

Sailors offer b-ball camp

Mapleton girls basketball coach Mike Murray will be hosting a free basketball skills camp for girls ages 9 to 14.

The camp will be held at Mapleton High School on Saturday, Jan. 21, from 1 to 4 p.m.

Players will learn basic fundamentals in a fun environment of learning and hands-on practice.

Come dressed with shorts, sweats and court shoes.

Parent or guardian must register players before participating and show proof of insurance.

RSVP by calling Murray at 541-359-9166.

WHALE LOVERS CAN SHOW SUPPORT WITH NEW LICENSE PLATE

CORVALLIS — A new license plate featuring a gray whale and her calf likely will be available to Oregon drivers by summer 2017.

This project is sponsored by the Oregon State University Marine Mammal Institute and enthusiasm for it is running high, said Bruce Mate, director of the institute. Thousands of flyers will be passed out on the Oregon coast in the coming week to help residents learn more about what they can do to support the initiative.

"Everybody I've shown the plate design to has loved it," said Mate, whose institute will receive \$35 from the Oregon Department of Transportation every time a vehicle owner spends \$40 to buy the plate.

The money will go toward whale research, graduate student education and public outreach.

The license plate depicts the cow-calf pair on a two-tone blue background that emulates sea and sky. In the upper left corner is a lighthouse, and across the bottom it reads "Coastal Playground."

Renowned wildlife illustrator Pieter Folkens created the lifelike whale images, originally for a poster for the Marine Mammal Institute, which is part of OSU's College of Agricultural Sciences.

"They're extremely detailed," Mate said. "You can see every barnacle."

The institute paid an application fee of \$5,000 to ODOT to

begin the license plate process, Mate said, and will pay another \$80,000 to cover production costs. In addition, it needs to turn in an "expression of interest" from at least 3,000 vehicle owners stating they plan to buy the plate.

To help with that, 30,000 flyers will be distributed along the coast by Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department volunteers helping out during the annual weeklong "Whale Watching Spoken Here" celebration that runs between Christmas and New Year's. Each flyer contains an expression-of-interest form.

There will be volunteers at all Oregon coastal headlands to help visitors see southward-migrating gray whales.

Between 10,000 and 25,000 whale watchers interact with the volunteers each year during the week between Dec. 25 and Jan. 1, Mate said.

Interest can also be registered online at www.mmi.oregonstate.edu/whaleplate.

No financial commitment is required, but it's asked that only those serious about buying a Coastal Playground plate register.

"It's a great plate and promotes coastal tourism and just a healthy image for Oregon," Mate said. "I expect a lot of people will like it, and it's a way for people to inexpensively support marine mammals."

It's not necessary to wait for a vehicle's registration to need renewal, or buy a new car, to

purchase the Coastal Playground plate, Mate noted.

For \$40, a new plate can be ordered at any time without affecting the vehicle's registration cycle.

"This plate is a joyful celebration," Mate said. "Gray whales were on the Endangered Species List because of exploitation, and now they're the only whale species to have been removed from the list because they've recovered."

"And they're Oregon's flagship large whale. Ninety-five percent of the whales you see from shore are gray whales."

"Whales are huge, they're warm-blooded, they live in an environment we wouldn't do well in," Mate said. "They're really easy to emote with."

Viks from 1B

Carreina Greenburg, who dribbled the clock away to secure the win.

It was a dramatic finish in overtime that followed an equally dramatic finish in regulation, when Junction City sophomore

Mariah Ohman drained a long 3-pointer at the buzzer to tie the game at 34-34.

It was indicative of a game that remained close from start to finish, with the Vikings managing the biggest lead in the matchup late in the third period, on a fast-break layup by senior guard Abby Watkins that made it 26-24.

Though the Vikings led for nearly the entire fourth period until Ohman's last-second 3-pointer, Siuslaw's biggest advantage was still just 3 points.

"It was pretty exciting," Richards said of the win, which marked the end of the preseason.

Senior guard Destinie Tatum was a force on the hardwood,

scoring a double-double with 17 points and 18 rebounds. Watkins had 6 points and a team-high 3 assists, and senior guard Brittany Long had 5 points and a team-high 6 steals.

Senior wing Claire Waggoner and Richards had 4 points each, and junior post Marika White had 2 points.

That same night, the Viking boys team was on the road at Junction City, looking for a little redemption after losing to the Tigers earlier in the season.

Unfortunately, the Viks came up short, 54-44, despite 21 points from junior post Trent Reavis and 11 points from junior wing Jake Hickson.

Last night, Siuslaw hosted South Umpqua (after press deadlines) to kick off Far West League competition.

Tuesday, Siuslaw will be on the road at Marshfield.

Girls tip off at 6 p.m., followed by the boys at 7 p.m.

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Together, Wes Wells and I have served the Florence Area for the past 12 years through our family owned business, Wells Tree & Landscape. We have three children who attend Mapleton High School; Dominic Wells, Haley Wells, and Alyssa West. I recently earned my Oregon Real Estate Brokers license to further help our community. I am eager to share my knowledge of the local area with newcomers and serve local residents in the sale of their home.

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