

# HAVE FUN! BEACH SAFE

## BEWARE THE SNEAKER WAVE

They're called sneaker waves because they appear without warning, often surging high up on the beach with deadly force, and are impossible to predict. Sneaker waves also carry a large amount of sand that can saturate your clothes, weighing you down and making escape difficult if not impossible.

**How to play it safe:** Never turn your back on the ocean.

## WATCH THOSE LOGS

The ocean is strong enough to pick up even the biggest log and plop it down on top of you. Some logs may look small, but even the tiny ones can be waterlogged and weigh tons.

**How to play it safe:** If you see a log in the surf or on wet sand, stay off it.

## RIP CURRENTS

Rip currents are strong currents of water that rush out to sea. They are stronger than even the best swimmer. These currents can swiftly sweep unwary beachcombers and waders off their feet and out to sea. Rip currents may appear as dark, choppy water. Any time you see debris and foam floating out to sea, chances are you have found a rip current. Avoid the area.

**How to play it safe:** Parents keep your kids close when playing in the ocean. If caught in a rip current, **don't panic**. Swim parallel to the beach until you are out of the current, then head for the beach.

## KNOW THE TIDES

Incoming tides isolate rocks from headlands and the shore. Avoid the temptation of strolling out to an interesting rock without knowing when the tide rolls back in. Free tide tables are readily available at state park offices, information centers and many shops and motels.

**How to play it safe:** Stay off rocks and small, enclosed beaches.

Know when the tide is coming in by [visiting the tidetable website](http://www.tidetable.com) at the Hatfield Marine Science Center <http://weather.hmsc.oregonstate.edu/weather/tides/tides.html>

## HIGH WAVES CAN REACH YOU

Tides and waves can sweep over rocks, jetties and headlands, knocking you off and carrying you out to sea.

**How to play it safe:** Assume nothing is "high enough" and avoid exposed rocks, jetties and headlands during strong wave action (like during and after storms).

## BEWARE OF HIGH, STEEP CLIFFS

Assume that all cliff edges are unstable. Wet trails or soft sand and earth can make for unstable footing. Rocks can be slippery even when it isn't raining.

**How to play it safe:** Make sure you wear proper footwear, and stick to the trails. Stay behind guard fences and railings, and don't get too close to the edge.

## HEADS UP

Standing at the base of an Oceanside cliff can be dangerous, especially if it has an overhang. In some places, winter storms and high waves have eroded the shoreline, increasing the chance of collapse and slides.

**How to play it safe:** Beware of falling rocks, and don't climb on bluffs and eroding hillsides. Don't walk along the base of cliffs unless absolutely necessary.

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## Viks from 1B

absolutely smashed it for the Lady Viks, hitting 4 home runs for 4 at bats and bringing in all 8 runs that game on RBIs for the team.

Overton also had 5 put outs and 1 assist in the game, which accounted for 1-2/3 innings' outs.

"I just can't emphasize enough how incredibly difficult such an athletic feat is," explained O'Mara. "I definitely felt privileged to be a part of it and honored to have witnessed such a phenomenal athletic explosion. Some of the athletes that play on my team, I'm not sure they have enough experience to understand what they just witnessed — but it was pretty amazing."

Overton's home runs in game two made 8 for her this season, which is No. 2 on Siuslaw's all-time home runs hit in a single season.

According to O'Mara, "There is no doubt, in a full-length season with

the additional non-league games, Bailey would have broken the all-time season home run record for Siuslaw softball."

Overton also had a great first game on Saturday, hitting 2-3 with a double and a triple, bringing in 1 run and picking up 3 put outs and 3 assists.

The Lady Viks finish the season 1-14, their improvement over the shortened season was vast. "For me, that's way more important than the wins and losses at this stage of development. I definitely feel better about where we are considering the shortened season and the lack of practice time on the front end to establish a lot more basics." O'Mara said. "We were still covering things the last week of practice that normally we'd have covered in the first four weeks. I feel like we're about where we would have been at the end of preseason games in a normal year."

This June, O'Mara graduates catcher Adri Edwards, first baseman

Kya Blake, and second base-man Lizbeth Garcia-Galvan. But fortunately, the rest of the team will return in Spring 2022. Hopefully, with the 2021-22 school year expected to be a bit more normal than this season, summer ball and pre-season practices will give the girls what they need to have more success next year.

## Baseball:

Siuslaw's baseball team played its final double-header at Junction City on Friday (May 14) as well, and also were swept by the Tigers, finishing the games 4-18 and 2-12.

In game one, the boys had a hard time getting started, falling behind 0-17 by the end of the third inning. Fortunately, in the fourth and fifth innings, the Viks were able to score 2 runs each, with 2 RBIs from Jason Garcia, 1 from Ian Sissel and 1 from Henry Rankin.

"I felt the boys did a great job of clawing back a bit in the fourth and

fifth innings," said Coach Tom Shinn. "We started putting some offense together."

However, it was not enough to keep the game going as the Tigers scored 1 additional run during inning four, forcing an early game after the Viks' at-bat in the fifth due to the 10-Run Mercy Rule.

In game two, the Viking scored 2 runs early on, but Junction City took back the lead with 5 runs in the bottom of the inning — then 5 more in the second inning. Neither team scored in the third or fourth innings, but the Tigers picked up 2 more runs in the bottom of the fifth, ending the game 2-12.

"Defensively the team played very well," said Shinn. "We had one double play in the third inning. Ian Sissel did a great job in left field and ran down a lot of fly balls. With this being the seniors' last game, I want to express my gratitude for their hard work over the past four years."

## MHS from 1B

coach to fill a need in the community.

"It's one of my favorite sports, so I figured I'd try it out, not knowing what to expect," explained Wolgamott. "I knew that I had Coach [Jeff] Greene as a mentor; he coached me in high school, and he's been doing it for a while — so, I knew I would have the option to pick his brain. And I like challenges, so I figured, why not?"

Last year, Wolgamott accomplished a great deal with his team, taking the Sailors to the state playoffs for the first time in nearly 10 years.

This year, he has six players on his team, but he's not worried about the lack of numbers hurting the team's success.

"Last year we played a

game with only five players," he said, "and we ended up winning that game. So, I told them there's no excuses; if you won a game last year with only five players, you can do it with six."

Wolgamott said the players knew coming into the season that they are going to be playing a lot. For that reason, conditioning is going to be key.

"If we are able to do that, I think we'll have a chance in most games," Wolgamott said.

The Sailors boys' team has two freshman this year, Taylor Hatfield and Keevyn Walker, both of whom have been playing in the Territorial Sports Program (TSP) together for a few years.

"They know how to shoot and dribble, now it's just getting up to the speed of the high school level."

The Sailors also have junior Joe Shepard on the team, who has become one of Mapleton's strongest athletes, playing football and running track as well.

"He's been able to show what he can do and it's gained a lot of respect from his peers. It's been fun to watch him grow."

Mapleton also has three seniors returning this year. The first is Jeremy Bender, who had to take last year off due to a torn ACL during the football season. Although he was unable to play, Bender spent a great deal of time with the team and helped coach middle school during his free time.

"During practice, he couldn't do a whole lot other than shoot, but that has definitely paid off this year — he has one of the better strokes on the team, his free throw form is very solid, and he's even knocking down open 3-pointers," Wolgamott said.

The Sailors also have senior AJ Moso who, standing at 6-foot-3, will be one of the bigger and stronger players in the league.

Finally, the Sailors have senior JJ Neece, who has already had a monumental year in football and track.

"You can't teach what he has — size, strength and speed."

In addition, Neece is just a natural athlete. "You tell him something once, he can do it. He has talent, but he doesn't think he knows it all, he listens to instruction. He's that kid you love to coach."

Wolgamott's team is poised to perform well this year, although it is still unclear how the other teams in the league will shake out with the top two teams from last year graduating a lot of seniors last season. The Sailors also play a lot of charter schools — so, how they look could be completely different this year.

The Lady Sailors, led by Duffy, also have a great deal to look forward this season. Last year, the girls had a much better season than in Duffy's first year, winning seven league games — and she has three girls returning from that team this year.

"The returning girls are looking really good so far," said Duffy, "and then we've got some new girls. We're up to seven girls for our team. It doesn't sound like a lot, but we were worried we weren't going to have a team at all."

On the Lady Sailors' roster is senior Heather Wierichs, the team's only senior this year.

"She plays our post position, lower post mostly. She does a really good job and battles in the middle," said Duffy.

Emily Neece, a sophomore who also played football and participated in field events for Mapleton's track season, is new to the team.

"She's working hard and taking all of the comments and criticism and continuing to improve," said Duffy. "And that's all I can ask for, just to be willing to improve."

Next on the team is junior Briar Shird, one of the team's guards, along with junior point guard Opal Burruss who returns from last season.

"Her skills have continued to grow," said Duffy.

Summer Flansberg, also a junior, will play at the guard position.

Tyler Gloe and Sammy Lynn will be starting on the team as freshmen this year.

The boys' team played their first game at Siletz Valley last night (after press deadlines) and will return to the court Thursday (May 20) at 5:30 p.m. at Eddyville Charter.

The girls' first game is this Thursday, also at Eddyville Charter, beginning at 7 p.m.

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