

Volunteer with Raymond Elks to help tutor students

RAYMOND, Wash. — A new program of the Raymond Elks Lodge designed to improve students' study habits is seeking volunteers.

The lodge was awarded an Elks National Foundation Promise Grant, which has spawned the pilot program Benevolent Educational Study and Tutor (BEST) program. BEST is designed to help students improve their study habits and grades through organizational skills while taking responsibility for their education.

The lodge is seeking volunteer tutors in math, science, reading, English

and other subjects for middle school and high school students. BEST will start at Raymond High School.

Volunteers are asked to commit to one or more days a week from 3 to 5:30 p.m. The program plans to coordinate study groups, teach good study habits, increase a student's ability to retain what they are taught, and provide individual or group tutoring for specific subjects.

To sign up or for more information, contact Kelli at 360-942-7575 or email nextbestgeneration@gmail.com or stop by the lodge, located at 326 Third St.

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Learn about Washington Coast raptors

OCEAN PARK, Wash. — The Washington Coast is home to several types of birds of prey: falcons, hawks and eagles. Raptor expert Dan Varland will discuss these majestic creatures at the Ocean Park Timberland Library from 3 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 24.

This program is free and open to the public. The Ocean Park Timberland Library is located at 1308 256th Place.

The talk coincides with "Coastal Raptors," a library display of photographs taken by Hoquiam resident Tom Rowley.

Since 1995, Varland has

led an all-volunteer effort to monitor raptor activity on the coastal beaches of western Washington. In 2009 he established the nonprofit Coastal Raptors, where he now serves as executive director.

The goal of Coastal Raptors is to facilitate the conservation of raptors in coastal environments through research and education programs. Over the years, more than 500 people have participated in the field.

For more information, call the library at 360-665-4184 or visit www.TRL.org



PHOTO BY MADELINE KALBACH
Red-tailed hawks like this one are a frequently observed raptor in Pacific County.

Tourism industry leaders invited to inaugural People's Coast Summit

GARIBALDI — On October 18 and 19, the Oregon Coast Visitors Association will launch the inaugural People's Coast Summit, to be held at the Old Mill Event Center, located at 210 Third St. in Garibaldi. Major sponsors such as Visit Garibaldi, Travel Oregon, Chinook Winds Casino and MEDIAmerica are collaborating with the Oregon Coast Visitors Association to create this important annual industry asset, where tourism colleagues can connect.

Registration is now open. Summit organizers call upon both private and public tourism industry leaders across the Oregon Coast to attend for peer-to-peer support, to debrief and de-stress after the busy tourism season; this summit allows ample social time for business owners and tourism professionals to mingle.

"The travel and tourism industry is a critical economic component of Or-

regon's coastal communities, and we are pleased to see gains in earnings, revenue and employment extending from Astoria all the way to Brookings-Harbor," said Marcus Hinz, executive director of Oregon Coast Visitor's Association. "Last year, nearly \$1.9 billion in direct spending along the entire coast contributed to valuable increases in employment and tax revenue, ensuring the continued vitality of the region."

Economic findings are reported by Dean Runyan Associates and demonstrate the economic significance of the travel industry in Oregon. To read the report in its entirety, including specific regional and county breakouts, go to Industry.TravelOregon.com/EconomicImpact

Presenters and keynote speakers will offer topics on social media, marketing best practices, tourism trends, and examine international tourism opportu-

nities. Summit workshops are geared toward the needs of small- to medium-sized tourism businesses while keynotes aim to present big picture perspectives.

One talk will feature Clatsop County Historical Society Executive Director Mac Burns, who will give the talk "Authentic Astoria," focusing on Astoria's tourism renaissance. Widely known as the best example on the coast of how to successfully take advantage of a tourism economy while holding fast to history, culture and community character, Astoria continues to be a rising star and a significant player in Oregon's tourism industry. Since its founding in 1811, Astoria has weathered numerous changes in economy, demographic and community identity. Honoring Astoria's historic and cultural roots was carefully considered during the integration of tourism with traditional industries.

A pre-dinner excursion

on the Oregon Coast Scenic Railroad, a major attraction in Garibaldi will be free with registration. Learn more at oregoncoastscenic.org

All meals and workshops are included with the registration fee.

To register, contact Marcus Hinz directly at Director@ThePeoplesCoast.com or visit <http://tinyurl.com/peoplescoastsummit>

The Oregon Coast Visitors Association is a regional marketing and promotional entity comprised of chambers of commerce, visitors centers and bureaus, numerous public agencies and more than 80 private tourism businesses along Oregon's 363 miles of coastline. OCVA advocates on behalf of the coastal tourism industry by promotion efforts, which achieve maximum, measurable benefits for Oregon Coast's economy with minimal negative impacts on its quality of life.