

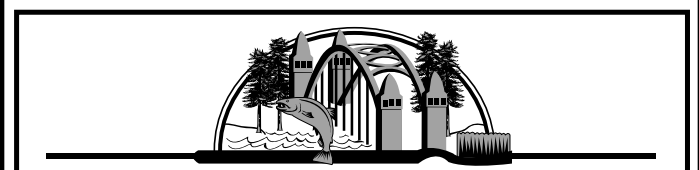


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Siuslaw News

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Walks, talks continue at Cape Perpetua

YACHATS — The Cape Perpetua Visitor Center will feature free programs and guest speakers on Saturdays in January as part of its ongoing Winter Series of events.

On Saturday, Jan. 17, at 2 p.m., Paul Engelmeyer will present “Land and Sea Conservation Issues: Marine Reserves, Marbled Murrelet, and Forage Fish.”

A threatened seabird that nests only in old-growth forests, Marbled Murrelets embody the interconnection between ocean and forest ecosystems.

Cape Perpetua’s unique connection between protected

coastal rainforest and marine reserve provides crucial habitat for this species.

Engelmeyer has directed Portland Audubon’s Tenmile Creek coastal conservation program since 1990 and is a recognized leader in coastal conservation efforts. He has been a respected voice and key collaborator in a number of Oregon coast conservation partnerships and councils, including the MidCoast Watersheds Council and the Ocean Policy Advisory Council.

On Saturday, Jan. 31, Cape Perpetua visitors may enjoy guided hikes led by Forest

Service staff.

Hikers will explore the cape’s temperate rainforests and discover the evolving history of forestry practices on the Siuslaw National Forest with staff experts.

“This Winter Series brings home issues that are important not just to Cape Perpetua and the Siuslaw National Forest, but to the whole Coast region,” says Forest Service volunteer Roger Grace. “These programs relate to everyone involved in the health of forests, oceans, and communities.”

For visitors unable to catch one of these special programs, there are plenty of ways to keep

busy on the cape this winter.

The visitor center provides regular film screenings, exhibits and junior ranger activities, and serves as a base to explore the areas trails and tidepools.

In winter, the Cape Perpetua Visitor Center is open Friday through Tuesday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and is closed Wednesdays and Thursdays.

The visitor center is located three miles south of Yachats on Highway 101.

For more information, call the visitor center at 541-547-3289 or visit www.fs.usda.gov/siuslaw.

ODFW monitoring seabird die-off along coast

TILLAMOOK — Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife biologists are investigating the deaths of large numbers of seabirds along the Pacific coast in the wake of harsh winter weather the past several weeks.

Common murrelets and Cassin’s auklets have been showing up dead on coast

beaches in greater numbers than usual. Preliminary information obtained through necropsies conducted at ODFW’s pathology lab in Corvallis indicate the birds are extremely emaciated, likely related to exhaustion and starvation caused by exposure to cold temperatures and heavy wind.

“The birds washing up on the beach seem to be starved and beaten up by the storms,” said Herman Biederbeck, ODFW biologist in Tillamook. “We have seabird die-offs in

the fall and early winter every year but this year we’re seeing elevated numbers.”

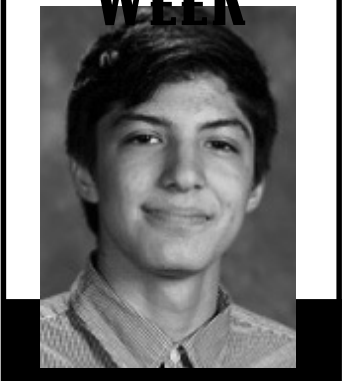
The seabird die-off is not just happening on Oregon’s coast. Seabird mortality has been observed from as far south as California to as far north as British Columbia, leading some researchers to believe the die-off is the result of an unusually large hatch of young birds last spring, followed by harsh weather.

Colored zip ties have been affixed to some dead birds by researchers from the University

of Washington as part of a seabird mortality study, according to Biederbeck.

Though there is little risk to humans, people who encounter dead seabirds on the beach should not touch or move them. ODFW is asking beach walkers who find large concentrations of dead birds that have not been marked with colored zip ties to call their whereabouts in to their local ODFW field office or the wildlife health hotline at 1-866-968-2600.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



Jose DeLaMora

Siuslaw H.S. Wrestling

The sophomore 120-pounder was undefeated at last week’s Central Four Way Wrestling Meet in Independence; going three-and-oh on the mat.

Honorable Mention
Cody Wells

Honorable mention is given to fellow grappler Cody Wells. The 182 pounder picked up his third win of a short wrestling career at Central

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COAST RADII Sports

Sea turtle swims toward recovery at aquarium

NEWPORT — Solstice the turtle flapped her flippers in water over the weekend. This should be business as usual for an olive ridley turtle, but for Solstice it is a significant milestone in her journey toward recovery.

Solstice arrived at the Oregon Coast Aquarium hypothermic, dehydrated and emaciated on Dec. 22. The sub-adult turtle had ventured far from the warm temperate waters of her normal winter range, landing on a Washington beach where she was discovered by a young couple and then picked up by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Solstice successfully warmed up to her ideal body temperature, 75 degrees, on Thursday, Jan. 1. Staff monitored her condition to ensure she was stable before transferring her to a rehabilitation pool over the weekend.

Her move back to an aquatic habitat confirmed aquarium

staff’s fears; she has buoyancy issues that prevent her from diving below the water’s surface. This is a common ailment for distressed turtles and staff are taking steps to keep her comfortable.

“Her exposed shell is coated with a lubricant so it does not dry out, and we will be giving her some more time in the water to see if the air works itself out,” said Jim Burke, Director of Animal Husbandry. “If it does not, the next steps would include x-ray imaging and manual removal of the air. We hope the issue will resolve itself before exposing her to these more intensive procedures.”

Despite this setback Solstice is showing signs of improvement. She now has a hearty appetite, eating several times a day, but she seems to have selective taste. “She will chomp down on capelin and other fish without hesitation, but spits out nutrient-packed gel food supplement we offer

her,” Burke said.

These latest developments are small steps in a lengthy rehabilitation process for Solstice. Her prognosis remains uncertain, but aquarium staff harbor growing hope for her recovery.

If all goes as planned, she will need several months of rehabilitation before the aquarium can start to plan her release with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Aquarium urges anyone who finds a sea turtle on the beach to keep their distance and contact the Oregon State Police Wildlife Hotline at 1-800-452-7888 to ensure appropriate transport and care of the animal.

The Oregon Coast Aquarium is open every day this winter from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information, visit aquarium.org or call 541-867-3474.

Yachats to host fourth annual Agate Festival

YACHATS — Yachats is gearing up for its fourth annual Agate Festival, to be held Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 17 and 18, during the weekend of the Martin Luther King three-day holiday.

Yachats is internationally known for its natural beauty, including the treasures uncovered by winter storms and winds, making January a prime time for agate hunting.

Vendors from throughout the state as well as from Washington and Northern California will be on hand to display and sell rough specimens and finished artistic creations of minerals, gems, crystals and fossils.

The show will take place at the Yachats Commons, located at Highway 101 and West

Fourth Street, in the heart of town. In addition, there will be speakers, demonstrations and fun activities for all ages.

Noted geologist William Orr will speak on Saturday at 3 p.m., and Guy DiTorriss, “The Fossil Guy”, will speak on Sunday at 1 p.m.

This year, the festival will offer a raffle for a valuable basket of fine prizes from many local merchants. The basket will include a gift certificate for an overnight stay at the famed Heceta Head Lighthouse Bed and Breakfast.

In keeping with the festival’s commitment to preserving and enjoying the magnificent natural environment that surrounds the Yachats area, proceeds from the raffle will be contributed to the Yachats Trails

Project, an organization that has helped create and maintain a comprehensive system of trails in the area that has attracted outdoor enthusiasts from near and far.

Since the festival began in 2012, the event has been a big success, drawing visitors from throughout the Northwest and beyond. Merchants, restaurants and lodging providers enjoy participating in the weekend activities.

More information about the festival is available online at www.yachatsagatefestival.com as well as the Yachats Area Chamber of Commerce website at www.yachats.org, or by contacting the Yachats Visitor Center at 1-800-929-0477.

Fishing from 1C

caught from the lower river up to Moonshine Park by both bank and boat anglers. This time of year is typically slow to fair for winter steelhead. Fall Chinook fishing is slow as most remaining fish have moved onto the spawning grounds.

SIUSLAW RIVER:
Steelhead, Chinook

Winter steelhead are starting to show up in small numbers around the mid to lower sections of the Siuslaw and Lake Creek. Fall Chinook fishing is very slow and any remaining fish have moved onto the spawning grounds.

WILSON RIVER: Chinook, steelhead

Fall Chinook are still available in decent numbers. Fish should be spread out through the river, especially after rains raised the river last week. Release dark fish to spawn. All techniques should produce fish, with bobber and bait, back bouncing, bait-wrapped plugs, and casting spinners among the best.

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