

Siuslaw News Sports & Recreation

SPORTS Calendar

• MARCH 14

SHS/MHS BASEBALL
HOSTS P. HILL
4 P.M.
SHS TRACK
AT P. HILL
3 P.M.

• MARCH 16

SHS SOFTBALL
HOSTS SUTHERLIN
4 P.M.

• APRIL 6

MHS TRACK
AMJ INVITE
4 P.M.



COURTESY IMAGES

There will be 24 different "Whale Spoken Here" locations along the Oregon coast from March 24-31.

READY FOR WHALE TAILS

BY NED HICKSON
Siuslaw News

In a few weeks, Oregon's coastline will draw visitors both on land and in the sea as people flock to viewpoints along the coast for a chance to spot the annual spring gray whale northern migration from Mexico to Alaska.

Approximately 18,000 gray

north is more leisurely, with the majestic mammals staying within a half mile of the shoreline with their young. Approximately 200 of these whales remain part-time residents off the Oregon coast between June and November. Of those, approximately 40 linger between Lincoln City and Newport.

short distance of Florence include: The Cape Perpetua Visitor's Center, Cook's Chasm Turnout, Sea Lion Caves Turnout, Umpqua Lighthouse (Umpqua Lighthouse State Park) and The Whale Watching Center in Depoe Bay.

A complete map of Whale Watching Spoken Here" viewpoints is available online at www.whalespoken.org.

According to data compiled by Oregon State Parks since 2013, Cape Perpetua is the



whales make the return trek from the warm-water lagoons in Baja California that serve as breeding grounds and nurseries from January through March, back to their feeding grounds in the Bering and Chukchi seas around Alaska.

While the southern trip to Mexico is at a more frantic pace, their return

During the peak migration time, which is from March 24-31 this season, hundreds of Whale Watching Spoken Here (WWSH) volunteers will man 26 sites along the coast from Ilwaco, Wash., to Crescent City, Calif., assisting visitors in spotting gray whales and answering questions. WWSH locations within a relatively

fourth-best location to spot whales according to a ratio of whales-to-sightings as reported by WWSH volunteers. Sea Lions Caves was fifth, with the No. 1 location, according to statistics, is Umpqua Lighthouse State Park.

WHALE FACTS

Gray whales are baleen whales,

See **WHALES 4B**

Entire Oregon coast now open for crabbing

SALEM — The Oregon Department of Agriculture and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife announce that recreational and commercial crabbing is now open from Cape Blanco, north of Port Orford, to the California border. Crab samples taken from the area indicate that levels of the marine biotoxin domoic acid have dropped below the alert level.

As a result, the entire Oregon coast is now open for recreational and commercial crabbing, free of restrictions.

For commercial crabbing, ODA and ODFW have lifted the requirement that



COURTESY PHOTO

A drop in the domoic acid level throughout the coast prompted the ODA and ODFW decision.

all crab harvested from Cape Blanco to the California border be eviscerated (gutted).

It is still always recommended that crab be eviscerated and the guts or butter discarded prior to cooking. When whole crab are cooked in liquid, domoic acid may leach into the cooking

See **CRABBING 3B**

On the Bite

A WEEKLY FISHING REPORT FOR THE LOCAL REGION

www.dfw.state.or.us/RR

SALMON:

In May/June start thinking spring Chinook in rivers and basins from Tillamook south to the Siletz. By August attention turns to fall Chinook and coho. There is a rare opportunity to fish for chum salmon (catch-and-release only) on the Kilchis and Miami rivers beginning in mid-September.

STEELHEAD:

These ocean-going rainbow trout are divided into two runs: winter and summer. For those that prefer frost bite to sunburn, winter steelhead begin entering area rivers and streams from November and December (depending on the timing of the fall rains) and runs can continue through April.

Summer steelhead returns begin in early April to early June in the Nestucca, Siletz, Trask and Wilson rivers. Summer fish will continue to arrive through late summer and early fall, sometimes overlapping with winter returning fish.

TROUT:

Cutthroat trout live in these coastal rivers and streams. Although resident fish may be small, they are feisty and fun to catch. Fishing these cool, shaded waters also can provide a welcome respite from the summer heat. In late summer, look for sea-run cutthroat to migrate from the estuaries back to freshwater to spawn. These can be large, hard-fighting fish.

Dozens of lakes and ponds throughout the zone are stocked with rainbow trout from February through May and, for some, again in October.

Tenmile 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.

TENMILE LAKES:

North and South Tenmile Lake provide some of the finest warmwater fishing on the Oregon coast. Located on the east side of Hwy 101 mid-way between

See **FISHING 4B**

SIUSLAW NEWS

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GEM IN THE ROUGH!

1889 2-story home in Skunk Hollow. This 1280 sqft home has great bones with solid foundation & garage with extra storage. The main floor has newer kitchen appliances & maple flooring. Living room has high ceilings & custom woodworking which continues thru thru-out. There's an extra storage area, nice bathroom & large utility room. Upstairs are 2 bedrooms & an area for clothes hanging. Builder owned in great condition. Sold 'as-is'

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