

Siuslaw News Sports & Recreation

WINTER WHALE WATCHING BEGINS TODAY

The winter migration of grey whales will peak from Dec. 27-31 along the central Oregon coast

Winter is here and it is time to "think whales." A variety of activities will be offered at the Cape Perpetua Visitor Center during Whale Watch Week, which runs from today, Dec. 27, through Sunday, Dec. 31.

Cape Perpetua is a partner of Whale Watch Spoken Here, a program of Oregon State Parks that promotes whale watching at 24 designated locations along the Oregon coast.

Trained Whale Watch volunteers will be on-hand each day during the week from 10am to 1pm, to share information and help visitors spot whales. The public is also invited to attend the presentation, Experiencing Gray Whales by Michael Noack, scheduled at 11:30 a.m. this Saturday, Dec. 30, in the Cape Perpetua Visitor Center.

Noack, a retired Chief Park Ranger and Naturalist, has been educating agency staff and the public about the natural world, especially gray whales, for many years. He has trained whale watch volunteers and has been involved with whale research.

After the program, Noack will be available to discuss whale watch techniques that have worked for him.

Visitor Center winter hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. During the holi-



COURTESY PHOTO

Retired Chief Park Ranger Michael Noack helps visitors spot migrating whale activity at the Cape Perpetua Visitor Center lookout point.

day season the Visitor Center will be closed New Year's Day on Monday, Jan. 1. The presentations is free, but a Northwest Forest Pass, Oregon Coast Passport, and Federal Recreation Pass or \$5 day-use fee is required within the Cape Perpetua Scenic Area. For more information, call the Visitor Center at 541-547-3289.

On the Bite

A WEEKLY FISHING REPORT FOR THE LOCAL REGION

www.dfw.state.or.us/RR

Weekend fishing opportunities:

- Chinook fishing is open in coastal streams, and has been slow to fair recently.
- While Chinook fishing is winding down, anglers should keep an eye out for early-returning winter steelhead.
- The first winter steelhead of the season have been caught on the Alsea.

See **FISHING 2B**

TIDE TABLE

Entrance Siuslaw River

High Tide	Low Tide
Dec. 27 6:34am / 7.2 7:05pm / 5.4	1:20pm / 2.0

Dec. 28 7:22am / 7.7 8:23pm / 5.6	12:49am / 2.2 2:21pm / 1.2
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Dec. 29 8:12am / 8.2 9:31pm / 6.0	1:51am / 2.5 3:16pm / 0.3
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Dec. 30 9:01am / 8.5 10:30pm / 6.4	2:51am / 2.7 4:07pm / -0.6
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Dec. 31 9:51am / 8.9 11:23pm / 6.8	3:48am / 2.7 4:56pm / -1.2
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Jan. 1 10:40am / 9.2	4:43am / 2.8 5:45pm / -1.7
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Jan. 2 12:17am / 7.1 11:29pm / 9.3	5:36am / 2.7 6:32pm / -1.9
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SPORTS Calendar

• DEC. 29

MHS GIRLS B-BALL

HOSTS YONCALLA

3 P.M.

MHS BOYS B-BALL

HOSTS YONCALLA

4:30 P.M.

SHS GIRLS B-BALL

HOSTS CORBET

4 P.M.

SHS BOYS B-BALL

HOSTS CORBET

5:30 P.M.

• JAN. 2

MHS GIRLS B-BALL

HOSTS MCKENZIE

5:30 P.M.

MHS BOYS B-BALL

HOSTS MCKENZIE

7 P.M.

SHS GIRLS B-BALL

HOSTS WALDPOR

6 P.M.

SHS BOYS B-BALL

HOSTS WALDPOR

7:30 P.M.

Yachats hosting annual Peace Hike

Eighth annual event will be held New Year's Day on along the Amanda Trail

Start the New Year off on the right foot by joining the 8th Annual Yachats New Year's Day Peace Hike being held Monday, Jan. 1.

Participants in this six-mile round-trip hike will proceed from the Yachats Commons, 441 N. Highway 101), along the Amanda Trail to the Amanda Grotto south of town, where a Peace Ceremony will take place.

Hikers will traverse both paved roads and narrow dirt trail surfaces with some steps and moderate inclines. Sturdy shoes, layered clothing and walking sticks are recommended.

In addition, a new activity this year for both hikers and non-hikers who would like to acknowledge and honor Amanda's journey will be a candlelight vigil for peace at Yachats' Little Log Church.

Here are details for both events:



• 9:30 to 10:15 a.m.

Hikers may check in at the Yachats Commons' kitchen. All hikers will need to sign liability waivers and will receive safety information, route maps and commemorative buttons during check-in.

• 9:50 a.m.

The story of Amanda will be told by

Peace Hike buttons commemorating the 2018 event will be available for purchase on Jan. 1 in Yachats.

Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians (CTCLUSI) tribal members at Yachats' Little Log Church, 328 W. Third St. Hikers are encouraged to check in at the Commons beforehand so that they may continue to the Amanda Grotto immediately following the story telling.

• 10:15 a.m.

All hikers should be checked in by 10:15 and on their way to the Amanda Grotto to arrive in time for the Peace ceremony.

• 11:15 a.m. to noon

Peace ceremony takes place at the Amanda Grotto.

Noon

Ceremony ends and hikers may

See **HIKE 2B**

Oregon commercial crabbing to open Jan. 15

NEWPORT — The commercial Dungeness crab fishery will open on most of Oregon's coast on Monday, Jan. 15.

Dungeness crab will be ready to be harvested from Cape Blanco to the Columbia River, and north into Washington. While the commercial season can open as early as Dec. 1, the opening can be delayed to ensure a high quality product for consumers by allowing crabs more time to fill with meat.

Prior to the opener, crab vessels may

set gear from Jan. 12 onwards, using the "pre-soak" period of time to set gear in anticipation of the first pull of ocean crab pots on Jan. 15.

The recreational crab fishery in Oregon is already open in this same region (Cape Blanco north to the Columbia River).

The area south of Cape Blanco will remain closed to both recreational and commercial crabbing due to persisting domoic acid in the region.

Continued testing will determine when this closed area can reopen.

All Oregon crab product on the market is safe to eat.

Last year's season opening was also delayed but still brought in the record high ex-vessel value of \$62.7 million (about 22 percent above the 10-year average).

For more information, call ODA's shellfish safety information hotline at 800-448-2474 or visit the ODA shellfish closures at www.oregon.gov/ODA/programs/FoodSafety/Shellfish/Pages/Shellfish_Closures.aspx.

**SIUSLAW
NEWS**

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2016 & 2017 were great years for real estate...

So here's hoping 2018 will be the same.

Start the New Year right ~Come list or sell with me!!!

Happy New Year!

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