

KCST's Our Town focuses on wildlife, kindergarten and writers

Game biologists Doug Cottam and Nick Leonetti will talk about how human residents can best deal with the natural world when it comes to life on the Oregon coast on KCST's Our Town, the monthly audio news magazine that airs on 106.9 FM today, Jan. 7, from 4 to 6 p.m.

Conflicts with wildlife; cougars, bears and even coyotes appeared to be on the rise in the Florence area in 2014. Bears have long been a problem in and around this area. There is a healthy coyote population; and it seemed as if there were weekly cougar sightings during fall months of last year.

Are numbers of the large mammals on the rise? Or is it because more and more people are moving into areas that were traditional habitat?

The answers are not a simple yes or no. Coyotes weren't even seen in Oregon west of the Cascades until the 1940s, while black bears and cougars have been regular residents. Growth and development may have displaced some of the

animals, but that same development has also proven to provide a ready source of food and cover.

Also on Our Town this month, Siuslaw School Superintendent Ethel Angal and elementary principal Mike Harklerode. They will talk about the upcoming expansion of half-day kindergarten to full days by next fall. That will have an impact on things like staffing and classroom space; but, says Angal, it will also have a tremendous impact on the development of students as they progress.

Eugene writer and inspirational speaker Bob Welch will talk about an upcoming writers workshop in Yachats; and Oregon Department of Transportation spokesman Rick Little will talk about repairs to a slide-prone area of Highway 101 near Heceta Head Lighthouse.

It is all sponsored by Andy Baber of Edward Jones Investments; Holloway and Associates CPAs; the Archives Photo Restoration Specialists, and PeaceHealth.

Honoring community service



Greg and Arda Stober (left) were honored Jan. 3 for their years of service as Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue volunteers during a special retirement party. Greg served 25 years with SVFR, retiring as the department's training officer and coordinator. His wife, Arda, joined as a volunteer in 2006 and served in many capacities, including as the department photographer during that time. The two were presented with plaques for their service by current board president Steve Olienyk and past division chief in charge of HR and finance, Janet Huston. The Stobers will live in Japan for the next two years to teach special education. (courtesy photo)

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Rhody Fest seeks students for court

The mission of the Rhododendron Court program is to provide scholarships for higher education, to promote community outreach and volunteerism, to offer networking and mentoring opportunities to outstanding young women and men in a program that perpetuates an appreciation for the Rhododendron Festival history and tradition.

The Rhododendron Festival High School Court will be comprised of five outstanding ladies and five outstanding

men who are selected from Siuslaw and Mapleton high schools.

The Junior Court will be comprised of five young ladies in elementary school.

After being selected in January, court members will attend after-school and evening orientation meetings.

Beginning in February, court members will visit community events, business leaders, senior living centers, youth organizations and civic groups.

Court members also receive one-on-one mentorship, and will showcase their talents in the Rhododendron Showcase on Wednesday, May 6, when they will compete for the title of Queen Rhododendra and King of the Coast for awarded scholarships.

Anyone who would like to apply for either the high school or junior courts can visit www.florencechamber.com or visit their school office.

Deadline for applications is Thursday, Jan. 15.

Call to artists for animal art exhibit in February

During the month of February, Florence Events Center will offer a "Rent-a-Rod" opportunity for local artists. This unique show will

celebrate animals and will benefit the Florence Area Humane Society. The exhibit in Gallery One is titled "For the Love of Animals."

Artists can purchase one or more rods for \$20 each. Each rod can hold up to three pieces of art, which may be paintings, photography or mixed media. The glass case is also available for 3-D items at a cost of \$20 for up to three items.

Domestic animals, wildlife, sealife, birds — all animal art is welcome. The exhibit will begin with an all-day reception on Saturday, Jan. 31.

This special day will feature refreshments, live photos taken

of people's pets and a raffle to win an original oil painting of your pet by well-known local artist Ronald Hildenbrand. There will also be a container where visitors can drop off dog or cat food that will be donated to the local Humane Society.

To get the rent-a-rod application, go to the FEC website www.eventcenter.org. The application and guidelines can be found under the gallery tab on the top of the memory bar.

Applications are also available at the FEC, 715 Quince St., during business hours, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays.

The deadline to submit an application is Friday, Jan. 23.

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- BREADS**
Croissants, Dave's Killer variety of Hoagie Rolls
- CHEESES**
Jack, Pepper Jack, Cheddar, Provolone, Swiss, Gorgonzola, Cream Cheese
- VEGGIES**
Romaine Lettuce, Leaf Lettuce, Tomato, Sweet Red Onion, Olive, Peppercinis, Red, Yellow, Orange Peppers, Spinach, Cucumber, Egg, Green Onion, Napa Cabbage, Ice Berg Lettuce, Strawberry, Cranberry, Pico De Gajo, Pickles (Sweet/Dill)
- MEATS**
Turkey, Ham, Roast Beef, Chicken, Tuna
- SAUCES**
Cream Cheese Mayo Mustard Mix, Cranberry, Mustard, Lemon Mayo, Sweet Honey Mustard, Sweet Hot Mustard, Wasabi Horseradish, Jalepeño Mustard, Gray Poupon Dijon Mustard

Soups - \$6.00

- Monday - Vegetable/French Onion
 - Tuesday - Tomato Basil/French Onion
 - Wednesday - Chili/French Onion
 - Thursday - Chicken Noodle/French Onion
 - Friday - Cream of Potato/French Onion
- Signature Soup every day
French Onion

Wraps - Sm \$6.00 Lg. \$9.00

- TURKEY CRANBERRY**
Turkey, cranberries, romaine lettuce, mayo on a wheat wrap.
- HAM DILLIE**
Ham, cream cheese, gorgonzola, red onion, peppercini peppers on a garden veggie wrap.
- CHICKEN CAESAR**
Chicken, romaine lettuce, parmesan cheese, Caesar dressing on a garden veggie wrap.
- ALBACORE TUNA**
Albacore tuna, romaine lettuce, red onion, lemon mayo dressing on a veggie wrap.
- BEEF BURRITO**
Roast beef, cheese, romaine lettuce, picodegollo, zesty sour cream sauce on a sundried tomato wrap.
- VEGGIE**
Romaine lettuce, spinach, tomato, red, yellow peppers, black olives on a spinach wrap.

Salads - \$7.00

- CHINESE CHICKEN**
Romaine lettuce, napa cabbage, green onion, slivered almonds, crunchies served with an oriental vinaigrette.
- CHICKEN CAESAR**
Romaine lettuce, chicken, grated parmesan cheese, croutons with Caesar dressing.
- SPINACH**
Baby spinach, romaine lettuce, fresh strawberries, red onion with a sweet vinaigrette.
- CHEF**
Turkey, ham, mild cheddar cheese, eggs, black olives, tomato, onion, romaine lettuce with ranch dressing.

Assorted soda, bottled water, chips and cookies. \$1.00

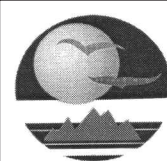


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