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Winter walks, talks continue at Cape Perpetua

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

On Feb. 7, at 2 p.m., Joy Primrose will present "All in Our Backyard: Oregon Cetaceans," an introduction to the whales, dolphins and porpoises found in Oregon's cold temperate waters, including species likely to be seen from shore.

Primrose is the founder and president of the American Cetacean Society Oregon Chapter and is a certified marine naturalist.

On Feb. 14, Fawn Custer of CoastWatch will lead a rocky shores hike to explore the impacts of Sea Star Wasting Syndrome. Participants will meet at the Visitor Center at 4:30 p.m. and walk down to the

tidepools located in the Cape Perpetua Marine Reserve.

After the walk, snacks will be served in Visitor Center followed by the 6:30 p.m. presentation, "Estuaries Rising? Climate change and salmon in the Oregon Coast Range" by Dr. Rebecca Flitcroft.

This presentation will discuss climate change predictions for the Oregon Coast and how these may affect aquatic species, including salmon.

Flitcroft is a Research Fish Biologist with the USDA Forest Service at the Pacific Northwest Research Station, Oregon. Her research focuses on aquatic systems from headwaters to the ocean, and her work involves collaboration with federal, state, private, and nonprofit organizations.

On Feb. 21 at 1 p.m., Forest Service archaeologist Kevin Bruce will give a presentation

on shell midden sites at the Cape Perpetua Visitor Center and lead a guided tour afterwards.

Evidence of thousands of years of human use can be observed in multiple archaeological sites located in the Cape Perpetua Scenic Area. These sites contain important information about the Alsean people who created them.

Kevin Bruce has been the Forest Archaeologist for the Siuslaw National Forest since 2011, and has more than 15 years of experience as an archaeologist, including serving as a district archaeologist on National Forests in Mississippi and as chief archaeologist for the Mississippi Department of Transportation.

"This Winter Series is a great way to get connected to issues important to the Oregon

Coast," says Forest Service volunteer Robin Grace. "They are informative, entertaining, and a great way to spend a Saturday afternoon."

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 area's 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 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.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



Trent Reavis

Siuslaw H.S. Vikings Basketball

The Freshman post had a career and season high 24 points last week in the Vikings' win over the Douglas Trojans.

Honorable Mention Billy Jones

The Siuslaw guard Billy Jones who had 14 points in the same game and was six-for-six at the free throw line.

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Siuslaw Surfrider Foundation seeks members

The Siuslaw Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation covers the Florence region.

The chapter's work is focused on protecting and testing water quality, organizing quarterly beach cleanups, running monthly marine debris monitoring programs, and developing education and stewardship activities related to the recently established Cape Perpetua Marine Reserve.

The Surfriders is a group

that loves its ocean, rivers, dunes, forests, waves and beaches.

For those who want to get involved, come to the Feb. 10, at 6:30 p.m.

The Surfriders' next public meeting will be at the Kenneth B Gallery, 1458 First St., in Old Town. Learn about open volunteer positions within the Siuslaw Surfrider infrastructure. Light appetizers will be provided along with a free raffle.

Become a member of the chapter's executive committee. The chapter is currently seeking interested members who want to be involved with the leadership and development of its programs and events.

Beach in a Bag memberships will be available for \$25.

The following positions are available: Chair, secretary, cleanup coordinator and treasurer.

Learn ways to prepare fish at STEP meeting

An opportunity to learn new ways to prepare the fish that are caught locally will be shared at today's Feb. 4 meeting of the Florence Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program (STEP).

The group meets at 7 p.m. at the Elks' Lodge in Florence, and the public is invited to attend.

Mark Stephens, a longtime chef currently working as lead cook at Three Rivers Casino, will share some of his techniques and recipes with the group.

Stephens has worked previously as a saute cook at 13 Coins Restaurant in Seattle and at Planet Hollywood. He plans

to bring recipes for different species caught on the Oregon coast, including salmon, steelhead, trout, rock fish, ling cod and halibut.

Prior to Stephens' talk, the club will hold a short business meeting. Reports on the activities at the Whittaker Trap will be shared. Since the trap was opened in early January, the group has counted 355 steelhead coming through the trap.

Volunteers have live-spawned 19 pair of steelhead, resulting in nearly 60,000 eggs that have been fertilized and in trays at the hatchery in Florence and in Alsea.

The 10,000 coho eggs that were collected from four pair

of coho in December have been hatched out and are nearly ready to be moved from the hatchery trays into the outdoor rearing tanks at the club's hatchery site.

STEP has as its mission to return fish populations to historic levels. Volunteers work with steelhead broodstock program, restoration projects, education work with elementary and seventh grader students.

Anyone interested in learning more about the program is invited to attend the meeting or contact club president Ron Caputo at 541-997-4961.

ODFW seeks Pacific Fisheries Council nominees

NEWPORT — The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife is accepting nominations for a seat on the Pacific Fishery Management Council.

The deadline to request nomination materials is Feb. 13, and the three-year term begins August 2015.

The Council manages about 119 species of groundfish, pelagic species (sardines, anchovies and mackerel) and highly migratory species, including tuna, sharks and swordfish off the shores of the west coast, from Washington to California.

It includes 14 voting members representing tribal and state fish and wildlife agencies, and private citizens knowledgeable about sport fishing, commercial fishing and/or marine conservation.

Several advisory councils and PFMC staff members also participate in Council meet-

ings.

The ideal candidate would be knowledgeable of fishery resource conservation and management in marine waters off the West Coast. Specific knowledge of and experience in management issues and fisheries is important, as is a strong conservation ethic.

The successful candidate also must work collectively with other council members, often making difficult decisions and fulfilling the standards set forth by the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

Council members make a substantial time commitment to fully participate in council business and related activities.

The Oregon seat is currently held by Dorothy Lowman of Portland, who is eligible for reappointment to a third term. ODFW will send all nominations to the Governor's office, which will then forward the

names of at least three candidates to the National Marine Fisheries Service and U.S. Department of Commerce for consideration.

Successful appointees must pass an extensive FBI background check.

Anyone interested in being considered, or wishing to nominate someone, must contact Cyreis Schmitt at 541-867-4741 or cyreis.c.schmitt@state.or.us no later than Feb. 13.

The Pacific Fishery Management Council is one of eight regional fishery management councils established by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to manage fisheries from three to 200 miles offshore of the United States coastline.

The Pacific Council is responsible for fisheries off the coasts of California, Oregon and Washington.

Aquarium offers teens an ocean of summer fun

NEWPORT — The Oregon Coast Aquarium is offering teens a journey of discovery. Speaking on behalf of animals and their environments is no simple task, which is why the aquarium is currently recruiting future youth volunteers for a free six-weekend crash course on the coastal and marine sciences of Oregon.

Participants will go on

whale-watching expeditions, outdoor adventures and learn important skills like deploying a life raft and putting on survival suits.

After a summer learning through teaching, many youth volunteers choose to continue their service throughout the school year. They team up with aquarium staff to develop their own ocean advocacy initiative

to help teach their peers and aquarium visitors about marine conservation.

The aquarium's youth volunteers will carry environmental awareness and stewardship they develop for the rest of their lives.

To complete an application for the aquarium's volunteer teams, visit www.aquarium.org.