

Calendar

Feb. 23

- SHS wrestling 4A OSAA state meet Finals — TBA
- SBSA Assessments at Siuslaw H.S. 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Feb. 24

- SBSA Assessments at Siuslaw H.S. 1 to 3:15 p.m.

SHS spring sports openers

March 13

- SHS baseball at Harrisburg H.S. 4:30 p.m.
- SHS softball at Harrisburg H.S. 4:30 p.m.

March 21

- SHS track & field Siuslaw Icebreaker at Siuslaw H.S. 4 p.m.

Tide Tables

Entrance Siuslaw River

High Tide	Low Tide
Feb. 23 2:39am / 8.0 2:54pm / 7.0	8:57am / 0.8 9:03pm / 0.9
Feb. 24 3:22am / 7.9 3:55pm / 6.2	9:54am / 0.8 9:49am / 1.7
Feb. 25 4:08am / 7.6 5:04pm / 5.7	10:56am / 1.0 10:40pm / 2.4
Feb. 26 4:59am / 7.3 6:25pm / 5.3	12:04am / 1.1 11:43pm / 3.2
Feb. 27 5:57am / 7.0 7:53pm / 5.3	1:16pm / 1.1
Feb. 28 7:01am / 6.9 9:08pm / 5.5	12:57am / 3.6 2:23pm / 0.9
March 1 8:05am / 6.8 10:02pm / 5.8	2:12am / 3.6 3:20pm / 0.7

TIME OUT

By Lloyd Little
Retired teacher, coach and game official

With more than 55 years as an athlete, coach, parent and spectator, Lloyd Little has gained some insights and perspectives regarding athletics. Each week, he shares what he's learned about sports from his multiple points of view.

My Role Models (Part I)

Before I even realized what a role model was, I watched professional football on TV. As with most early learners of football, I watched the quarterback. He is, after all, the one player who gets the ball nearly every play and, naturally, quarterback became my favorite position to watch. My role models were Bart Starr of the Green Bay Packers, Fran Tarkenton of the

See LITTLE 3B



NED HICKSON/SIUSLAW NEWS

ONE LAST CHEER

After more than three decades, Siuslaw cheerleading coach Diane Conlee hangs up her pom poms.

By NED HICKSON
Siuslaw News



COURTESY PHOTO

Diane Conlee's final cheer squad includes freshmen Arianna Brown, Brooke Olson and Kelly Phillips, sophomores Leana Jagoe and Adria Sandusky, and seniors Danielle Goldblatt, Grace Hammonds and Desteny Johnson.

During Siuslaw High School's final home basketball game of the season on Feb. 12, Vikings fans, players and families said goodbye to this year's seniors.

Senior class members of both basketball teams, as well as band and the cheerleading squad, each had a moment of recognition as they took to the hardwood, tuned their instruments or raised their pom-poms for the last time at Glenn Butler Court.

However, the evening was also the final appearance of one individual whose presence and influence within Siuslaw's athletics programs has spanned more than three decades. For many in the stands, Vikings cheerleading coach Diane Conlee has been the silent but constant embodiment of Siuslaw spirit for their entire lives — in some cases, in the lives of their children as well.

For someone whose beginnings with the program

occurred by mere happenstance back in the mid 1980s, Conlee's dedication as a coach and mentor has become legendary and, in the

"I will walk away with so many memories... I hope that the future of cheerleading at Siuslaw will continue to grow."

— Diane Conlee
Siuslaw HOF cheerleading coach

words of SHS athletic director Chris Johnson, a prime example of coaching at its best.

"When I arrived in 1995, I saw the discipline and dedication in her cheerleading squad and was immediately impressed with her as a coach," Johnson said of Conlee during her induction into the Siuslaw Hall of Fame last year. "I recognized immediately that she was a coach to watch and learn

from."

By 1995, Conlee had already coached squads to three state championships — in 1991, 1992 and 1993 — and taken teams to the Aloha Bowl and Pro Bowl.

Over the years, her squads placed second at state three times, had three third-place finishes at state and made two trips to national competition.

"I didn't have a background in cheer but did have some dance and choreography experience from my years as a baton twirler," said Conlee, who said her initial goal was a simple one.

"I just wanted to survive," she said. "I wanted to make changes quickly in an effort to help the cheerleaders be better crowd leaders, support the teams they cheered for and promote spirit and sportsmanship — and not all of those changes were popular at first."

Conlee said she stumbled through that first season as

See CONLEE 2B

Florence Half Marathon set to run again in March

Appropriately enough, the next Florence Half Marathon will be taking place in just half the time since the last marathon. The annual event, usually held at Miller Park each September, will be returning less than six months since the previous marathon when it gets under way on March 16.

Organized by Pink Buffalo Racing and coordinated with Eclectic Edge Racing, the 13.1-mile course will once again begin and end at the north end of the Miller Park parking lot.



NED HICKSON/SIUSLAW NEWS

Registration has already begun, with an entry fee of \$65 through March 15 and \$75 the day of the race.

Race time is 9 a.m.

Runners age 60 and older, or 17 and under, can pre-register for \$60 prior to March 16.

Runners must be age 15 or older.

Register online at www.pinkbuffaloracing.com/fhm-register.html.

ODFW REGIONAL FISHING REPORT

www.dfw.state.or.us/RR

MID COAST LAKES: Stocking of the mid-coast lakes will begin the first week of February. Check the stocking schedule online for dates and locations of stockings. These early stockings include: Alder and Dune Lake, Cleawox, Lost Lake, Munsel Lake, Thissel Pond, Munsel Lake, Big Creek Reservoirs and Olalla Creek Reservoir.

SIUSLAW RIVER: Winter steelhead

Winter steelhead fishing has still been good on the Siuslaw with the lower water. The Siuslaw holds a little bit of color even when it gets low which helps the fishing conditions. The numbers of fish returning to the Whitaker Creek trap have increased for the end of January and now into February.

Fish are being caught every day with the best fishing around Whitaker Creek for both the bank and boat anglers.

Lake Creek steelhead fishing has been fair this year so far. Currently, Lake Creek is low and clear creating tough conditions and could benefit from some rain and a bump in the river level.

Hatchery fish in the Siuslaw system return to Whitaker Creek (Siuslaw) and Green Creek (Lake Creek).

Bobber fishing with

See FISHING 3B