



Yachats annual Peace Hike goes virtual

The 11th annual Peace Hike along Amanda's Trail begins Friday

Each year, the Yachats Trails Committee conducts its Annual New Year's Day Peace Hike.

The hike traditionally honors the memory of a blind Native American woman known as "Amanda," who was forced to leave her young daughter and march barefoot through rocky terrain to the Alsea Sub-Agency internment camp in Yachats in 1864.

The hike, which generally follows the Amanda Trail from the Yachats Commons to the Amanda Statue south of town has grown steadily in attendance and importance over time.

This year however, there will be no traditional large-group hike as in the past, due to the Coronavirus pandemic and the Trails Committee's focus on participant safety.

Instead, people can experience the Amanda story virtually, starting on New Year's Day, by viewing a video of



COURTESY PHOTO

A sign points the way to the Amanda Trail in Yachats, which is the location of the annual Peace Hike.

Miluk Coos Tribal member Patricia Whereat Phillips, linguist, Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians (CT-CLUSI) narrating the Amanda story on line.

Participants can view the video from the City of Yachats (www.yachatsoregon.org)

Yachats Chamber of Commerce (www.yachats.org) and View the Future (www.viewthefuture.org) Websites.

Following that, community members are encouraged to explore their own goals and rituals for manifesting peace in their hearts and in the world.

For those who want to incorporate them, Cedar sprigs will be available in outdoor areas near the Yachats Commons.

Anyone who has used this opportunity to watch the Amanda video (from anywhere) is invited to stop by the Yachats City Visitor Center or the Yachats Chamber to pick up a commemorative button.

Alternatively they can send an email request to yachatstrails@gmail.com. If requesting by email, be sure to include your name and mailing address with your request.

This year's button was created by Morgan Gaines Quiiich (Lower Umpqua) Tribal Member, CTCLUSI.

The Yachats Trails team wishes the community a happy new year to come and hopefully the return of the Annual Peace hike — and

See HIKE 2B

ODFW REGIONAL FISHING REPORT

www.dfw.state.or.us/RR

Local Lakes and Ponds:

North Coast lakes are done with trout stocking until next spring, but many lakes have holdover trout from earlier season's stockings. Warmwater fishing should be over for the year as water temperatures are too cold to keep those species active.

Mid-coast lakes will receive trout stockings the first couple weeks of February. These lakes include: Cleawox, Munsel, Alder and Dune lakes. Wild coho fisheries in Siltcoos and Tahkenitch lakes are open and provide a unique opportunity to catch a coho in a coastal lake.

SIUSLAW RIVER: Winter steelhead

Winter steelhead fishing on the Siuslaw has been blown out with the recent high water. Expect the first good push of fish to be around when the river drops back into shape this weekend and next week. The Whitaker Creek area is the best place to target returning hatchery fish. Hatchery fish are also planted in Lake Creek and are released into Green Creek. These returning

See FISHING 3B

Tide Tables

Entrance Siuslaw River

High Tide	Low Tide
Dec. 30 12:40am / 6.4 11:30pm / 8.2	5:45am / 3.6 6:40pm / -0.8
Dec. 31 1:19am / 6.5 12:08pm / 8.1	6:25am / 3.6 7:17pm / -0.9
Jan. 1 1:59am / 6.5 12:46pm / 8.0	7:05am / 3.6 7:56pm / -0.8
Jan. 2 2:39am / 6.5 1:29pm / 7.7	7:51am / 3.5 8:36pm / -0.6
Jan. 3 3:19am / 6.7 2:18pm / 7.3	8:43am / 3.3 9:17pm / -0.2
Jan. 4 4:01am / 6.8 3:14pm / 6.7	9:44am / 3.1 10:01pm / 0.4
Jan. 5 4:46am / 7.1 4:23pm / 6.0	10:52am / 2.7 10:48pm / 1.1

Feeding a community need



PHOTOS BY MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

Once again this year, Florence Elks Lodge #1858 offered a free Christmas Day Community Appreciation Dinner on Friday, Dec. 25, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Adapting the model used earlier this year by the Kiwanis Club of Florence and its Thanksgiving Dinner at the lodge, the Florence Elks prepared to serve 800 people who drove — or walked — in line to receive packaged dinners at the lodge. The Elks' pre-cooked dinners include turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, stuffing, mixed vegetables, a roll, cranberry sauce and pumpkin pie — packaged into aluminum containers which can then be put in an oven to reheat. In addition, special guest Santa Claus was there to hand out candy canes. Every child also received a stuffed animal from the Elks. Twelve people prepared 30 turkeys — or 650 pounds — for the Christmas Day event.



SOS statistics reflect sobering increase in local hardships

In comparing statistics to the full 12 months of 2019, Siuslaw Outreach Services (SOS) has seen, as of Dec. 1, a 47 percent increase in number of individuals experiencing domestic violence (325 in 2019 to 478 in 2020), a 100 percent increase in number of sexual assaults (19 in 2019 to 40 in 2020), a 100 percent increase in number of individuals being trafficked (5 in 2019 to 10 in 2020), and an 80 percent increase in the number of households receiving rent assistance (64 in 2019 to 115 in 2020).

"This is such a sad indictment on humanity and disheartening representation of what is going on behind closed doors in our community, yet it magnifies the need for, and success of, SOS," said Bob Teter, executive director of Siuslaw Outreach Services (SOS), the local nonprofit dedicated to serving local victims of domestic violence, sexual abuse, sex trafficking, and unplanned homelessness.

"We still have a month to go. December has been tragically busy," he added.

"The stress of the holidays boosts these kinds of numbers, especially in the COVID-19 age," Teter explained. "We estimate that the stress of the pandemic and government restrictions on activity have been a major contributor to the upswing in numbers in the Siuslaw region. We are hearing that other agencies in Oregon are experiencing similar increases."

Teter said it is tough to estimate the exact severity of the area's need right now because of the constantly changing challenges due to COVID-19.

"Caring for our clientele, especially with this year's growing numbers and the expected growth into next year, comes with an increasing cost."

So far, SOS has provided nearly \$600,000 in direct aid in 2020 — a record for the

See SOS 2B



Lynnette Wikstrom Broker

Happy New Year 2021! Looking back, it was quite the year and something I don't want to repeat world wide. It was something we have never experienced and seemingly don't know how to handle. I just hope it is soon that Florence will get vaccines, although it looks like Spring before that will occur, but we can only hope. Weirdly enough, it was a great year for real estate. We've had almost a record year for sales, and if inventory hadn't been so low, it would have been out of this world. Interest rates are the lowest we've had in years which helped. Looking forward I'm not sure there's a prediction out there that tells us what the New Year will bring. Let's just look for the positive. I just hope everyone continues to wear a mask and stay safe and let's put this in the rear view mirror!

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