

It's crab and oyster time in Cathlamet

Annual feed raises funds for July's Bald Eagle Days

CATHLAMET, Wash. — The Wahkiakum Chamber of Commerce will host its annual Crab and Oyster Feed on Saturday, Feb. 18 at the Norse Hall, located at 444 Washington State Route 4 on Puget Island.

The Crab and Oyster Feed is a fundraising event for the chamber. Funds raised at this dinner help support Bald Eagle Days and the fireworks show in July.

Due to the large amount of

attendees in years past, there will be three seating times for this dinner: at 3 p.m., 5:15 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

All seating times will be for guests 21 and older since there will be beer and wine served both upstairs and downstairs.

All seating will be reserved, so get your tickets early.

Tickets for the Crab and Oyster Feed are available at the Cathlamet branch of the Bank of the Pacific. Ticket price is \$32 per person.

In addition to crab and oysters served at the dinner, there will be baked beans,

coleslaw, potato salad and fresh bread.

Attendees are asked to bring their own condiments and crab cracking tools.

Attendees are not permitted to bring their own alcohol on site.

Participants will also be invited to purchase tickets for a raffle with more than 50 prizes donated from local businesses throughout Wahkiakum County.

Contact the Wahkiakum Chamber of Commerce at 360-795-9996 or by emailing wchamber@cni.net if you have any questions or would like to donate raffle prizes to the event.

Can writers learn from 'South Park'?

Manzanita Writers' Series hosts author Arthur Bradford for workshop, reading

MANZANITA — At first glance, the crude animated show "South Park" might appear to offer few lessons for the serious fiction writer, but O Henry Award-winning author Arthur Bradford discovered that the unconventional way this show is produced actually offers valuable lessons for anyone engaged in a creative pursuit, especially writers.

Hosted by the Manzanita Writers' Series, Bradford will lead the first workshop of the 2017 season "What Can Writers Learn From South Park?" from 1 to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 18 at the Hoffman Center for the Arts.

Bradford has published two books of fiction and is also an established documentary filmmaker. He brought his writer's sensibility to a recent film project in which he documented the creation of the TV show "South Park" for Comedy Central. The film, "Six Days

to Air" was nominated for an Emmy Award, in part because of the unprecedented intimate access to the writer's room of the show.

In the workshop, Bradford will show clips from his film and discuss which lessons apply to writers in general. Participants should come prepared to write as the lessons will then be applied to short writing exercises after which participants are encouraged to share and comment on each other's work.

This is a fiction/non-fiction writing workshop. Tuition is \$40. Register online at hoffmanblog.org

The Manzanita Writers' Series will also host Bradford as its featured author for a reading later in the evening, to be held at 7 p.m. at the Hoffman Center.

Bradford will read from his short story collection, "Turtle Face and Beyond." The book is a strangely funny assortment featuring prosthetically limbed lovers, a snakebitten hitchhiker turned wedding crasher, a lawyer at the end of his rope, a ménage à trois at Thailand's Resort Tik Tok, and a whole host of near disasters,

narrow escapes, and complicated victories. "Turtle Face and Beyond" was a finalist for the Ken Kesey Award for Fiction in the 2016 Oregon Book Awards.

Bradford's writing has appeared in *Esquire*, *McSweeney's*, *Vice*, *Men's Journal* and other publications. His first book, "Dog-walker," has been translated into 10 languages. He's also published two children's books, "Benny's Brigade" and "43 Monsters."

Bradford is also creator and director of the acclaimed "How's Your News?" documentary series, versions of which have been broadcast on HBO/Cinemax, PBS, and Channel Four England.

Following Bradford's reading and a question-and-answer session, there will be an Open Mic, where up to nine local or visiting writers will read five minutes of their original work. The suggested theme for the evening's Open Mic is "A Good Idea That Turned Bad." Admission for the evening reading is \$7. The Hoffman Center for the Arts is located at 594 Laneda Ave.

Pick up a game of pickleball

WARRENTON and LONG BEACH, Wash. — Now you can play pickleball nearly every day in the local area.

Camp Rilea pickleball play takes place from 10 a.m. to noon every Wednesday. The fee is \$3. Or, if you're a weekender, the time for Saturday's pickleball play is from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at a cost of \$5. Paddles and balls are available if needed. The fees cover the gym rental. All ages are welcome, as well as those skilled from beginner to advanced.

A driver's license is required at the entrance gate to Camp Rilea, which is located at 333168 Patriot Way in Warrenton.

The North Coast Pickleball Club is also pairing up with Lighthouse Resort, located at 12417 Pacific Way in Long Beach, Washington. Days of play in Long Beach are Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday from noon to 2 p.m. Cost is \$5 paid at the office. Balls and



PHOTO BY DAVID PLECHL

Hard, lightweight and punched with little holes, the pickleball resembles a wiffleball. Hard paddles are used, and the court is smaller than a tennis court.

paddles are available, and no reservations are required.

Pickleball is a combination of tennis, badminton and ping-pong. It's played with a wiffle ball and a paddle on a badminton-size court. The game starts with an underhand serve and played in doubles for a total of 11 points.

The sport originated in

1965, and in 1972 the U.S. Pickleball Association was formed, as was a rulebook. In 1984, the USPA with 15,000 members became the governing body of the sport. It is popular with all age groups, but has been growing since the baby boomer population adopted it.

Pickleball is well suited to the boomer-and-beyond crowd. Using a smaller court, a lighter ball and paddle — made of wood or granite — the sport avoids joint jarring. The underhand serve helps keep shoulder joints pain free. This low-impact but dynamite sport burns calories you're unaware you're using because you're too busy having fun.

If you're new to the game, learn more about pickleball at www.usapa.org

For more information, call Alice Lane at 503-860-1382, or visit the website at www.northcoastpickleball.org. For Long Beach, call 360-642-3622.

Oregon State University to host Small Farms Conference

Featured presenter to focus on farm efficiency Feb. 18

CORVALLIS — The 16th annual Oregon Small Farms Conference will take place Feb. 18 at Oregon State University.

The event, one of the flagship educational offerings of OSU Extension Service's Small Farms Program, is geared toward farmers, agriculture professionals, food policy advocates, restaurant owners, students and managers of farmers markets.

Over the years, participants have learned about

subjects such as marketing, disease control, economics and organic certification.

Last year's conference drew more than 1,000 people.

This year's conference's speakers will include farmers, OSU faculty and representatives of agribusiness and government agencies.

The featured presenter this year is Ben Hartman, farmer and author of "The Lean Farm," who will do a series of sessions on the concept of eliminating waste and introducing efficiency.

"There are two pieces to lean production," Hartman said. "On the one hand is

waste elimination. On the other hand is an intense focus on creating what customers actually want. You're either adding value or you're contributing to waste."

In addition, the Oregon Small Farms Conference will feature 24 workshops, including four in Spanish, on topics that include: dryland farming, organic weed control, specialty crops, diversifying with cut flowers, record-keeping, agritourism, field-to-market essentials, parasite control in livestock, and insurance.

To register, visit the Small Farms Conference website, <http://smallfarms.oregonstate.edu/sfc>