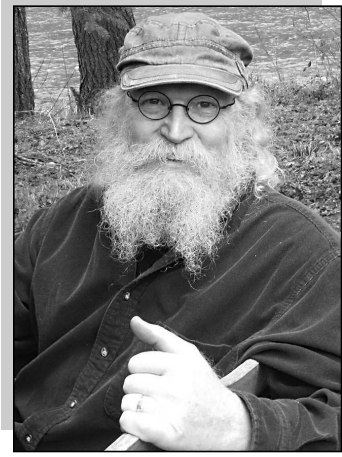


## VIEW FROM UPRIVER



WESLEY VOTH  
For the Siuslaw News

# Watching people treasure their wildlife

Yellowstone, we saw more posted warnings than actual wildlife. But as we were nearing the western gate late in the afternoon, five Rocky Mountain elk cows and three calves were crossing a river and heading for high ground across the road. Shortly after, we pulled off in a small parking lot to watch.

Hundreds of other cars stopped and crowds of people milled along the road and down into the meadow.

Gridlock for such wildlife is apparently common in the park. The calves frolicked, the cows called back and forth nervously, and people crowded around, excited to see their wildlife. It was half an hour before people moved on, traffic dissipated and the elk

could graze in peace high on the hill.

Among my own memorable wildlife firsts on this trip was hiking into Yellowstone early in the morning, drawn by the lark-like call of hermit thrushes, and suddenly hearing wolves howling.

I've always enjoyed listening to coyotes, but the sound of wolves touches a much deeper primal chord somewhere at the base of my spine. As we exited the park the day before, we saw a healthy, exuberant grizzly shaking off water as it emerged from the river and ran across the road.

I learned from the Internet the next day, and shortly following hearing those wolves, that the Yellowstone grizzly is being delisted from protected status.

Here in Oregon, we have allowed the same to be done to our handful of wolves.

I was staying in the town of West Yellowstone, known in some circles as "ground central," for opposition to protections under the Endangered Species Act.

You'd never know this by looking at the town, the names of its businesses and the quite wonderful wildlife sculpture gracing buildings both public and private — and even the banks.

Judging from these displays, wildlife could rightly be considered the town's bread and butter.

Less iconic wildlife sometimes turns out to be remarkable in its own right. Among the astonishing things I learned on this trip — while in New York of all places — is that possums consume ticks better than any other species of animal according to the Carey Institute of Ecosystem Studies.

In the course of the possum's extensive and regular grooming, they find and swallow the ticks that are on their coats and skin.

Their nimble fingers and thumbs allow for more thorough removal than other species targeted by ticks — such as deer, dogs and mice — because possums can reach places most animals find unreachable.

I was raised to believe that possums had found their way to Oregon on their own, which I did not question because they are contiguously present in Washington and California. However, according to the ODFW, they are an invasive species.

Released in greater Portland in the early 1900s, perhaps by people who found them to be poor pets, they have slowly

spread through much of the state.

Be that as it may, as Lyme disease associated with ticks becomes more common in Oregon (3 cases confirmed, 28 considered probable by the Center for Disease Control as of 2015), the presence of possums may have an upside.

Washington State's DFW even goes so far as to post this testimonial for them:

"Opossums are inhibited animals, especially in daylight or under artificial light, but are by no means stupid. Results from some learning and discrimination tests rank opossums above dogs and more or less on a par with pigs in intelligence."

So much for other conventional wisdom I was raised with, if true.

## SHERIFFS RUN OREGON COUNTRY FAIR SATURATION PATROLS

VENETA—Lane County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) will be conducting high visibility traffic enforcement patrols in the Veneta area during the Oregon Country Fair, held July 7 to 9.

Deputies will be focusing on DUII enforcement, as well as speeding, seat belt and cell phone use violations.

Patrols began July 6 and will continue through Monday, July 10, as attendees remain in the area at campgrounds.

The funding for these patrols is provided to LCSO through two Oregon Department of Transportation Traffic Safety grants administered by the Oregon State Sheriffs' Association, aimed at reducing the number of vehicle crashes and related injuries.

The grants are federally funded grant programs to provide overtime funding to participating sheriff's offices for DUII and traffic enforcement.

Annually, the Oregon Country Fair brings extremely high volumes of vehicle and pedestrian traffic to the area.

Due to the resulting congestion in the area surrounding the Oregon Country Fair, speed limits have been reduced and posted as such. Restrictions are also posted for no parking and no U-turns along Highway 126 and Suttle Rd. in the area.

Drivers attending the event or traveling through the area should anticipate heavy traffic congestion.

Flaggers will be present on Highway 126, near milepost 45, at the fair's main entrance during peak times to control traffic flows through the area.

LCSO wants to remind motorists to buckle up, drive safely and drive sober.

With the passage of Oregon's marijuana laws, this is also a reminder of the impairment marijuana creates for drivers, impacting their ability to safely operate a motor vehicle.

Driving Under the Influence

of Intoxicants (DUII) applies to drivers under the influence of marijuana, as it does with alcohol.

**Deadlines for press releases are Mondays and Thursdays by noon. Email them to:**

PressReleases@TheSiuslawNews.com

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### WEATHER DATA

DATE	HIGH	LOW	RAIN
June 27	63	50	0.00
June 28	65	44	0.00
June 29	67	43	0.00
June 30	63	50	0.00
July 1	54	50	0.08
July 2	66	49	0.00
July 3	66	52	0.00

Rainfall Week: 0.08"  
Month: 0.08" Year: 71.98"

Courtesy of Roger Cunningham

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Hours Open: Wed-Fri noon-5pm,  
Sat 10am-5pm, Sun. noon-5pm

## Classes and Workshops

### Open Studio at FRAA, Thursdays

No registration required. Drop-in, bring your materials, and create. All artistic mediums welcome. Every Thursday, 1-4 pm

### Ceramics Classes:

#### Kids Summer Clay Camp w/ Ben Cahoon

July 24th, 25th, 27th and Art Show on 28th 2nd - 8th grade. \$55/student. All supplies included. To register: [benjamincahoon@gmail.com](mailto:benjamincahoon@gmail.com)

#### Whimsical Hand Building Ceramics w/ Alissa Clark

Wednesdays, 3-5 pm and Thursdays, 6-8 pm  
No classes from July 3rd - 19th

#### Open Lab Ceramics on Saturdays

Drop in, work at own pace. Sat 12-5 pm  
No classes from July 3rd - 19th

All ceramics classes held at Alissa's Studio, 180 Laurel Street. Call Alissa with questions: 503-857-5222

### Creative Writing Workshops - Writers on the River w/ Catherine Rourke

Sat July 22nd, 9 am to 11 am  
All writing levels and genres.  
Contact: 541-708-2120;  
[CJRditor@gmail.com](mailto:CJRditor@gmail.com)

### Stay Tuned: Literary Salon coming

**Featured Author & Writers Open Mic**  
Free; Open to public; \$5 suggested donation, Call 541-708-2120 w/ questions.

#### Painting with John Leasure

Saturdays 9 am - 12 pm  
July 8, 15, and 29  
Contact: [jleasure@hotmail.com](mailto:jleasure@hotmail.com) or 541-991-2754 for details and fees.

#### Oil Painting with Michael Wood

Wednesdays 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm  
Contact: [fmwood@msn.com](mailto:fmwood@msn.com) for fees and more information.

For more information about classes, visit [fraaoregon.org](http://fraaoregon.org). To register for these classes, please call or visit FRAA at our art center on Maple Street.

Do your part and volunteer today to help support these local non-profit organizations in our community!



Volunteer • Get involved • Donate



Florence Food Share provides food to those who are hungry in our community. If you have four hours a week available, we are in need of volunteers to staff our Front Desk and also act as Guides as clients walk through the pantry. Please call our volunteer coordinator, Gina Yates, @ 541-997-9110 (Monday - Friday, before noon) to learn more about volunteering. [info@florence-foodshare.org](mailto:info@florence-foodshare.org) 2190 Spruce Street.



### Food Backpack for Kids

[www.backpackimpact.org](http://www.backpackimpact.org)

Together, No Child Will Go Hungry

Your tax deductible donations helped

us feed 86 Florence/Mapleton area children in June.

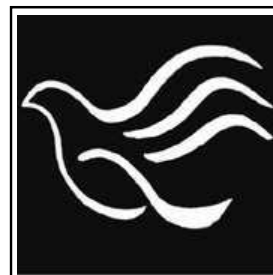
Please mail donations to: PO Box 3347, Florence, OR 97439.

For more information 541-997-2497.

Assisting those in need in our Community.  
Free Hot Meals Mon-Wed-Fri, 11:30 AM - 1 PM  
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United Methodist Church,  
333 Kingwood, Florence  
Call 541-997-5057 to Volunteer



Join the Peace Harbor Hospital Volunteers. You will find an area of interest in a caring organization.

### Peace Harbor Volunteers

400 9th Street, Florence, OR 97439  
541-997-8412 ext. 209



### SENIOR MEALS PROGRAM

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[lanesenior meals.org](http://lanesenior meals.org)

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Someone to talk to... who understands!

To include your organization in this directory, please call us @ 541-997-3441