

Sea of Lights brightens aquarium for holidays

NEWPORT — SCUBA Santa, sparkling lights and an ocean of holiday cheer will greet visitors every weekend this December at the Oregon Coast Aquarium's Sea of Lights celebration.

Over half a million colorful lights and holiday decorations will surround visitors with the spirit of the season as they explore the aquarium after hours. Santa will be present every night of Sea of Lights until Christmas to pose for photos and note visitors' Christmas wishes.

This family-friendly event

kicks off with a special celebration Dec. 4, 5 and 6, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Admission to the first weekend of Sea of Lights is \$2 with 2 cans of nonperishable people or pet food for the local food bank.

Entry is \$8 per person without donation. Admission is free for aquarium members, but they are encouraged to bring an item to donate.

Sea of Lights will continue to illuminate the aquarium every following Saturday and Sunday of December from 5 to 8 p.m.

Admission is \$8, or free with

same day paid admission.

"Sea of Lights lets the aquarium give back to the community, but we also organize it for the sheer fun of it. There is no other place to go see a big light display on the central Oregon Coast," said Michele Steen, the event's organizer.

This year's Sea of Lights is proudly presented by Walmart. Customers who spend more than \$100 at Walmart's Newport will receive a voucher for one free admission to Sea of Lights at the Oregon Coast Aquarium.

Offer valid while supplies

last and certain dates are subject to blackout. See store for details. Attendees using a voucher are encouraged, but not required, to make a food or toy donation.

Join in the merriment this December at the Oregon Coast Aquarium, 2820 SE Ferry Slip Road, Newport, Ore. 97365.

The aquarium is open every day, except Dec. 25, this winter from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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

Westlake Boat Ramp closed for repairs through Dec. 15

Lane County Parks, with help from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), are making repairs to the dock abutment at Westlake Park. The repairs make it necessary to close the boat ramp while the work is completed. Signs are posted in the park indicating the ramp is closed and directing visitors to other boat ramps.

Park visitors should expect the ramp to remain closed through Dec. 15.

Access to Siltcoos Lake is available in two other loca-

tions:
• Darlings Resort (4879 Darlings Loop, Florence). Darlings Resort has agreed to waive its \$5 launch fee for Lane County Annual Parks Pass holders during the repairs.

• Tye Boar Ramp (Tye Forest Service Campground, 4621 Pacific Avenue, Westlake)

The abutment was damaged by storms in 2012. Disaster funds were made available after those storms.

OPRD seeks public input on special pass for veterans

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) is seeking public comment on proposed rule changes to the Special Access Pass program.

This program grants veterans with a service connected disability a fee waiver for up to 10 days per month in standard

campsites at Oregon State Park campgrounds.

The proposed changes will: allow these reservations to be made online; simplify the stay limit to 10 days per month; add showers to the list of fee waivers available to pass holders; add a \$5 fee for replacement of a lost pass; clarify

when a pass can be revoked or temporarily suspended; add penalties for failure to cancel; and impose a penalty for leaving early without letting park staff know.

More details, including the proposed rule language can be found at www.bit.ly/Veterans_Pass_Rules.

OPRD will accept comments until 5 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 18.

Comments can be emailed to oprdr.publiccomment@oregon.gov and written comments can be sent to Richard Walkoski, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, 725 Summer St. NE, Suite C, Salem, OR 97301.

COASTAL GEM WALKERS SET DECEMBER JAUNT IN DEPOT BAY

YACHATS — The Yachats Coastal Gems are planning on perfect walking weather for its December stroll. On Tuesday, Dec. 1, the group will be walking the Depoe Bay Three Loops by the Sea YRE.

This 10K walk is rated a 2b for some hills and uneven footing. A walking stick might be useful on the forested trail portion of the walk. It would be difficult for wheelchairs or strollers.

Since the walk is divided into three separate loops, it is easy to modify the distance for folks who want a shorter walk.

Those wishing to carpool to Depoe Bay should meet at the Commons in Yachats at 8:55 a.m., or meet at the Sea Hag in Depoe Bay at 10:15 a.m. to register for the walk.

As always, leashed pets are

welcome on walks, but be sure to bring water and clean up materials for your pet.

Walks require a sturdy 6-foot leash, not the retractable type.

On Wednesday, Dec. 2, the group will hold its monthly

meeting in conjunction with the annual holiday potluck and white elephant gift exchange at the home of Jim and Sue Finlayson in Yachats.

The potluck, club meeting and gift exchange will begin at

5 p.m. For more information or directions, call Maryann Brown in Waldport at 541-961-4279.

Club website is at www.yachatscoastalgems.org.

No need to stand in line for ATV passes

The ATV permit and Oregon State Parks day-use parking permits are now available for online purchase at www.oregonstateparks.org.

On the website, follow the "Shop" link to buy the 24-month ATV permit and 12- or 24-month day-use parking permit from the Park Store.

"We're expanding our online services in response to visitor comments and requests," said Lisa Sumption, director of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. "In the coming months, we'll offer additional items in our Park Store that we believe will appeal to our park visitors."

The 12-month parking permit is \$30 and the 24-month parking permit is \$50. Both are honored at all 26 Oregon State Parks that charge a day-use parking fee.

The \$10 ATV permit must be displayed on ATVs operated on public lands designed for ATV use.

Park Store purchases can be made using a VISA or MasterCard.

The permanent permits and day-use permit hangtags are delivered via U.S. mail at no cost to the customer.

Customers should print the temporary permit attached to the Park Store e-mail receipt so they can visit a park or ride an ATV that day. The temporary permit is valid 14 days from the purchase date and is designed to fit on a vehicle dashboard or kept with visitors operating motorcycles, open vehicles and ATVs.



Siuslaw News Congratulates Brook Carpenter, Halloween Coloring Contest Winner. Brook is 6-years old and attends Siuslaw Elementary School.

Thank you to all that entered our Contest.

Holiday Gift Guide

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Happy Holidays

SIUSLAW CCB# 55030

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