

Sports & Outdoors

Wednesday, June 10, 2015

Ryan Sparks, sports editor • 541-469-3123 • rsparks@CurryPilot.com • @rsparkspilot

Pistol River Wave Bash Preview

The bashers are back in town

By Ryan Sparks
Pilot staff writer

Several of the world's premiere windsurfers are back in Curry County to compete in the 6th Annual Pistol River Wave Bash from Thursday through Saturday.

The Wave Bash, which takes place approximately one-and-a-half miles north of the Pistol River Bridge, is the third leg on the American Windsurfing Tour's seven-event schedule.

This year's event promises to have some serious competition, with points being at a premium due to a lack of results during last week's event in Santa Cruz. Winds during the Santa Cruz Windsurfing festival were nearly non-existent, meaning many riders and classes were unable to compete.

"Riders are encouraged to come to Pistol River due to less points being available in the overall tour," said AWT director Sam Bittner.

Luckily for the windsurfers and spectators, the forecast for this week's competition is 70-73 degrees with winds averaging 15-20 miles per hour — perfect conditions for windsurfing.

"We are stoked to look at the forecast for Pistol River," wrote Bittner via email. "Many riders started driving up the coast straight from the closing ceremony in Santa Cruz on Saturday



Photo by Si Crowther/AmericanWindsurfingTour
A windsurfer soars above the waves during the 2014 Pistol River Wave Bash. Several of the best windsurfers in the world will be competing at "The Rock" in Pistol River from Thursday through Saturday.

"Pistol River is my favorite event on the tour. That is saying a lot considering all the places we go to, including Peru, and my home on Maui...Everywhere we go when we are in town, we feel welcome."

— American Windsurfing Tour director Sam Bittner

night."

The consistency of strong winds and surf is one of the Southern Oregon Coast's main attractions for windsurfers.

"The windsurfers are always excited to head up the coast to Gold Beach. The Pistol River Wave Bash has always

proved to be an excellent spot for wind and waves during the contest window," Bittner explained.

Bittner, who also competes on the tour in the women's pro division, stated that the Wave Bash, which was the first event in the tour's history, holds

a special place in the hearts of the riders.

"Pistol River is my favorite event on the tour," she said. "That is saying a lot considering

all the places we go, including Peru, and my home on Maui. I think the reason for this is the community's excitement and support of

the event. Everywhere we go when we are in town, we feel welcome."

This year's field of pro riders features some of the best the sport has to offer, many of whom are familiar faces at the Pistol River event.

- Kevin Pritchard (Hawaii): A legend in the windsurfing community, Pritchard was last year's overall AWT men's pro champion.

- Boujmaa Guilloul (Morocco): Known worldwide for his insane aerials, Guilloul currently sits in third place on the AWT tour.

- Camille Juban (Guadalupe, Mexico): Juban won the Pistol River event, and tour championship in 2013.

- Philip Soltysiak (Toronto, Canada): A Canadian windsurfing champion, Soltysiak has competed around the world and looks to make his mark on the AWT.

- Ingrid Larouche (Quebec, Canada): Last year's AWT women's pro champion, Larouche has won the Pistol River event every year of its existence.

- Sam Bittner (Hawaii): Bittner is fresh off a second-place finish at AWT's Goya Cabo Verde, Africa event and her experience on Pistol River's waves could lead to victory.

- Katie McAnena (Galway, Ireland): Five-time Irish national champion, McAnena won at Cabo Verde and hopes for continued success at Pistol River.

Wildlife Refuge introduces new "Seabird" app

BANDON — Ushering in an era of digital engagement and fun for the millions of smart device-carrying visitors to Oregon's spectacular coast, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in partnership with Shoreline Education for Awareness, is launching an interactive, place-based game app. The public is invited to attend a launch party at Coquille Point in Bandon at 10 a.m. on Monday, June 22. Called "Discover Coquille", the game-based app will teach visitors about the diverse seabirds, marine

mammals, rocky shore habitats and creatures that make the Oregon Coast such a vibrant and wondrous ecological system.

Developed by Discover Nature Apps, an award-winning, mission-driven app developer, the "Discover Coquille" game includes a GPS-guided, nature-based scavenger hunt; the ability for users to post and view field trips and photographs; and the opportunity to share their experiences on social media. The app is free; simply search for "Discover Nature Apps" on iTunes

or Google Play Store.

To play the "Discover Coquille" game, users must be at Coquille Point in Bandon.

People visiting as a group can compete against one another, or families can opt to work as a team. Beyond the game, the app offers opportunities for users to capture photos of their discoveries including field notes such as where they are seeing Tufted Puffins or Ochre Sea Stars. The discoveries, notes and photos are viewable in a digital photo gallery that will be accessible worldwide.

"With this app, we can reach exponentially more coastal visitors and residents with a fun and interactive experience that leaves them with a greater awareness and appreciation of Oregon Coast's seabirds and their habitats," said Dawn Harris, Visitor Services Manager for the Oregon Coast National Wildlife Refuge Complex.

"Until now, we've been limited in the ways we can deliver the information we know they'll value in a way that's both compelling and entertaining."

"There's nothing like this on the Oregon Coast, and it will serve as a powerful tool for us to engage the public and enlist their support for marine conservation," said Harv Schubotho, President of Shoreline Education for Awareness. "While nothing beats a personal interpreter, this app fills a vital gap, giving people of all ages another avenue to learning through technology."

To participate in the launch party, visit Coquille Point from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Monday, June 22.

NFHS makes rule changes regarding basketball contact

INDIANAPOLIS — The rule prohibiting excessive contact in high school basketball has been expanded to include all ball-handlers on the court, include post players.

This revision in Rule 10-6-12 and a new signal for officials were recommended by the

National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Basketball Rules Committee at its April 20-22 meeting in Indianapolis. Both changes were subsequently approved by the NFHS Board of Directors.

Last year, the rules committee added Article 12 to Rule 10-6 in an effort to eliminate exces-

sive contact on ball-handlers and dribblers outside of the lane area. Beginning next season, excessive contact on any ball-handler will be a violation of the rules.

The new language states that "a player becomes a ball-handler when he/she receives the ball. This would include a player in a post position."

The acts that constitute a foul when committed against a ball-handler are placing two hands on the player, placing an extended arm bar on the player, placing and keeping a hand on the player and contacting the player more than once with the same hand or alternat-

ing hands.

"The current rule covers the ball-handler/dribbler situations but ignores the action that goes on in the post area with the hands, arm bars, etc.," said Theresa Wynns, NFHS Director of Sports and Officials. "The additional language will clarify that the illegal acts should be ruled for every position on the floor."

The rules committee also approved a new signal to be used after a basket is made and when there is a stoppage in play. The signal will be used by officials to indicate that the team inbound the ball may run the baseline. This signal would be used

to restart play when a timeout is called or an injury occurs after a made basket.

In addition to these changes, the Basketball Rules Committee approved four points of emphasis for the 2015-16 season: post play, rebounding, protecting the free-throw shooter and NFHS mechanics and signals.

The committee noted that new information has been added to the rules book that addresses cleaning up post play and urged fouls to be called when violations occur. In addition, the committee emphasized that illegal tactics related to rebounding should be called since these

violations are among the leading causes of injury in high school basketball.

Protecting the free-throw shooter is another area of emphasis for next season. The committee noted that the rule change last year allowing a player occupying a marked lane space to enter the lane on the release of the ball by the free thrower calls for added protection of the free-throw shooter.

The final point of emphasis concerns the use of NFHS mechanics and signals.

"Communication is vital to the game of basketball, to the officials and all others involved in the game," Wynns

SPORTS BRIEFS

Bruin Volleyball Camp opens registration

Registration is now open for the 18th Annual Little Bruins Volleyball Camp, which will be held from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. August 19-21 at the Azalea Middle School gymnasium.

The camp is for youths grades 4-8 and will be coached by Brookings-Harbor High School coaches and players.

The cost of registration is \$30 until August 1 (\$35 after that) and registration forms can be picked up at either Azalea Middle School or the BHHS main office.

For more information, contact Emilie Aliamus at 252-305-3409 or Lori Cooper at 541-661-2005.

Bruins "Fun"amentals basketball camp registration continues

Coaches and players from the Brookings-Harbor High School Bruins and Lady Bruins basketball programs will instruct children from kindergarten through eighth grade at the BHHS "Fun"amentals basketball camp from 9 a.m. to noon June 10-12 at the Kalmiopsis School gym.

Registration is \$30 and each camper will receive a free T-shirt.

For more information, contact Buell Gonzales Jr. at 541-469-2108 ext. 238.

Little League holding can/bottle drive

The Brookings-Harbor Little League will be holding a can and bottle drive from noon to 4 p.m. on Sunday, June 14 to raise funds for the league's three all-star teams that will be competing at the all-star tournament in Grants Pass, June 18-29.

Little Leaguers will be going door-to-door, asking for can/bottle donations.

The Ray's Food Place and Grocery Outlet parking lots will also serve as donation drop-off locations.

