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Siuslaw News



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Recreational crabbing opens in all Oregon waters

The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) have announced that the ocean and bay recreational crab fishery is now open in all areas along the Oregon coast.

Recreational crabbing was previously closed in many areas due to elevated levels of domoic acid in Dungeness crab

viscera. The most recent tests show levels of domoic acid are safe in all areas tested.

The commercial fishery for Dungeness crab in Oregon waters south of Cape Blanco began on Dec. 18. Changes to the status of the ocean commercial fishery in the region between Cape Blanco and the Oregon and Washington border will be considered later this

week, in consultation with the commercial crab industry and the Washington and California Fish and Wildlife agencies.

It is recommended that crab always be eviscerated prior to cooking. Evisceration includes removing and discarding the internal organs and gills.

Despite the closure, crab and shellfish products sold in retail markets and restaurants remain

safe for consumers because these products were not harvested in areas closed for biotoxins.

Domoic acid or amnesic shellfish toxin can cause minor to severe illness and even death. Severe poisoning can result in dizziness, headaches, vomiting and diarrhea. More severe cases can result in memory loss and death.

Shellfish toxins are produced by algae and originate in the ocean. Toxins cannot be removed by cooking, freezing or any other treatment.

For more information, call ODA's shellfish safety information hotline at 800-448-2474 or visit www.oregon.gov/ODA/programs/FoodSafety/Shellfish/Pages/ShellfishClosures.aspx.



NED HICKSON/SIUSLAW NEWS

Viking sophomore Annabell Tupua drives into the paint against Reedsport.

Viks from 1B

beginning of the season, has been a top scorer in the last three matchups, as well as a key defender, with a team-high 10 rebounds against Reedsport.

The Viks also got scoring from junior Carreina Greenburg, who had 8 points, senior Claire Waggoner with 5 points, and 3 points from senior Abby Watkins.

Siuslaw will take a short break this week before returning to the hardwood Friday, Dec. 30, at Corbett, beginning at 4 p.m.

The Vikings will wrap up the nonleague season with games at Waldport (Jan. 3), the Sky-West Crossover Tournament (Jan. 6 and 7) and at home against Junction City (Jan. 10).

The Far West League season opens Friday, Jan. 13, when Siuslaw hosts South Umpqua, beginning at 6 p.m.

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Whale Watching begins Tuesday

Gray whales are on the move along the Oregon coast headed south to their winter grounds off Baja California, Mexico.

Let trained volunteers help you spot the migrating whales during the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department annual winter Whale Watching Week, Dec. 27-31. Volunteers with the "Whale Watching Spoken

Here" program will be stationed at 24 sites, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. each of those days to share whale watching tips, migration facts and whale feeding habits.

A map of the watch sites is available online at www.whalespoken.org.

Camping, including yurts and cabins, is available at state parks along the coast.



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Do your part and volunteer today to help support these local non-profit organizations in our community!

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Florence Food Share provides food to those who are hungry in our community. If you have four hours a week available, we are in need of volunteers to staff our Front Desk and also act as Guides as clients walk through the pantry. Please call our volunteer coordinator, Gina Yates, @ 541-997-9110 (Monday - Friday, before noon) to learn more about volunteering. info@florence-foodshare.org 2190 Spruce Street.



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