

Cape Perpetua to offer programs during Whale Watch Week

YACHATS — Have a whale of a good time at Cape Perpetua. Whale Watch volunteers will be available to help visitors spot whales and share information from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 27, through Thursday, Dec. 31, at the Cape Perpetua Visitor Center, 2400 S. Highway 101, three miles south of Yachats.

Gray whales will be traveling past Cape Perpetua as they make their way south to their winter breeding grounds off Baja, Mexico.

Cape Perpetua volunteer interpreter and naturalist Michael Noack will give four free presentations, “Experiencing Gray Whales,” prior and during Whale Watch Week:

- Saturday, Dec. 26: 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.
- Monday, Dec. 28: 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

Noack has studied gray whales for many years, assisting with whale research missions and train-



COURTESY PHOTO

Cape Perpetua volunteer Michael Noack watches the horizon for migrating whales.

ing whale watch volunteers. Films and interpretive materials about gray whales also are available at the Visitor Center.

Whale Watch Week is part of Oregon State Park’s Whale Watch Spoken Here program.

All presentations and events are free, but a Northwest Forest Pass, Oregon Coast Passport or \$5 day-use fee is required within the Cape Perpetua Scenic Area.

For more information, contact the Cape Perpetua Visitor Center at 541-547-3289.

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It’s trapping season; keep dogs safe

SALEM — With many furbearer trapping seasons underway until March 31, ODFW reminds dog owners to be aware that trapping activities could occur in areas where they walk or hike with their dogs.

Traps can be set on public land, but state regulations require they be set at minimum distances from designated trails and public use areas. Traps may also be set on private land by permission of the landowner.

“Dogs running loose run the risk of being accidentally captured in legally set traps, which could cause serious injury or even death,” said Derek Broman, ODFW furbearer coordinator. “To help keep dogs safe and prevent such tragedies from happening, we want their owners to be aware of the possibility of trapping activity in areas where they spend time outdoors with their dogs.”

ODFW also recommends that dog owners:

- Keep your dog on a leash.
- Or, keep your dog in sight and under voice command — don’t let the dog wander off, especially out of sight.
- Keep your dog on designated trails and within designated public use areas. Traps must be set at minimum dis-

tances away from these locations.

- Remember traps are often found near water as many furbearers (beaver, muskrat, nutria) are targeted under water or the water’s edge.
- Remember lures and baits used by trappers can attract dogs, too (another reason to keep the dog under control).
- If the dog is often off trails and designated public use areas, understand how to release a dog from a trap.
- Carry the appropriate tools (cable cutter and length of rope) to be prepared in case you need to release your dog from a trap or snare.

Furbearer regulations set restrictions on the type and size of traps that can be used and also where trappers may set traps and snares on state and federal lands.

Traps may not be set within 50 feet of any designated public trail or within 300 feet of any designated trailhead, public campground or picnic area.

Also, killing traps with a jaw spread between 7.5 and 9 inches set on public land cannot be placed more than 50 feet from a permanent or seasonal water source.

It is illegal to disturb or remove the traps or snares of another person. Individuals that see traps they believe are

illegally set should not disturb the trap, but contact Oregon State Police. OSP can identify the owner of a legally set trap through a unique branding number required on each trap.

Oregon has about 1,200 licensed trappers. Before becoming licensed, trappers in Oregon must take an education course and pass an exam that deals with topics like wildlife identification, trapping ethics, and setting traps to catch target animals and avoid non-target animals.

Those requirements and the Oregon furbearer regulations both incorporate scientific findings on the best management practices for regulated trapping in the United States for animal welfare, trap efficiency, trap selectivity, trapper and public safety, and the practical application of various trap types.

Most trapping seasons opened Nov. 15 or Dec. 1 and end Feb. 28 or March 31. A few seasons are open the entire year, but winter is the most popular time to trap because pelts are in prime condition.

Trappers are required to submit an annual report on their efforts, harvest, and wildlife observations, which provides insight on over 16 wildlife species statewide.



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ATHLETE
OF THE
WEEK



Andrew Tupua

Siuslaw H.S.
Wrestling

The senior grappler won the 160 pound individual championship at last week’s Springfield Invitational. Tupua defeated the top-seeded wrestler in the final match and went on to be named the meet’s outstanding wrestler in the middle weight divisions.

Honorable Mention
Scott Simmons

Honorable mention is given to his teammate, 138 pound Scott Simmons who was the runner up at 138 pounds at the same meet.

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Oregon geologic maps now free online

PORTLAND — The Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) has launched Publications Center, a web hub for free download of maps, reports, data, articles and more.

Everything DOGAMI has published since 1937 is now available, from early mining reports to spectacular imagery created with cutting-edge lidar technology to geodatabases.

Making the agency’s science freely available to all helps Oregon communities learn more about the natural hazards, mineral resources and geology around the state.

“Accessing this wealth of information is easier than ever,” said Ali Ryan Hansen, DOGAMI earth science information officer. “Whether you want a field trip guide, a historic map, or the latest landslide inventory geodatabase, you can download it immediately from Publications Center.”

Oregonians also get a look at the state’s history through the lens of mining and geology. A 1965 lunar geological field conference guidebook, published as Bulletin 57, includes

a welcome from Governor Mark O. Hatfield, as well as guides to Oregon’s well-exposed and accessible lunar-like geology.

Gold, discovered in the Oregon Territory in 1851, is a popular topic, from a 1961 Ore Bin article on skin diving for placer gold to 1984 maps of Grant County geology and

gold deposits.

Among the best sellers at Nature of the Northwest Information Center, which closed in July, were the “Oregon: A Geologic History” map, recreation maps of Oregon peaks and lidar images of Oregon scenes — all free for download online at www.oregongeology.org/pubs.



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