

## Sports &amp; Outdoors

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541-469-3123 • news@CurryPilot.com

## Windsurfing

## Wave Bash happens this week

By Ryan Sparks

Pilot staff writer

The American Windsurfing Tour makes their yearly visit to Gold Beach this week as they kick off their fifth annual Pistol River Wave Bash on Wednesday.

The windsurfing event, which is the second stop on the AWT's six event season, will feature over 70 competitors from around the globe including locations such as Morocco, New Zealand and Ireland.

The tour will hold opening ceremonies on Wednesday with riders entering the surf Thursday at approximately 11 a.m. at one of two possible locations. Depending on weather and surf conditions, riders will be carving waves at either Pistol River State Park or in front of the Beachcomber Inn located in Gold Beach.

Competitors will compete in Youth, Amateur, Masters, Grand Masters and Pro divisions and will include former wave world champions Kevin Pritchard, Levi Siver, Josh Stone and last year's Pro division winner, Camille Juban.

An awards ceremony will be held on Saturday at Docia Hall in the



A windsurfer flips during last year's Pistol River Wave Bash in Gold Beach. Over 70 surfers are expected to compete at this year's event.

Curry County Fairgrounds to culminate the event.

"This is my favorite event on the pro tour and the heart of where the tour started," said

pro windsurfer and AWT Tour Director Sam Bittner. "It has the most consistent wind and waves and there is a great family atmosphere in Gold Beach."

Considering that the pro tour holds events in Peru, Baja, Mexico and Maui this season it's quite a compliment that Bittner, who lives in Hawaii, holds the

Pistol River event with such high esteem.

"Everyone in Gold Beach has always been so nice and supportive of the event. It feels like a home away from

home," she said.

For more information on the 2014 Pistol River Wave Bash visit <http://americanwindsurfingtour.com/pistol-river-2014/>.



The Pistol River Wave Bash will feature several professional windsurfers at this year's contest, including several former world champions.

## Community Events

## Pool opens for summer with focus on safety

By Ryan Sparks

Pilot staff writer

Brookings Municipal Pool manager Jimmy Trudeau has a focus on safety and it shows. He has increased the amount of personalized swimming lessons available, began instituting special aquatic exercise programs, and improved the lifeguard-to-swimmer ratio in the pool, because they save lives," said Trudeau.

"We prioritize swimming lessons and senior physical therapy here at the pool, because they save lives," said Trudeau.

The pool now holds two sections of private, one-on-one swim lessons per day in addition to the standard lessons that will be held from 10 a.m. to noon daily. The advantage of the private lessons, according to the pool's head lifeguard, George Kreger, is the attention the swimmer receives from a trained



Lifeguard Veronica Hernandez vigilantly observes a group of swimmers at the Brookings Municipal pool during open swimming on Tuesday.

professional. "It's one-on-one instruction with a lifeguard that lasts 45 minutes. That's 15 minutes longer than our standard lessons," he said. "They get more instruction and tend to progress much faster

because of it." Kreger said that, though the pool had only been opened for two days, the private swim lessons have been popular.

"I'm nearly booked for the summer," said Kreger. "We still have

a few spaces available but they have been filling up fast."

In addition to the private lessons being held at 3:45 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. The pool will continue to hold standard swimming lessons

for youths aged 3-months to 17-years with different stages and groupings depending on the swimmer's skill.

In addition to the various swimming lessons the pool provides, there are several fitness courses, to participate. Aquatic Zumba classes will be held from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday beginning on June 17. A general entry or 10-swim pass will grant entry to the Zumba classes. Aquatic aerobics classes are also available and will run from 8 to 10 a.m. Monday through Friday.

According to Trudeau, one of the more important aspects of the pool is the increased emphasis on safety. More lifeguards are now on duty at any given time to ensure the rules are followed and the pool is safe for every patron. Trudeau states the pool now holds a 15:1

swimmer-to-lifeguard ratio, a vast improvement from years past, when the ratio would reach 30:1 at times.

"We have more eyes on the pool," said Trudeau, who instituted a system among his staff that allows them to be flexible when the pool gets crowded.

"Each lifeguard is assigned one of three sections. If one section isn't as busy as other sections than those lifeguards can also keep an eye on the busier sections."

According to Trudeau, this allows his staff to work together to keep the pool safe and ensures a quick response in the event of an emergency.

The pool is currently in the spring schedule through June 15, with the Summer schedule, and all its activities, set to kick off on June 16.

For more information, pricing and schedules, please see page 7A.

## OFDW sets big game tags, trapping regulations for 2014

SALEM—Fish and Wildlife Commission set 2014 fall controlled big game tag numbers and 2014-16 trapping regulations during a meeting last Thursday in Salem.

A total of 134,312 big game (deer, elk, pronghorn, Rocky Mountain goat, bighorn sheep) tags will be available in the draw and the number and type proposed

by ODFW staff. Draw results will be available by June 20 online [www.dfw.state.or.us/resources/hunting](http://www.dfw.state.or.us/resources/hunting) or by calling the automated line at 1-800-705-1782.

This year, for the first time, ODFW will not be mailing postcard notifications of draw results. Hunters need to check for results themselves online or by phone.

Trapping regula-

tions were adopted as proposed by staff, except the commission declined to reduce the annual Eastern Oregon bobcat limit from five to three. The annual bobcat limit in eastern Oregon will remain at five for the 2014-16 seasons.

The commission will give final consideration to proposed concepts to change 2015 big game

regulations in October. The commission approved funding for Access and Habitat projects recommended by the A&H board. These will provide hunting access or improve wildlife habitat on private land in Oregon.

It also set the number and type of 2015 auction and raffle big game tags available, which will be the same

as last year. In 2014, auctions and raffles generated \$630,711 for wildlife management, research and hunter access, including new records for a bighorn sheep tag (\$155,000) and deer and elk raffle sales (\$133,509).

The Commission reduced the price of the 2015 Habitat Conservation Stamp from \$40 to \$20. These stamps

people can purchase voluntarily to support the conservation of high priority native species and habitats identified in the Oregon Conservation Strategy.

Finally, the Commission was briefed on the proposed 2015-17 ODFW budget. They will give it final consideration during an August 1 meeting in Salem.