



Community & Lifestyle

School district works through logistics of summer, fall sports

By JARED ANDERSON
SIUSLAW NEWS

The Siuslaw School District placed a temporary hold on voluntary summer sports practices after a student reported flu-like symptoms on Sunday.

"The only person we're testing is the student that was ill, and they weren't ill at practice," Superintendent Andrew Grzeskowiak said. "None of the initial screening showed anything. And we don't know if it's a COVID related case, but we want to give people as much information as we can"

The summer program has not been cancelled all together but has been placed on hold until addi-



SIUSLAW NEWS FILEPHOTO

tional information becomes available. It was also stressed that there is no reason to panic.

"Just like any situation, you're going to err on the side of caution," Athletics Director Chris

The Siuslaw School District is currently waiting for ODE final guidelines in order to map out its plan for fall education and athletics.

Johnson said. "If we have to take four or five days off, then we have to take four or five days off. Like everybody else, it's a big wait-and-see watching numbers, being cautious, being smart."

The current pause with summer sports activities is a bellwether for the new normal that schools will be facing in the fall.

While the district has not finalized plans for reopening, it is more

See SPORTS 2B

ODFW REGIONAL FISHING REPORT

www.dfw.state.or.us/RR

Best bets for fishing:

Anglers are spoiled with choices right now. Trout, bass and salmon are all on the list.

- With the cooler, wetter spring, fishing for stocked trout continues to be good in several areas.

- This is a great time of year to visit Oregon's hike-in lakes for a day of trout fishing.

- Resident coastal cutthroats are on the bite in most coastal rivers and streams.

- Where water temperatures are warming, fishing for bass and other warmwater species is improving. Now is a great time to target these fish before aquatic weeds grow enough to make fishing challenging.

- Ocean salmon season is open, and some Chinook are also being caught in coastal rivers.

- Local lakes stocked in spring

See FISHING 2B



LENA FELT/FOR SIUSLAW NEWS

The Oregon Coast Quest stamp book allows participants to chronicle their quests in the Florence area and other Quest areas.

'Quest' offers alternative outdoor fun

Florence joins several Oregon coastal communities offering a different kind of adventure

By LENA FELT
SIUSLAW NEWS INTERN

After what seemed like a never-ending spring quarantined at home, many people are eager to get outside and enjoy the summer weather. The Oregon Coast Quests Program provides a safe way for families, friends or individuals to spend time outdoors exploring and learning about the local history, plants and animals across the Oregon Coast.

Community members from different coastal towns can create "quests" which people go on to find clues that eventually lead to a hidden quest box, inside of which there is a notepad and pencil to sign and make comments. Participants can also stamp their quest book with a unique stamp contained in the box.

"This is a great activity that would be good for social distancing activities in the summer with family or grandchild or whoever you're living with and staying safe with," said Oregon Coast Quest coordinator Cait Goodwin.

Goodwin cautioned, however, that some quests can get very populated with visitors, so she encourages people to use their best judgment when traveling for a quest during the coronavirus pandemic.

"This is a great activity good for social distancing ... with family or grandchild or whoever you're living with and staying safe with."

— Cait Goodwin, Oregon Coast Quest Coordinator

"Use your common sense," Goodwin said. "Don't put yourself in an unsafe situation when you're outdoors exploring. Just make sure to maintain social distancing."

When Gov. Brown's shelter-in-place orders were in full effect, many of the quests were closed due to recreation areas being shut down. However, most quests are currently open once again. There are 28 quests in the 2019/2020 edition of the Oregon Coast Quest book, where all quests can be found. This includes two in the Florence area — one in Old Town Florence and the other at Siltcoos Lagoon Trail.

The book, which has all of the directions for the quests, can be found at the Florence Chamber of Commerce Visitors Center, Books 'N' Bears or online at <https://seagrant.oregonstate.edu/>.

Goodwin equates the program to letterboxing, a tradition of clue-based treasure hunting that became widely popular in the 1970s in Dartmoor, England. In

the mid-1990s, a nonprofit in Vermont created a program called Valley Quest based on the ideas of letterboxing. Since then, this outdoor activity has grown to more than 200 active quests in New Hampshire and Vermont today, according to Goodwin.

"And the idea was, it would be educational while showing off the treasure in these small communities up and down the Connecticut River Valley," Goodwin said. "And helping students in particular appreciate their communities and what they have to offer. So that's the spirit in which the quest name was attached to the activity."

Goodwin gained experience with questing when she worked for a nature center in Massachusetts for Valley Quests.

"I moved to Oregon in 2006 and started working for Oregon Sea Grant and I was like 'This place is crying out for quests.' There's so many cool things to explore outside in a self-guided fashion."

She went on to create the Oregon Coast Quest Program in 2007 after securing seed funding from Oregon Sea Grant.

"I started the program by making just a few quests to get people familiar to the idea," Goodwin said. "Then I started holding workshops to spread the word and get community members excited about the possibility of making their own quests in their area. Plus, I didn't really want the book to sound like me the whole time. Now there's lots of different perspectives."

Each quest is created by local community members who can add their own flare to their route. Some of them are rhyming verses, some quests take only 45 minutes while others can be much longer, and some use clues along the trail or alphabetical letters to spell out the location of the hidden box.

"There's lots of variety, which is fun," Goodwin said. "And the quests are all located on publicly accessible lands so they're either state or federal park, school property that is open to the public or city streets so that people can come and do them whenever it's convenient for them."

Goodwin received more funding from Oregon Sea Grant to do

See QUEST 2B

Tide Tables

Entrance Siuslaw River

High Tide Low Tide

July 15

9:23am / 4.4 3:16am / 1.0
8:49pm / 6.6 2:31pm / 2.7

July 16

10:30am / 4.7 4:06am / 0.4
9:34pm / 6.8 3:28pm / 3.0

July 17

11:24am / 5.0 4:52am / -0.1
10:18pm / 7.1 4:21pm / 3.1

July 18

12:10pm / 5.4 5:34am / -0.7
11:02pm / 7.4 5:10pm / 3.0

July 19

12:52am / 5.7 6:15am / -1.2
11:45pm / 7.7 5:56pm / 2.9

July 20

1:31am / 5.9 6:55am / -1.5
6:41pm / 2.6

July 21

12:29am / 7.8 7:35am / -1.7
2:10pm / 6.1 7:27pm / 2.4



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