

Siuslaw News

Sports & Recreation

Sports

Calendar

- Dec. 20**
- SHS girls BB at Bandon Day one
 - SHS Boys BB at Bandon Day One
 - MHS girls BB at Reedsport 4 p.m.
 - MHS boys BB at Reedsport 5:30 p.m.
- Dec. 21**
- SHS girls BB at Bandon Day Two
 - SHS Boys BB at Bandon Day Two

VIK WRESTLERS FINISH IN MIDDLE OF PACK AT 42-TEAM MEET

By NED HICKSON
Siuslaw News

If you want to get a feel for what it's like at the state wrestling meet before state competition in February, look no further than the Grants Pass Winter Kickoff, where Siuslaw took to the mats over the weekend.

With 42 teams from multiple divisions wrestling over a period of two days (Dec. 14-15), it's about as close to the state meet atmosphere as you can

get without actually competing for a state medal.

"We had a great team performance at the Grants Pass Kickoff," said Siuslaw coach Neil Wartnik, whose underclassmen-dominated team turned in a series of outstanding matches en route to claiming 20th out of 42 schools.

Though Siuslaw struggled in the beginning after losing its first seven matches, the Vikings came roaring back to win their next six out of eight matches — three of them by pin from

wrestlers Elijah LaCosse (138 lbs.), Matthew Horrillo (285 lbs.) and Bailey Overton (128 lbs.).

Horrillo also turned in what Wartnik described as "one of the most exciting matches of my career," in a rare Ultimate Overtime win. The Viking junior lost his first matches but went on to win his next four, including the dramatic bout against Devin Crenshaw of North Medford.

See **WRESTLING 5B**

NEECE NAMED TO ALL-STATE FOOTBALL ROSTER



JJ Neece

By NED HICKSON
Siuslaw News

When the Oregon School Activities Association (OSAA) released the names of players recognized for the 2018 1A Football All-State Roster, among them was Mapleton's JJ Neece.

The sophomore linebacker and quarterback was one of only two underclassmen included on the list of juniors and seniors from 1A teams throughout the state.

The other was freshman Kaleb Pence of this year's 1A state championship team from Dufur, which also had the OSAA's 1A Player of the Year (junior Asa Farrell) and Coach of the Year (Jack Henderson).

In addition to leading the Sailors in scoring and tackling, Neece entered the 1A 8-man football record

See **NEECE 3B**



NED HICKSON/SIUSLAW NEWS

Mapleton freshman Jahala Blake moves the ball around Waldport's zone defense during Saturday's game.

LADY SAILORS FIND NO LUCK AGAINST IRISH

Mapleton boys narrowly lost to Mohawk, 32-31, fell to Elkton and North Douglas.

By NED HICKSON
Siuslaw News

Lady Sailors: 02 04 04 05 — 13
Lady Irish: 11 13 18 10 — 52

Mapleton's basketball programs had a busy weekend, with the Lady Sailors hosting Waldport on Saturday, and the

Mapleton boys competing in the North Douglas Winter Invitational. Heading in to the weekend, though, the Sailors were on the hardwood at Marcola to take on the Mustangs of Mohawk High School in what turned out to be a defensive barn-burner.

A total of 63 points was scored in the game, with the scoring almost evenly divided. Heading into the fourth quarter, the Sailors held an 8-point lead over the Mustangs, who mounted a rally in the final minutes. Mapleton coach Eric

Wolgamott said his team is "still learning how to win close games," and this one was about as close as it gets — with Mohawk barely edging out Mapleton, 32-31.

Nate and JJ Neece led scoring, with Nate accounting for 11 points and JJ claiming 8 on the night.

In the girls' game, The Lady Mustangs turned in a dominant performance for a 61-16 win.

See **SAILORS 5B**

Siuslaw teams blocked by Billies at home in non-league match-up

By NED HICKSON
Siuslaw News

Lady Vikings: 35; Lady Billies: 71
Vikings: 53; Billies: 74

The Billies' visit to the hardwood in Florence was anything but pleasant for Siuslaw last Friday night, with Pleasant Hill winning both non-league match-ups by more than 20 points.

The Lady Vikings opened the evening with high hopes after barely losing

See **SIUSLAW 4B**



Siuslaw sophomore Jacob Foscett gets a steal against Pleasant Hill; senior guard Madison Reynolds looks for an opening in the Lady Billies defense.



PHOTOS BY NED HICKSON/SIUSLAW NEWS

On the Bite

A WEEKLY
FISHING REPORT FOR THE
LOCAL REGION
www.dfw.state.or.us/RR

MID COAST LAKES:
Stocking of mid coast lakes stopped in early June, but fishing for warmwater species can still be good in several area lakes, including Ollala Reservoir, Mercer Lake, Siltcoos Lake and Tahkenitch Lake.

SIUSLAW RIVER: *Fall Chinook, winter steelhead*
Winter steelhead fishing opened on Dec. 1 and fish will start entering the Siuslaw system throughout the month of December.

No good reports yet but things should be changing this week with warmer weather and rain in the forecast. Hatchery fish in the Siuslaw system return to Whitaker Creek

See **FISHING 4B**



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The Holidays are upon us with festive lights, brightly lit trees, parties, gift giving, christmas dinners and where all is merry and bright. But for some it is not all merry and bright. There are many people that do not have adequate shelter, food, or warm clothes. If you have a chance to give money, supplies or volunteer your time, there are many organizations that will help those in need. To name a few, there's SOS, Food Share, Coats for kids, Helping Hands Coalition, and you can even give or ring the bell for the Salvation Army. I'm sure I missed organizations who help, but whatever way you choose to give, let's put a little cheer in someone else's life.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

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"We're next to the Bridge."

