

Whale Watching Week is migrating our way now

Gray whales are on the move along the Oregon Coast headed south to their winter grounds off Baja California, Mexico.

Let trained volunteers help you spot the migrating whales during the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department annual winter Whale Watching Week, Dec. 27-31. Volunteers with the Whale Watching Spoken Here program will be stationed at 24 sites, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. on those days to share whale watching tips, migration facts and whale feeding habits.

Area locations are Cape Disappointment State Park in Ilwaco, Washington, Ecola State Park in Cannon Beach and the Neahkahnie Mountain historic marker on U.S. Highway 101.

"We've already seen the first migrating gray whales in the past few days and we expect another excellent winter whale watching week," said Luke Parsons, Whale Watching Center ranger. "Last winter, our volunteers helped people see more than 1,600 gray whales plus a pod of



orcas and some humpback whales spotted on the central coast. You never know what you're going to see while you're whale watching, but that's half the fun."

The winter migration typically lasts until mid-January. A map of the watch sites is available online at whalespoken.org. Camping, including yurts and cabins, is available at

state parks along the coast. Go to oregonstateparks.org to check availability and make a reservation.

Check www.oregonstateparks.org and www.tripcheck.com for weather-related alerts and closures before heading to the coast. Be aware of winter storms and high waves — respect closures, stay off the sand and watch storms from an elevated location.

Dine and dance into the New Year in Clatskanie

The Clatskanie Foundation is hosting its second annual New Year's Eve Dinner and Dance, as a fundraiser for the Clatskanie Cultural Center operations, on Saturday, Dec. 31, in the Ballroom of the Clatskanie Cultural Center, 75 S. Nehalem in Clatskanie.

Dinner includes an appetizer, salad, choice of entrée (prime rib, stuffed pork chop

or pasta primavera), bread, dessert and coffee. There will be a no-host bar and complimentary champagne and sparkling cider will be served to welcome the new year.

Music is provided by the Bob Nelson Band, and the celebration takes place on New York time. Dinner begins at 6 p.m. with music from 7-10 p.m. We will live-stream the dropping of the

ball in Time Square as we celebrate the new year.

Tickets are \$50 per person and may be ordered by calling 503-728-3403 or sending a check and choice of entrée to Elsa Wooley, P.O. Box 41, Clatskanie, OR 97016. Please make checks payable to the Clatskanie Foundation.

There is a limit of 100 tickets available.

College offers new fitness, hobby, computing classes

Clatsop Community College is offering a mix of new classes in fitness, hobbies and computer skills starting in January.

Candle Making — The perfect cool weather project that will bring light to enhance your home and handle power outages in style. Explore the possibilities of wax by making container candles and hand-dipped tapered candles. Taught by Virginia Hall. Two Mondays, Jan. 23 and 30 from 6-9 pm in the Art Building. Cost is \$25 + supplies.

Retirement Roadmap — What are the steps to expect as you graduate from the workplace to the next phase of your life. Focus on the deeper, "inside" experiences of the transition from work to retirement. Address the anxiety and concerns about lifestyle planning aspects as well as the financial concerns.

Explore identity, purpose, meaning and ongoing human development. Taught by Dr. Jenny Sasser, educational gerontologist, writer and community activist. Saturdays, Jan. 14-28 from 1-4 pm in Towler Hall. Cost is \$35.

Using Microsoft Office — Tackle the three most popular and powerful computer programs used today in the modern office — Microsoft Excel, Word and Power Point. Taught by Jane Francis. Mondays, Jan. 9-Feb. 13 from 6-8 pm in Towler Hall computer lab. Cost is \$85.

3-D Printing — This is an emerging technology that will revolutionize manufacturing in the century ahead. Students will get instruction in 3-D modeling software and hands-on use of a 3-D printer to create their own 3-D model designs. Taught by Glen Herman. Wednesday, Feb. 22-March 15 from 6-9 pm at the MERTS



Denise Reed



Jenny Sasser

campus graphics lab. Cost is \$65.

Belly Dancing — Class begins with yoga stretches designed to wake up your muscles and get you ready to move. Then, using beginner level belly dance techniques, students are introduced to common Middle Eastern rhythms, and to gradually help them layer and create combinations of their own. Everything is taught with funny, clever imagery to make it easier for the first-time student to remember the lessons. Basic techniques, combinations, integrating props, and choreography will be covered in this 10-week class. Increase your stamina, coordination,

strength, and flexibility within a supportive atmosphere that fosters a sense of sisterhood and community. Taught by Varyin' Parham, performer and belly dancing instructor with 17 years of experience. Classes are Thursdays, Jan. 12-March 16 from 7-8:30 pm in Towler Hall. Cost is \$50.

Opera Appreciation — Find out what opera is all about or hone your experience of opera. Class will cover both a musical and dramatic as well as a stylistic analysis of its component parts to gain a greater appreciation and understanding of opera. Trace its history, while examining the relationship to society and historical events. We will investigate the lives of the great composers of opera and shed light on the form and meaning of many popular operas. We will also investigate the production of an opera, including set and costume design. Taught by Denise Reed. Thursday, Jan. 12-March 16 from 5:30-7:30 pm in Towler Hall. Cost is \$75.

Register now at www.clatsopcc.edu/schedule and search under course title or call 503-338-2402.