Anglers are reminded that there is a lot of private property along the Big Elk. Casting lures or bobbers fishing are the best techniques for this river.

COOS COUNTY LAKES AND PONDS: *Trout*

Lakes in Coos County are open all year for trout fishing. Last week 30 hatchery steelhead, that returned to Eel Lake

trap, were stocked into Butterfield Lake to provide additional fishing opportunity for trout anglers. These steelhead stocked into Butterfield Lake are no considered trout and may be harvest. The daily trout bag limit in Butterfield is 5 trout per day with only 1 trout over 20 inches per day.

COOS RIVER BASIN: *Dungeness crab, steelhead, bay clams*

Steelhead anglers are catching lots of steelhead when conditions are right. With the recent rain the river might be fishable today but too high and muddy tomorrow. Anglers are catching steelhead drift fishing corkies or eggs. Jigs fished under a bobber area also catching several steelhead. The West Fork Millicoma River is the first river to clear after a rain followed by the East Fork Millicoma and South Fork Coos rivers. Anglers fishing the South Fork Coos River above Dellwood will need a permit from Weyerhaeuser, which they can pick up at the

Dellwood office. In the Coos Basin 1 additional hatchery steelhead may be retained per day for a total aggregate of 3 adult fish harvested daily. Recreational harvest of crab re-opened from the Columbia River to the California border.

TENMILE BASIN: *Trout, steelhead*

Streams in the Tenmile Basin are now closed for trout fishing until May 22. Tenmile Lakes is open all year for trout but trout fishing has been slow. Steelhead fishing has been slow in Tenmile Creek and Eel Creek. Thirty five hatchery steelhead from the Eel Lake Fish Trap were recycled back into the fishery at Spinreel Park. In the Tenmile Basin 1 additional hatchery steelhead may be retained per day for a total aggregate of 3 adult fish harvested daily.

UMPQUA RIVER, SOUTH: *Steelhead*

The South Umpqua is currently open to adipose fin-clipped steelhead harvest, and winter steelhead fishing will improve as water levels recede.

There will be excellent hatchery steelhead harvest opportunities on the South Umpqua as the season progresses, especially around Stanton Park in Canyonville.

WINCHESTER BAY: *Bottomfish, perch*

Fishing for bottomfish in the Triangle and South jetty has been successful.

PACIFIC OCEAN and BEACHES: *Bottomfish, Dungeness crab*

Recreational harvest of crab is open along the entire Oregon Coast. It is still recommended you discard the crab viscera (guts/butter) before cooking. Fishing for bottom fish is open to fishing at all-depths. Fishing for black rockfish and lingcod continues to be very good from Charleston to Bandon when the ocean is calm enough for anglers to get out on the water. The marine fish daily bag limit is seven fish and a separate daily limit for lingcod (two). Anglers can only keep 3 blue rockfish and 1 canary rockfish as part of their daily limit and

there will be no harvest of China, quillback, or copper rockfish. Retention of cabezon is prohibited through June 30.

BOTTOM FISHING

- Cabezon retention is prohibited through June; this is an annual seasonal closure.
- The few boats that were able to get out of Newport last week had limits of large rockfish and nearly one lingcod per angler. Effort in other places was limited due to rough seas.
- There's a new rockfish on the block. Deacon rockfish is a newly identified species that was formerly referred to as the solid version of blue rockfish.

What does that mean for you? Nothing in 2016. Every rule that refers to blue rockfish (like the daily bag limit of 3) now applies to blue rockfish and deacon rockfish combined.

SHELLFISH

- A couple of regulations were inadvertently left out of the 2016 Oregon Sport Fishing Regulation booklet: (1) The daily bag limit for shrimp (edible) is 20 lb. in the shell; may be taken by traps, pots or rings. (2) Each razor clam digger (as with all clams) must have his or her own container, must dig his or her own clams, and may not possess more than one limit of clams while in the digging area (except under a Disabled Clam Digger Permit).

Current shellfish harvest closures in the ocean and bays due to elevated levels of domoic acid as of Feb. 1:

- Razor clams: Closed south of Tillamook Head
- Bay clams: Open coastwide
- Crabs: Open coastwide
- Mussels: Open coastwide

Siuslaw News

garage sale GUIDE

Estate Sale
3/11-3/12
9am-2pm
1305 Laurel
9am to 3pm

Complete liquidation of contents of home & garage. A lifetime accumulation! Furniture, collectibles, W/D, nearly new king & twin mattress sets, household items. Credit cards accepted. Delivery services available. Photos at CindyWobbeEstates.com.

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485 Juniper

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SALE SALE SALE

Thurs 3/9 – Sat 3/12
8am
87847 Terrace View Dr

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