



RAM PAPISH

Snowy Plover

From Pixieland to plovers

The transformation of the Salmon River Estuary will be the subject of a Thursday, Feb. 20, presentation hosted by the Yaquina Birders and Naturalists in Newport.

Kami Ellingson, watershed program manager for the US Forest Service, will give an overview of efforts to restore the estuary, which was heavily impacted by residential and commercial development in the mid 20th Century, most notably by the Pixieland amusement park. For more than 40 years the Siuslaw National Forest, together with a diverse range of partners, has been acquiring tidal marsh in the estuary in order to bring back the tides. The estuary was restored incrementally from 1978 through 2017. Nearly the entire estuary is now restored to a natural, historic tidal regime, resulting in significant fisheries response and native biodiversity.

Ellingson is a hydrologist with 20 years of field experience, ranging from landslide studies following the 1996 storm event in Western Oregon to road, stream and estuary restoration. She has led the restoration of the Salmon River estuary since 2007 and has been recognized nationally and internationally for the success of the physical restoration and the collaborative

partnerships. Ellingson received both her BS degree in Natural Resources Management and her Master's in Forest Engineering and Hydrology from Oregon State University.

The presentation, which is free and open to all, will start at 7 pm at OSU Extension Lincoln County, 1211 SE Bay Blvd.

And on Saturday, Feb. 22, the Yaquina Birders and Naturalists will head to South Beach State Park for a guided bird walk led by Steve and Rachel Holzman, starting at 8:30 am at the Hatfield Marine Science Center.

The two-hour outing will see walkers keep their eyes peeled in search of wintering snowy plovers and other shorebirds as well as a variety of gulls, cormorants, loons, waterfowl and songbirds like yellow-rumped warbler. On the way back, birders will stroll through the woods on the jetty trail while listening for chickadees, bushtit and wintering sparrows.

If the weather is wet and windy enough to make a beach walk miserable, the trip will proceed to the jetty via car and search for water birds. If time permits, there will be a quick search for the lingering Nashville warbler at the Hatfield Marine Science Center.

This sounds swell

The Newport Chapter of Surfrider Foundation's Saturday, Feb. 15, beach cleanup will see volunteers gather debris pushed ashore by recent king tides, big swells and strong west winds.

The group will meet at 11 am in the parking lot at Agate Beach State

Recreation Site next to the Best Western Hotel in Newport. Bags and rubber gloves will be provided, but volunteers are encouraged to bring their own.

"It's going to be cold and wet, but this important work needs to be done," said Chapter Chair Michael Harrington. "Dress appropriately and join the effort. Newport's beaches are worth protecting."

get out!

A relay beautiful route



Registration is now open for the Three Capes Marathon Relay, which will see runners from around the Pacific Northwest flock to the Tillamook Coast at the end of February.

The 26.2-mile course takes runners around Three Capes Scenic Loop, starting at Cape Meares, passing Cape Lookout and finishing at Cape Kiwanda.

Starting and ending at sea level, the course offers nearly 2,400 feet of elevation gain, presenting a challenging racing venue that is great for building team camaraderie. Runners can choose between running a solo marathon or as part of a two-person or a five-person team. Team categories include family, business, school or Clydesdale.

The course is separated into five

legs which vary in distance from 4.37 miles to just under seven miles. The rugged course passes through or runs adjacent to six state parks, two national wildlife refuges, multiple Tillamook County parks and also boasts stunning vantage points of the Tillamook Bay, Netarts Bay and the Pacific Ocean.

The race begins at 9 am on Saturday Feb. 29.

Registration deadline is Friday, Feb. 21. The cost for registration is \$199 for a five-person team; \$99 for a two-person team; and \$69 for solo marathoners.

Packet pickup and late registration will be hosted at Tillamook High School from 6 to 8 pm on Friday, Feb. 28.

For more information and to register, go to threecapesrelay.oregoncoastflowers.com.