



Sports & Recreation

Calendar

All sporting activities at Siuslaw and Mapleton high schools have been cancelled through April 28

ODFW REGIONAL FISHING REPORT

www.dfw.state.or.us/RR

MID COAST LAKES:
Stocking of the mid-coast lakes has begun for the 2020 season. The first two weeks of February, several of the mid-coast lakes were stocked, more stocking are scheduled for the beginning of March. Check the stocking schedule online for dates and locations of lakes that have been stocked and will be stocked in the future. Lakes that are scheduled to be stocked in February include: Alder, Dune, Carter, Lost, Elbow, Cleawox, Munsel, Siltcoos, Thissel Pond, Big Creek Reservoirs, Olalla Reservoir and Devils Lake.
Warmwater fisheries will start up again when we get some warmer weather later this spring.
SIUSLAW RIVER: winter

See **FISHING 3B**

Tide Tables

Entrance Siuslaw River

High Tide	Low Tide
March 21 11:08am / 6.9	5:22am / 2.5 5:50pm / 0.3
March 22 12:12am / 6.5 11:51pm / 7.0	6:02am / 2.0 6:24pm / 0.4
March 23 12:40am / 6.7 12:30pm / 7.0	6:38am / 1.5 6:55pm / 0.5
March 24 1:06am / 6.9 1:08pm / 6.9	7:12am / 1.2 7:24pm / 0.8
March 25 1:32am / 7.0 1:44pm / 6.7	7:46am / 1.0 7:53pm / 1.2
March 26 1:57am / 7.1 2:22pm / 6.5	8:19am / 0.8 8:21pm / 1.5
March 27 2:23am / 7.1 3:01pm / 6.2	8:54am / 0.7 8:49pm / 2.0



Siuslaw Watershed Council Executive Director Eli Tome, who left his position last week, enjoys a quite moment in the watershed he helped manage for the past three years.

WATERSHED SEEKS NEW DIRECTOR

By **CHANTELLE MEYER**
Siuslaw News

After three years working in the Siuslaw region, Siuslaw Watershed Council (SWC) Executive Director Eli Tome is voyaging north to work at a land trust in Washington. His final day was last week, but he took time to talk about the Siuslaw, his time here and the stories Siuslaw Watershed Council is ready to share.

“I had the privilege to lead an amazing team of folks who work tirelessly to restore our river, build community and develop the next generation of environmental stewards for our area,” Tome said.

When he joined SWC, the council looked much different than it does now. It had an outdated website, an old logo and people had a hard time connecting to the council’s resources.

Shortly after, Tome began to come up with a plan. Now, siuslaw.org is a well-functioning website full of professional photography, events, resources and more — with new projects

planned to be published in the coming months.

The website also contains links to the SWC’s film series

“Stories of Restoring the Siuslaw,” which debuted in March 2019 at City Lights Cinemas after a rollout on the council’s social media. Those films have now been shown around the world.

“We now have a new logo, too, that is more representative of the watershed and shows the connection between the forest, the fish and the river,” Tome said.

The SWC has accomplished a lot in the past three years. Tome detailed more on the organizational facelift, adding that the watershed council was able to add employees and improve its funding situation. This included raising enough funds to pay a better living wage, giving everyone at the watershed a 10 percent pay increase, adding health insur-

ance and initiating a 401K program.

“Good things happened,” Tome said. “Those boring administrative things that often fall behind for nonprofits, we were able to bring on to make this a livable job and make this a place where someone can build a career and stay on a long time.”

Plus, in just the past two years, SWC spent more than \$2 million on restoration work, which supports 15 to 18 local jobs and connects the Siuslaw with contractors.

“It feels like it’s a really exciting time to be working here. The council has a lot of new tools that we didn’t have before,” Tome said. “And we’re a new face in the community. A lot of people have found us over the past couple years, and have started to engage with us more and more about the land.”

One of those tools is the Watershed Exploration Camp each summer. It costs campers \$75 for a five-day camp, but ultimately the SWC spends \$500 per attendee.

See **TOME 2B**

“I had the privilege to lead an amazing team of folks who work tirelessly to restore our river...”

— *Eli Tome, SWC executive director*

Spring Whale Watch Week begins today

The Spring Whale Watch Week event returns to the coast today, March 21, and continues through March 29. During that time, whale watchers will have a chance to see the more than 25,000 Gray whales expected to migrate north past Oregon over the next few months.

A map of the whale watching sites is available online on the official whale watch webpage on the Oregon State Parks website.

A live stream of whale activity in Depoe Bay returns this spring too; watch it on the Oregon State Parks YouTube channel each day during the event, or catch the archived streams throughout the week.

This year’s Whale Watch Week will not include Whale Spoken Here volunteers stationed at any of the 24 locations.

The decision was made March 13 in an effort to help slow the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19.)

Oregon State Parks made this decision to protect the health and safety of our volunteers and visitors. However, visitors can still enjoy this spring break tradition on their own.

Grab binoculars and visit one or more of the locations for whale watching along the Oregon coast.

More information about the agency’s response to

COVID-19 is on the official FAQ page on the Oregon State Parks website.

Gray whales migrate north along the coast annually during spring, following a route to Alaskan waters after spending the winter in the warm lagoons off the coast of Baja, Mexico.

Many of the Gray whales will be accompanied by their new calves, born during the winter.

The first large groups of whales swim by Oregon mid-March and the migratory stream typically continues into June.

For more information about parks and campgrounds on the coast, visit oregonstateparks.org.

Recreational razor clamming closes on central coast

The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) announce the closure of razor clam harvesting on the central Oregon coast.

Recreational and commercial razor clam harvesting is now closed from Cascade Head (north of Lincoln City)

to the California border for elevated levels of the marine biotoxin domoic acid.

Recreational and commercial razor clam harvesting remains open from the Columbia River to Cascade Head (north of Lincoln City).

Bay clams, crab and mussel harvesting are open along the entire Oregon Coastline.

See the MyODFW page for more information on crabbing and clamming (<https://myodfw.com/crabbing-clamming>)

Call ODA’s shellfish safety hotline at 800-448-2474 or visit the ODA Recreational Shellfish Biototoxin Closures webpage for the latest information.

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.

Longevity = success

Lutero. Dodson. Zahner. Wartnik.

Siuslaw had only two football coaches leading the Vikings for over four decades until it came to a screeching halt five years ago. Perhaps current football coach Sam Johnson will stand the test of time and renew the stewardship needed to gain the confidence of the players and community to once again become a contender for league and state titles.

There is another combination of coaches still leading the Siuslaw wrestlers to success on and off the mats.

Coach Zahner became the Siuslaw wrestling coach in the early 1980’s and when he left his position has been well-filled ever since by Coach Wartnik.

Success is not measured by the amount of paint on the walls of the Glenn Butler gym. These four coaches worked to have their players become positive members of the Florence community. Each program promotes the belief that participation in their programs instills confidence, teamwork, diversity and the will to compete until the clock shows zero.

Each sport has clinics for the youth of Florence. These clinics use current players as role models and skill builders.

My wrestling experience is limited to the two weeks between winter basketball and spring track. Since our basketball team seldom qualified for post season play there was a down time. My friend asked me to try freestyle wrestling during this down time of my sophomore year. In the two-week period I learned basic moves and was entered into two tournaments.

My record was 0-4 in that span.

I was pinned only once by the David Douglass 6A state champion. It took him almost a minute because he kept throwing me out of bounds.

For two decades, coach Neil Wartnik has guided the Siuslaw program. He continues today as a positive enthusiastic mentor to his team. The fundraising his team does pay for extras needed for his program. At every Fourth of July’s annual Wings and Wheels celebration, you will see the wrestlers and Coach Wartnik guiding cars to an available parking space.

We also have on the Siuslaw coaching staff Coach Johnson for cross country and track. His continued success as the coach of these two programs spans nearly three decades. Just the other day while waiting to pick up my grandchildren, I saw track coach Chris Johnson running back towards the high school. Undoubtedly, he is a role model for his team. The changing of leagues has placed Siuslaw in the toughest athletic league in the state. His team will meet the challenges ahead of them.

The five coaches I have mentioned, Lutero, Dodson, Zahner, Wartnik and Johnson have over 130 seasons of coaching experience for Siuslaw High School. Their contribution to the development of these competitive programs has been and continues to be beneficial to our town.