

Kick off new year with annual OPRD free First Day Hike Jan. 1

SALEM — The First Day Hikes tradition continues New Year's Day 2018 when the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) joins America's State Parks in sponsoring the seventh annual event.

All 24 hikes in 22 Oregon state parks will be guided by park rangers or volunteers who will share stories about a park's geology, history, wildlife and plants. Day-use parking fees are waived for all visitors at par-

ticipating parks Jan. 1 only.

Hikers can register for a hike online for the first time at bit.ly/ParkStoreEvents. Registration is not required but helps park staff plan for the hike and provide them with participant contact information should hike details change.

"Bundle up and enjoy your first walk of the year with us," says Lisa Sumption, OPRD director. "First Day Hikes are a fun, healthy way to start

2018 and a great way to see that Oregon state parks are great any time of year."

OPRD advises visitors to plan for inclement weather, dress in layers, wear sturdy shoes, bring water and remember to carry binoculars for viewing wildlife.

Check the hike listings at bit.ly/ParkStoreEvents for details about recommended ages for children hiking and whether pets are allowed.

Participating parks and meeting areas along the coast include

- Cape Lookout State Park: Beginning at noon. Meet in the Cape Lookout Trail parking lot.
- Crissey Field State Recreation Site at 2 p.m. Meet at the base of the stairs adjacent to the parking lot.
- Darlingtonia State Natural Area at 1 p.m. Meet in the parking lot.
- Humbug Mountain State Park at 10 a.m. Meet at the campground flag

pole.

- Oswald West State Park at 10 a.m. Meet in the main parking lot on the southern end near the shop.
- South Beach State Park at 10 a.m. Meet in the South Beach day-use area.
- Sunset Bay State Park (Coos Bay area) at 1 p.m. Meet at the Sunset Bay gazebo.
- William M. Tugman State Park at 10 a.m. Meet in the day-use area at the gazebo.

BELLES DONATE TO SOFTBALL



COURTESY PHOTO

Following a recent raffle held during the Victorian Belles Bazaar, the group donated its proceeds to the Siuslaw High School softball team. The check was presented by Belles president Nancy Hill and Anne Stonelake to coach Sean O'Mara, along with team members Abby Coday, Nina Aaron and April Rosenbaum. David Passie won the holiday basket (no pictured).

Crabbing

from 1B

related to the recent recreational crabbing closures that have affected some areas of the coast (currently, south of the north jetty of the Coquille River to California. These closures are due to elevated levels of the biotoxin domoic acid detected in crab.

The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) continues to monitor domoic acid levels in crab, and recreational and commercial crabbing in affected areas will remain closed or harvest restrictions will be put in place until test results indicate that crab harvested from them are safe to consume.

Despite the commercial

delay and some recreational closures, crab and shellfish products sold in retail markets and restaurants remain safe for consumers.

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

Commercial Dungeness crab is Oregon's most valuable fishery. Last year's season opening was also delayed but still brought in the record high ex-vessel value of \$62.7 million, with 20.4 million pounds landed (about 22 percent above the 10-year average).

Viks

from 1B

Heading into the fourth quarter down 43-44, Siuslaw re-took the lead on a bucket from senior Johnny Rollin. Newport answered with a 3-pointer, which the Viks matched with a 3-pointer from senior guard Jake Hickson to stay ahead 48-47.

With three minutes remaining, Reavis jammed his way to the rim but came down hard, suffering what appeared to be a hamstring injury that took him out for the remainder of the

game.

Foul trouble for the Cubs put the Viks at the line several times in the fourth quarter as Siuslaw held onto a slim 59-57 lead with 19 seconds to go.

With 3.6 seconds on the clock, the Cubs managed to slip into the key and sink the tying basket, 59-59, pushing the game into overtime.

The Cubs were the first to score in OT, draining their 16th 3-point bucket. Down 61-64 with 2:38 remaining, the Viks got a pair of free throws from sophomore Caleb Hennessee. A steal on the return by King

was fed into the hands of junior Dylan Wynn, who came off the bench to deliver a timely lay-up.

In the final 60 seconds, the game was tied twice. Two freethrows from senior Dylan McGallian tied things at 66-66 before Newport's 19th and final 3-pointer put the Cubs ahead 69-66 with :49 on the clock.

King penetrated the paint and put together a 3-point play, sinking one at the rim then from the charity line to tie the game at 69.

After a Cubs timeout,

Siuslaw stole for an extra possession as King went coast to coast for the game-winning lay-up, 71-69.

King led the team scoring with 25 points, and Reavis had 15. The Vikings (2-1) will compete in the Les Schwab Eagle Booster Classic, which began Thursday and continues today in Junction City, beginning at 2 p.m.

Siuslaw's next home game is this Tuesday, Dec. 12, against Cottage Grove.

Tipoff is 5:45 p.m., followed by the girls game at 7 p.m.

Fishing

from 1B

ALSEA RIVER: *Steelhead, Chinook*

Fall Chinook fishing is slow to fair. Anglers are reminded that there is no wild coho salmon retention in 2017.

A few winter steelhead are starting to be caught in the lower river.

SALMON RIVER: *Steelhead, Chinook*

The Salmon River opened Dec. 1 for wild and hatchery steelhead. Wild winter steelhead can be retained on the Salmon River. Daily and annual bag limit on wild winter steelhead are 1 per day and 3 per year.

Fall Chinook fishing has been slowing down, but a few fish are still available.

SILETZ RIVER: *Steelhead, Chinook*

A few winter steelhead are starting to be caught in the lower river.

Fall Chinook fishing has been slowing down, but a few fish are still available. Anglers are reminded that there is no wild coho salmon retention in 2017.

WILSON RIVER: *Chinook, steelhead*

Fall Chinook fishing is slow to fair. There should be fish available throughout the system. Bobber fishing bait,

back-bouncing, back-trolling plugs or divers and bait, or casting spinners can all be effective methods.

Anglers are reminded the Wilson River is closed to salmon fishing Aug. 1 to Dec. 31, upstream of Jordan Creek (River Mile 21.9).

The first winter steelhead was reported on the Wilson, but it's still early and fishing is slow. Drift fishing baits or bobber fishing with jigs, beads, or bait are all good techniques.

YAQUINA RIVER: *Steelhead, Chinook*

The Big Elk opened Dec 1 for wild and hatchery steelhead.

Wild winter steelhead can be retained on the Big Elk. Daily and annual bag limit on wild winter steelhead are 1 per day and 3 per year.

Fall Chinook fishing has been slowing down, but a few fish are still available.

Anglers are reminded that there is no wild coho salmon retention in 2017.

PACIFIC HALIBUT

All 2017 sport halibut fisheries have concluded. Allocations for 2018 will be announced in late January 2018.

For more information, see the sport halibut webpage.

SHORE AND ESTUARY FISHING Shore and estuary anglers

may fish for surfperch, flatfish species like starry flounder and sanddabs, and baitfish (herring, for example).

Due to inseason regulation changes, anglers may NOT catch or retain lingcod, any species of rockfish, cabezon, greenling, or other bottomfish species except for flatfish species like sanddab and starry flounder.

Surfperch fishing is not impacted by this closure, and remains open.

Public piers provide opportunities to catch surfperch and baitfish and to drop crab pots (but check first for crab health safety closures).

Learn about surfperch fishing.

When fishing from shore or inside estuaries and bays, it is important to check the tide.

Many fish that swim into estuaries and bays, including salmon, surfperch, and Pacific herring, tend to come in with the tide.

Catch of these species is more likely to occur closer to slack tide.

Additionally, the accessibility of some areas can be completely dependent on the tide. Do not allow the incoming tide to become a safety hazard.

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.

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