

# Siuslaw News Sports & Recreation

## SPORTS Calendar

### Winter sports openers:

**Nov. 30**

- SHS GIRLS BB  
HOSTS CRESWELL  
6 P.M.
- SHS BOYS BB  
HOSTS CRESWELL  
7:30 P.M.

**Dec. 1**

- SHS WRESTLING  
HOSTS REEDSPORT  
6 P.M.

**Dec. 9**

- MHS GIRLS BB  
AT FALLS CITY  
5:30 P.M.
- MHS BOYS BB  
AT FALLS CITY  
7 P.M.



OPRD COURTESY PHOTO

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

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

When the holiday season draws to a close this December, whale watching on the Oregon coast will just be getting started. This year's Winter Whale Watching Week will take place Dec. 27 through 31, during 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.

To help visitors make the most of the annual migration, there will be nearly 40 volunteers at prime viewing points along the Oregon Coast to help visitors spot the mighty mammals.

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

To prepare for the twice-annual event, the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) is seeking whale lovers to participate in its annual Whale Watching Spoken Here program.

The program places trained volunteers at 24 whale-watching sites along the coast during "watch" weeks.

Volunteers who complete the one-



NED HICKSON/SIUSLAW NEWS

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

every few years to learn the latest gray whale research results.

The first of three training sessions is set for Saturday, Dec. 3, at the Hatfield Marine Science Center in Newport. Training will be delivered by Dr. Bruce Mate, an expert on whales and director of the Oregon State University Marine Mammal Institute.

Additional volunteer training is scheduled for Jan. 14, 2017, at the Oregon Institute of Marine Biology in Charleston, and also Feb. 11, 2017, at the Warrenton Community Center in Warrenton.

For whale seekers simply wanting an up-close and personal view, Dockside Charters in Depoe Bay will offer 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

See **WHALES 3B**

## VISIT OREGON STATE PARKS FOR FREE THIS FRIDAY

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) invites the public to visit state parks for free on Nov. 25.

For the second successive year, the department will waive day-use parking fees at the 26 state parks the charge them.

"We invite you to join a new tradition: Green Friday," said OPRD director Lisa Sumption. "Why not skip the mall, and instead come out to play with your family and friends at your favorite state park?"

To help celebrate, the nonprofit Oregon State Parks Foundation is

hosting special events at L.L. Stub Stewart State Park, Tryon Creek State Natural Area, Champoeg State Heritage Area and Silver Falls State Park from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Hot drinks and snacks will be available, and visitors will be able to deposit entry forms for drawings to win prizes from Columbia Sportswear, Keen Footwear, REI and Leatherman Tools.

Entry forms are obtained by registering at [www.oregonstateparksfoundation.org](http://www.oregonstateparksfoundation.org).

Completed forms must be brought

to one of the four participating parks from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. that day.

KINK-FM radio will host a special promotional appearance by music director Jared from noon to 2 p.m. at Champoeg.

Parking is free year-round at almost all state parks; the waiver applies to the 26 parks that charge \$5 daily for parking. The waiver applies from open to close on Nov. 25, except at Shore Acres State Park, where it expires at 3 p.m. for the Holiday Lights event that runs Thanksgiving through New Year's Eve.

## On the Bite

A WEEKLY FISHING REPORT FOR THE LOCAL REGION

[www.dfw.state.or.us/RR](http://www.dfw.state.or.us/RR)

**MID COAST LAKES:**  
Rainbow trout stocking is complete along the mid coast. Holdover trout will be available in most lakes. Fishing for the various warm water fish species will slow as water temperatures cool. There are numerous lakes in the Florence area that can provide good opportunity.

**SIUSLAW RIVER:**  
*Chinook*

The Siuslaw River and bay is open for Chinook salmon. Fishing is slow. Fish are throughout the bay and river. Trolling herring in the lower bay is an effective technique. Eggs and bobber can be productive in the upper bay and river as the season progresses.

**ALSEA RIVER:** *Chinook*  
The Alsea River and bay is open for Chinook salmon. Fishing is slow. Fish are throughout the bay and river. Eggs and bobber can be productive in the

See **FISHING 4B**

## OSAA to use three-person officiating for basketball

The OSAA Executive Board has approved the use of three-person officiating crews for the 6A, 5A and 4A basketball playoffs beginning in 2017.

The expansion takes effect with this season's early round playoff games at high school sites, as well as the quarterfinals through the state championship games at final and neutral sites.

Schools and leagues in all classifications will continue to have the option of using three or two-person crews during the regular season, provided the local officials associations are able to cover the games.

This option was allowed, for the first time, during the 2015-16 season with nine of 38 leagues choosing to use three-person crews.

"Cooperation between the 17 local associations and OSAA member schools and leagues made the first year a positive one and we are excited to move forward," said Cindy Simmons, OSAA

See **OSAA 3B**

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## Happy Thanksgiving to all!

Thank you for your business and support over the past year.  
I feel grateful to live and work in a tight knit caring community.

If you have real estate needs, please come see me.

I would love to help match you to your perfect home or help you sell yours.

**Have a safe and happy holiday.**

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"We're next to the Bridge."



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