

# Siuslaw News Sports & Recreation

## SPORTS Calendar

### WINTER SPORTS OPENERS

#### • NOV. 29

SHS BASKETBALL  
AT CRESWELL  
GIRLS: 6 P.M.  
BOYS: 7:30 P.M.

#### • DEC. 1

SHS WRESTLING  
AT HARRISBURG  
10 A.M.

#### • DEC. 5

MHS  
BASKETBALL  
AT REEDSPORT  
GIRLS: 5:30 P.M.  
BOYS: 7 P.M.



NED HICKSON/SIUSLAW NEWS

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## WINTER WHALE COUNTDOWN

By NED HICKSON  
Siuslaw News

**A**s this year's holiday will be season drawing to a close in 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



OPRD COURTESY PHOTO

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

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

See **WHALES XB**

## On the Bite

A WEEKLY  
FISHING REPORT FOR  
THE LOCAL REGION

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

### WARMWATER FISHING — South Coast

The south coast area extends along the Oregon coast from Yachats south to the Oregon-California border. The area offers some of the most productive and scenic warmwater fishing in the state with excellent fishing for bass and panfish available in large waters such as **Mercer Lake, Siltcoos Lake, and Tahkenitch Lake.**

**Tennmile Lakes** located north of Coos Bay is renowned for its crappie and trophy bass fisheries, and the site of bass tournaments. Anglers should also try one of the many smaller lakes scattered along Highway 101 and throughout the coastal dunes area, or **Triangle Lake** closer to the Willamette Valley.

The warmwater fish available in the south coast area include: Largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, bullheads, black crappie, bluegill, pumpkinseed, yellow perch, green sunfish, warmouth and channel catfish.

North and South Tennmile Lake provide some of the finest warmwater fishing on the Oregon coast. Located on the east side of Hwy 101 mid-way between Reedsport and Coos Bay, the combined lakes offer nearly 2,000 acres of water and miles of shoreline to fish for largemouth bass, bluegill, crappie and brown bullhead catfish.

Much of the property around Tennmile is privately-owned and the lakes are best fished by boat, but a fishing dock at Tennmile Lake County Park in the small community of Lakeside is wheelchair accessible and a great spot for kids. There also is a

See **FISHING XB**

## TIDE TABLE

Entrance Siuslaw River

High Tide Low Tide

**Nov. 18**  
11:22am / 8.0 5:29am / 2.5  
6:13pm / -0.4

**Nov. 19**  
12:37am / 6.5 6:05am / 2.7  
11:54pm / 7.9 6:48pm / -0.4

**Nov. 20**  
1:16am / 6.5 6:41am / 3.0  
12:25pm / 7.7 7:23pm / -0.3

**Nov. 21**  
1:56am / 6.4 7:17am / 3.3  
12:58pm / 7.4 7:59pm / -0.1

**Nov. 22**  
2:37am / 6.3 7:56pm / 3.5  
1:33pm / 7.1 8:38pm / 0.2

**Nov. 23**  
3:22am / 6.1 8:39am / 3.6  
2:11pm / 6.7 9:19m / 0.5

**Nov. 24**  
4:10am / 6.0 9:31pm / 3.7  
2:57pm / 6.3 10:04pm / 0.8

## SIUSLAW NEWS

148 Maple St.  
Florence  
541-997-3441

## Parking fee to be waived at state park on 'Green Friday'

Oregon State Parks invites the public to play for free on Friday, Nov. 24, in celebration of "Green Friday," the day after Thanksgiving. The agency will waive day-use parking fees in 26 Oregon State Parks that day.

"We started this tradition three years ago to encourage people to opt outside," said OPRD director Lisa Sumption. "Why not get some fresh air with your family and create a new holiday tradition?"

To help celebrate, the nonprofit Oregon State Parks Foundation is offering free hot drinks and snacks at Tryon Creek State Natural Area, Fort Stevens State Park, Rooster Rock State Park, Silver Falls State Park and Cape Blanco State Park.

In addition, refreshments — donated by Starbucks Coffee, Nossa Familia Coffee, Smith Tea, Stevens Cocoa and

KIND Bars — will be served by volunteers from the local Friends Groups.

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. 24, 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. A list of parks that require day-use parking permits is at OregonStateParks.org.

Daily parking permits can be purchased on site, but one- and two-year passes are also available online at store.oregonstateparks.org.

Visit the Oregon State Parks website at oregonstateparks.org for directions to each park.



Lynnette Wikstrom  
Broker  
Cell: 541.999.0786

Happy Thanksgiving and hoping  
you get to enjoy the holiday  
among family and friends.

lynnette@cbcoast.com

100 Hwy. 101, Florence, OR • 541.997.7777



"We're next to the Bridge."



COAST REAL ESTATE