

2014 wines of the year

FRIDAY EXTRA • 1C



WEEKEND EDITION



Whiskey was the culprit

FRIDAY EXTRA • 2C

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ONE DOLLAR



JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian

Marilyn Tilbury, Seattle, watches for whales from the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center on Monday.

WAVE TO THE WHALES PASSING BY

Volunteers take to the shore for Whale Watching Spoken Here

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

Volunteers Cilla and Jim Border stood bundled up on a subfreezing Wednesday morning at Ecola Point, their eyes and binoculars scanning the western horizon as they looked for small white plumes of spray from gray whales migrating south miles out amid the blue vastness of the Pacific Ocean. Visitors straggled in, and the Borders jump to help them watch one of the largest, longest migrations in the world.

The Borders, who hail from Nertarts and have been traveling from Cape Lookout to Cannon Beach, are two of more than 200 volunteers the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department recruited and stationed at 25 sites along the Oregon Coast, Cape Disappointment, Wash., and Crescent City, Calif., for Whale Watching Spoken Here, the semiannual state promotion to get people out to the parks and looking for whales.

Whale watchers spotted more than 1,900 whales between Saturday and Wednesday, when the event, centered on the peak season of the southward migration, ended.

The next guided whale watching week runs from March 21 to 28. Gray whales are found only in the Pacific Ocean and are estimated at approximately 26,000 by the Marine Mammal Center. They spend May to October feeding off the western coast of Alaska, before making the journey to warmer waters off the coast of Mexico's Baja Peninsula.



JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian

Volunteer Jim Border, center, points out toward a plume from a whale during a whale watching session at Ecola State Park Wednesday.



JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian

Models of a gray whale and a school bus sit on a curb while volunteer Georgeann Silvermann sets up things for whale watching Monday.

Shooting stars

On Wednesday, the frozen tundra of lawn and the ice sheets in

the parking lot belied the clear blue skies and calm seas, perfect whale watching weather. The Borders

looked patiently for brief successive plumes near the horizon, at Ecola Point about 12 1/2 miles out.

"It's like viewing shooting stars in a shower," said Jim.

The sighting were infectious, as the few early morning stragglers congealed around whoever happened to spot one of the southward-migrating grays, moving several miles per hour, said Jim, and coming up every five minutes or so for a few quick breaths before diving down again.

"The enthusiasm of people who haven't seen them before is infectious," he said, adding that the weather and a person's patience determines whether or not they'll see the whales.

The Borders and other volunteers report their daily findings back to the parks and recreation department's Whale Watching Center in Depoe Bay, headquarters of Whale Watching Spoken Here.

On Saturday, whale watchers spotted only 83 whales along the coast in the rain and wind, with more than half of the guided sites not seeing any plumes. As the weather improved, they sighted 198 Sunday, 506 Monday, 635 Tuesday and 508 on Wednesday. The Borders themselves spotted 24 whale plumes and the occasional breach Wednesday.

"Yesterday (Tuesday) it was like a chorus, and people weren't drifting off," said Jim, who with Cilla spent at least 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. each day during whale watching week helping people spot the migration.

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Dorothy Wing

Randy Lee Roden

Mother arrested in girl's murder

By KYLE SPURR
The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — The mother of the 2-year-old girl who died at their Seaside home Dec. 20 is facing charges of murder by abuse, manslaughter and criminal mistreatment.

Dorothy Wing, 24, was arrested on the charges by Seaside Police Thursday afternoon.

Wing's live-in boyfriend Randy Lee Roden, 26, was arrested last week on a charge of aggravated murder in the death of 2-year-old Evangelina Wing. An indictment filed Dec. 31 accuses Roden of four counts of aggravated murder, two counts of murder by abuse, felony murder, first-degree

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Ducks set to duke it out with Buckeyes

Football teams head to national title match in Texas

By RALPH D. RUSSO
AP College Football Writer

Ohio State is looking for its first national title since 2002. Oregon is seeking its first, period.

Pac-12 champion Oregon and Big Ten champion Ohio State will meet in Arlington, Texas, at the home of the Cowboys on Jan. 12 in the first

College Football Playoff championship game.

"It's perfect," Oregon linebacker Derrick Malone Jr. said.

"I need another game. I'm glad I can still be a part of this. If we didn't have another game I wouldn't know what to do with myself."

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Newcomer finds community with Coaster Theatre

U of O grad lives in Seaside, works in Cannon Beach

By KATHERINE LACAZE
EO Media Group

SEASIDE — Through living in Seaside, working in Cannon Beach and participating in community activities, Oregon native Emily Estrada has quickly started whittling down her newcomer status.

Estrada, 23, moved to the area from Eugene in July after graduating from the University of Oregon in May with a bachelor's degree in theater arts with an emphasis in dra-



maturgy, or theater research.

She was drawn to Cannon Beach by a job as the stage manager for Coaster Theatre Playhouse's production of William Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night." Rehearsals started in July and the production ran from Sept. 26 to Oct. 25.

"I thought it would be good to get paid for something I went to school for," Estrada said.

She planned to stay in the area for a temporary hiatus between obtaining her undergraduate degree and returning to college for her master's degree, but now she is uncertain what the future holds.

She enjoys the area and the six months she expected to spend here have come and gone.

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KATHERINE LACAZE — EO Media Group

Since moving to the area in July, 23-year-old University of Oregon graduate Emily Estrada has become involved in both the Seaside and Cannon Beach communities. She spends most of her time in Cannon Beach, where she works in the accounting department at Escape Lodging's headquarters and acts and stage manages for the Coaster Theatre Playhouse. Most recently, she played two roles in the theater's winter production, "Beauty and the Beast."

