

SIUSLAW NEWS

18902020

CELEBRATING 130 YEARS

News and views that define our community

Sports & Recreation

Calendar

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

Tide Tables	
Entrance Siuslaw River	
High Tide	Low Tide
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
March 28 2:50am / 7.0 3:45pm / 5.9	9:32am / 0.6 9:19pm / 2.5
March 29 3:19am / 6.9 4:35pm / 5.6	10:14am / 0.7 9:53pm / 3.0
March 30 3:53am / 6.8 5:37pm / 5.2	11:04am / 0.8 10:36pm / 3.5
March 31 4:38am / 6.6 6:52pm / 5.1	12:04am / 0.8 11:38pm / 3.7



PHOTO BY DUSTIN WILLIAMS

Boston Terrier Honeybee takes a moment to enjoy the view while walking a nearby trail.

TAKING YOUR ‘TAILS’ ON TRAILS

Local group gives advice on trail hiking with dogs

By CHANTELE MEYER
Siuslaw News

(Editor’s Note: As COVID-19 restrictions tighten, not all parks or trails will be open. People are encouraged to check local websites for hours of operation before travelling.)

“If I’m going to go on walks, then my doggy needs to go out and get exercise, too,” said Karen Buckmaster, founder of Tails and Trails Florence, Oregon.

The Facebook group is made up of nearly 100 members who either have dogs or like dogs, and who want to go out and explore area parks, beaches and trails. During the normal part of the year, a group of around a dozen people and their pets meet each Friday.

Now, in the time of social distancing, much smaller groups are going, but people are still on the trails; dogs must still be walked and people are encouraged to keep moving.

Buckmaster initially created the group in April 2018 to give her an excuse to take her long-haired Dachshund, Holly, on walks around the area.

“It’s such a joy watching all the dogs,” she said. “In my group, everyone is welcome.”

Dogs who go on trail walks with Tails and Trails must be well socialized with humans and other dogs, as well as current on all their shots. Humans who attend must like dogs and be willing to walk three to four miles.

Buckmaster noted that certain dogs like each other more,

referencing an unusual bond between Boston Terriers Ladybug and Honeybee, owned by Brad Koehn and Dustin Williams, and a Greyhound named Gypsy, owned by Laurie Green. “Those three are just adorable. It makes my heart flutter to see this big Greyhound just running around in circles with Ladybug and Honeybee.”

Over the years, Tails and Trails has gone on more than 100 trail walks, covering ground from within the City of Florence, to drives up and down the coast.

“My favorite trail around here is Harbor Vista County Park,” Buckmaster said. “I love that one because you can walk the river and around the beach. I just love it.”

Koehn and Williams also love that walk for their dogs.

“It takes you into the forest and down to the river,” Koehn said. “Depending on the time, you can experience the tidal changes as you go all the way out to the jetty and meander out onto the beach. That’s probably our group’s favorite hike.”

There are tons of resources out there for people finding their next adventure.

“We have dozens upon dozens of trails that we’re still discovering,” Koehn said. “You can go to AllTrails, a free app, to find trails all around the country. And there are so many within a short drive of our town.”

While residents are still allowed to go outside, current COVID-19 restrictions require that people stay local and limit

contact with other people. In addition, not all trails or parks will be open, especially as governmental restrictions continue. People are encouraged to check official websites for hours of operation before leaving.

Tails and Trails also uses trail guidebooks and Quests, which are free “self-guided learning adventures” available at many locations. (For current information, visit seagrant.oregonstate.edu/covid-19-update-quests.)

According to Williams, “You learn about the area and there is a little scavenger hunt. There is something like a geocache at the end.”

The Siltcoos Lagoon Trail is a good option to do a Quest close to home that works for children and families, Koehn suggested. It’s also ideal for spotting wildlife and birds, viewing nature and seeing how the forest changes with the seasons.

“It’s a beautiful wildlife experience. Again, you’re close to town, but it feels like you are tucked away in the wilderness,” he said.

Koehn and Williams talked about two options for hiking located in the city limits of Florence: the Munsel Greenway Park, at 24th and Willow streets, and just a walk on the beach between the North Jetty of the Siuslaw River and Driftwood Shores Resort and Conference Center.

“Another trail is famous, based on the internet,” Koehn

See TRAILS 2B

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 were stocked 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 steelhead

Winter steelhead fishing has slowed down on the Siuslaw system as well. The river is low and clear, making the conditions tougher for catching steelhead. Anglers are still catching fish around the Whitaker Creek area and things should improve when we get another shot of rain.

Fishing has been fair so far on Lake Creek and there are fish out there to be caught through the month of March.

ALSEA RIVER: winter steelhead

Winter steelhead fishing has slowed down on all sections of the Alsea River. Low water has made for tough conditions throughout the system resulting in slower fishing.

The later returning hatchery fish will continue to move in through the month of March and provide opportunities to catch a steelhead. Until we get some rain the lower portions of the river will be the best chance for success.

- Reminder: No overnight camping is allowed in vehicles around the NF Alsea hatchery in the parking lot or on any of the roads.

The Alsea River receives two different stocks of hatchery steelhead, one “traditional” stock that is an early returner and peaks in December/January and a later returning wild broodstock that peaks January-March.

Trout fishing in streams will reopen May 22.

SALMON RIVER:
winter steelhead

Winter steelhead fishing is open on the Salmon River. The majority of the winter steelhead on the Salmon

See FISHING 2B

Siuslaw National Forest campgrounds, day-use areas closed

To support state and local measures directing people to stay home to save lives, effective March 23, all Siuslaw National Forest campgrounds, sand camps and day-use areas were temporarily closed through May 8, or until such measures are lifted.

These closures have been deemed necessary to address social distancing guidelines provided by the Centers for Disease

Control and the State of Oregon to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 and to avoid putting undue pressure on local communities from increased visitation.

Day-use areas include trailheads, visitor centers, OHV staging areas, viewpoints, boat launches, interpretive sites and picnic areas.

“This weekend was extremely busy on the coast,” said Donna

Mickley, acting forest supervisor. “With increased pressure on local communities and staffing challenges it has become very difficult to manage sites so they’re safe for visitors.

“It has become clear that the best course of action is to close these sites until it’s deemed safe to reopen them. This was a difficult decision that we didn’t make lightly and we appreciate people’s cooperation.

“We’re in this together.”

The latest updates and information will be posted online.

Forest Service offices are currently conducting public business by phone, email, or through web-based transactions; critical in-person business is being handled by appointment only to minimize person-to-person contact.

Lynnette Wikstrom
Broker

We are all at a loss about how consuming this virus is.
Please stay at home and be safe.
Coldwell Banker office is closed but we are doing business by phone and email.
I care about our community and want us all to be safe and well.
We will make it through this major pandemic.

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