

Protection for coast meet topic

Ocean advocates Avalyn Taylor from the Audubon Society of Portland and Paul Engelmeyer from the Living Oceans Program of National Audubon Society will give a public presentation about efforts to protect the Pacific Ocean along Oregon's coast.

This free event will be held from 7-9 p.m. on Friday, May 9 in the Josephine County Bldg. in Downtown Cave Junction.

Marine-protected areas (MPA) designate ocean segments with some level of protection through local, state, federal, or tribal regulations. Marine reserves are ocean areas that are fully protected from extractive or ecologically destructive activities.

No marine reserves exist in Oregon, and current protections do not adequately address the growing number of demands placed on Oregon's ocean resources.

Realizing this, conservation groups, scientists, and members of the public are urging Oregon to implement a plan to establish a system of marine reserves to protect critical species and habitats in Oregon's ocean.

The speakers will discuss the Ocean Policy Advisory Council (OPAC) process to establish marine reserves along the continental shelf of Oregon and current legislative threats to Oregon's marine conservation laws.

They will also inform attendees about ways to get involved in efforts to protect Oregon's living ocean resources.

Joblessness up in county

Temporary closure of Rough & Ready Lumber Co. in Illinois Valley in March contributed to a drop in total employment in Josephine County during March.

Total employment fell by 150, with losses posted in many published industry sectors, said Oregon Employment Dept (OED).

Most notably, a drop of 200 in wood products manufacturing employment was a large portion of the monthly decline. Since March 2002, non-farm payroll employment has risen by 150, a growth rate of 0.7 percent.

Josephine County recorded an unemployment rate of 9.5 percent down from 10.3 percent the prior March, said OED. There were 2,944 unemployed persons in the county's civilian labor force in March.

Construction employment rose by 40 in March, and stands 40 jobs below the year-before total. Manufacturing employment fell by 150 over the month, but still has added 10 jobs over the past year. Employment in wood products manufacturing fell over the month and now stands at 180 jobs below the total from one year prior.

Retail trade employment declined by 50 in March, but has added 110 over the year. A gain of 120 jobs in food and beverage stores accounts for the gain since last March in retail employment.

Leisure and hospitality employment contracted by 70 over the month, but is up by 140 over the year. This new industry sector under the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS), includes food and beverage services, hotels and other lodging places, and amusement and recreation services.



A FASHION SHOW, featuring women's evening attire modeled by Illinois Valley High School students, was one feature of the 2003 Grad Night fund-raiser. The event at the high school was held on Saturday evening, May 3. Besides a silent auction, a special meal was catered by Phil Aria. Graduation for the class of 2003 is scheduled for early June and will include what has become an annual drug-and-alcohol-free celebration after commencement. Many parents, other individuals and businesses support the safe night for graduating seniors.

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