



JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian

Volunteers Richard Cook, left, and Georgeann Silvermann, right, watch for gray whales at the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center at Cape Disappointment State Park, Wash., Monday. The whales are in the peak of their southern migration to Mexico.

Whales: Whale watching week has been around since late 1970s

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Some visitors came specifically to watch the whales, and others were just passers-by.

"It's nice to be out on the beautiful ocean, whales or not," said Christine Bernsten, who decided to visit the coast with her two small children — not the most patient whale watchers.

Huddled on a sleeping bag with her boyfriend and bundled in warm winter clothes for whale watching Wednesday was Siera Flintoff of Vancouver, Wash.

"I looked for the place with the most hits and came here," said Flintoff, who found out about whale watching week last year and decided to make the early morning trek.

Bringing people to parks

Whale watching week, which has been around since the late 1970s, is partially an informal census of migrating whales, and partially a promotional effort to drive people to the coast around the holiday and spring breaks.

"The ultimate goal is to en-



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Dick Tilbury, Seattle, sets up a spotting scope for whale watching at the Lewis and Clark interpretive center at Cape Disappointment State Park Monday.

courage visitors from around the U.S. to come experience where we are," said Renee Fowler of the Whale Watching Center.

According to statistics by

volunteers, the Whale Watching Spoken Here program engaged with more than 10,000 people. While it's impossible to tell how many came specifically for

whale watching, Fowler said she does feel like the event draws people to the coast.

While it helps track the migration of whales, she said, it



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Volunteer Georgeann Silvermann looks out over the ocean for gray whales at the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center at Cape Disappointment State Park, Wash., Monday. Over a five-day period, Saturday to Wednesday, volunteers at the center count whales that pass by.

also helps people know more about the habits of whales. The whales are tending to stay longer in their Alaskan feeding grounds, she said, and some stay along the Oregon coastline from May through October to feed, while some mothers and calves also show up during summer months.

The southward migration of whales begins with pregnant females, followed by males,

nonpregnant females and finally juveniles, who sometimes turn north again before ever reaching Mexico.

Whale Watching Spoken Here will be ready when the whales head north again. Fowler said it already has wait lists for its volunteer sites during spring break.

For more information on Whale Watching Spoken Here, visit <http://bit.ly/1gUEg2X>

Murder: Both suspects will be arraigned today

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unlawful sexual penetration, first degree sex abuse, three counts of first-degree assault and three counts of criminal mistreatment. The sex abuse charges relate to Roden subjecting Evangelina Wing to sexual contact by touching.

An autopsy found Evangelina Wing was the victim of homicide and apparently died from blunt force trauma.

Both Dorothy Wing and Roden will be arraigned in Clatsop County Circuit Court at 1:15 p.m. today.

Roden, who made an initial

court appearance on Christmas Eve, is being held in jail without the possibility of bail. The aggravated factor because the victim is under 14 years old could carry the possibility of the death penalty for Roden.

The murder by abuse charge against Wing is not a death penalty offense.

At about 5:20 a.m. Saturday, the Seaside Police Department received a 911 call that a child, later identified as Evangelina Wing, was not breathing. They responded to the Salmonberry Knoll Apartments, 1250 S. Wahanna Road. The child was found dead.

Wing's two sons, ages 5 and 2, were found injured, hospitalized and placed in state protective custody. Wing is facing six counts of first-degree criminal mistreatment for leaving her three children unattended with Roden and for withholding necessary medical attention, according to the indictment.

Court records show Roden, a former Georgia resident who stopped school after 11th grade, was indicted on 52 counts of domestic violence and sex abuse charges in 2012 involving another woman. The charges included strangulation, menacing, attempt to commit murder, unlawful sexual penetration and coercion.

He pleaded no contest to the coercion charges and was sentenced to 18 months in prison and 60 months of probation. The other charges were dropped as part of the plea deal.

The District Attorney's Office has not commented on why so many charges were dropped at the time.

Roden served his prison time from March 2013 to January 2014. He recently violated his probation by possessing a controlled substance and changing his residence without Department of Corrections permission, according to court documents.

Estrada: She enjoys hikes in Ecola State Park

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She started a job in the accounting department at Escape Lodging's headquarters in Cannon Beach in August. Escape Lodging manages several properties in Cannon Beach and Seaside, as well as elsewhere in the state.

Although her career has turned toward financing, Estrada still is involved with theater. She declined an offer to stage manage for Coaster's winter production of "Beauty and the Beast," but had two acting roles in the production as a Silly Girl and Monsieur D'Arque. She leans more toward the production aspect of theater, but she believes the acting experience gave her a helpful perspective to apply when working with thespians, especially volunteers, in the future.

Her next involvement with Coaster will be stage managing for its production of Agatha Christie's "Murder on the Nile," which opens in March.

Estrada resides in Seaside, primarily because Cannon Beach had nothing available when she and her roommate were searching for a place to live this summer. While she enjoys cer-

tain aspects of Seaside, such as the shopping and dining options and having a gym facility in close proximity, she would prefer to live in Cannon Beach, which is where she spends most of her time.

"I definitely feel more part of the community here than in Seaside," she said.

She enjoys Cannon Beach's small-town feel, with its lack of chain stores and the sense of community, which is more conspicuous throughout the holiday season.

In addition to theater, she likes to hike in Ecola State Park and other nearby areas, and she also enjoys that she can get off work and go to the beach.

"It really reminds you to be thankful, no matter what's going on," she said. "There's that beautiful creation out there that's phenomenal. It gives you perspective."

While in Cannon Beach, she enjoys hanging out at the Driftwood Restaurant & Lounge or having bonfires on the beach. In Seaside, the Irish Pub is one of her favorite places.

She enjoys visiting Astoria when she can, especially to enjoy its historical appeal and interesting hot spots.

Astounding rainbow a good omen for Seahawks?



Crindalyn Lyster/EO Media Group

Crindalyn Lyster and her son Kaeden (pictured) took a quick break from the Seahawks game at about 3:30 p.m. Sunday to rush out and take this stunning photograph of a double rainbow over the beach.