

English Odyssey

Sentinel editor explores Devon's north coast

BY JON STINNETT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

Lifting the latch on a low-slung wooden gate, we step off the narrow road and onto a rain-soaked path leading across an impossibly green stretch of grass.

All around us, the wind howls in from an angry sea as flocks of woolly white sheep, seemingly accustomed to the early-November English weather, continue their grazing unencumbered on fields crisscrossed by dense hedges. Overhead, seagulls struggle to make headway against the salty gale, while a gray cloud bank out at sea promises more excitement to come.

Reaching the edge of the headland, we step onto the rocky cliff path perched above the sea far below as flecks of sea foam ride the wind all around us. Without warning, my wife's stocking hat flies from her head and into the water in an instant, never to be seen again. Soon,

our walk takes us to the main attraction, a point of land named for the various mariners who have met a salty fate there, and we marvel at the crashing of the waters of the famed North Atlantic Ocean against those of Woolacombe Bay (with the south coast of Wales, visible on a clear day, I'm told, just off the horizon.) Turning around now ahead of the gathering storm, we navigate another path back toward a tiny town, an ancient pub full of dogs lounging before a stoked fire and a tall, dark pint of local suds.

There were many such memorable scenes over those several days on the north coast of Devon, an ancient English county famed for its farmers, hunters, pirates and smugglers, not to mention its beautiful, rugged coastline. The efforts of many here at the Sentinel and our sister newspaper allowed me to join my family for a classic wedding there, though the trip also offered a look at a lifestyle in many ways similar but in oth-



photo by Jon Stinnett

Devon's Woolacombe Bay weathers another November shower. The Woolacombe Bay Hotel can be seen in the back left of the photo.

ers remarkably different from our existence here in beautiful Oregon.

By Saturday, I'd managed to adjust to the rigors of a nine-hour flight and the ensuing jet lag, and as a family we walked the few short blocks from our flat (apartment) to the historic

Woolacombe Bay Hotel, a maze of beautifully decorated rooms and lounges that hosted one of the classiest wedding ceremonies and ensuing parties I've ever attended. Weddings in England are a much more formal affair

Please see **DEVON**, Page 11A



City Council Vacancy

The City of Cottage Grove is seeking interested applicants who reside within the City limits, to fill a vacancy on the Cottage Grove City Council for Councilor at Large. Applicants must be a registered voter and reside within the City for at least one year before appointment. The term for this position ends on December 31, 2016. Applications are available at City Hall from 8am to 5pm, Monday-Friday, or online at www.cottagegrove.org. The deadline to apply is Friday, December 18, 2015 at 5:00 pm. Please submit completed applications to City Recorder, Trudy Borrevik at City Hall. Any questions contact the City Manager's Office at (541) 942-5501.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Thanksgiving Dinner offered

The First Baptist Church is offering a free Thanksgiving dinner for all community members. A full meal will be held on Nov. 26 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the church located at 301 S. 6th St. Local meal delivery orders may be placed prior to Thanksgiving Day by calling the church at 541-942-8242 or Mercy Johnson at 541-942-5229. Those who cannot place delivery orders before Thanksgiving Day can call First Baptist Church on that day at 541-942-8242.

Scratchdog Stringband

Portland's Scratchdog Stringband will be playing its "rock-grass" tunes at a free show at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 5 at the Brewstation (106 South Sixth St., Cottage Grove).

Housing rehab program

St. Vincent de Paul's Regional Housing Rehabilitation Program RHRP currently has \$150,000 spoken for to rehabilitate Cottage Grove homes. In December they will be receiving additional funds for 15 more homes to be serviced by the program. A \$25,000 typical loan enables qualified homeowners to improve the livability, health and safety of their homes. Cottage Grove home repair RHRP projects have included new roofs, foundation work, plumbing, electrical, upgrading doors and windows, paint and more.

Qualifying household incomes range from \$31,000 for one person to \$58,450 for a family of eight. There are no payments added to the monthly budget. The loans are due and payable upon the sale or transfer of the property. Those interested can contact program manager Andy Clay for more informa-

tion at 541-687-5820 ext. 128.

Salmon Science Pub

On Tuesday, Nov. 24, the Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council invites the public to attend a Science Pub featuring Jeff Ziller, ODFW District Biologist, to present a talk entitled "Chinook Salmon in the Coast Fork Willamette - Past, Present and Future." Next, the event will feature a showing of the movie "Upriver: A Film for the Willamette," by Freshwaters Illustrated. The event is free to attend with a suggested donation of \$10 and it runs from 5-9 p.m.

Bond conversation

South Lane School District will host a community conversation related to proposed bond projects including a new Harrison Elementary School at Har-

ison on Wednesday, Nov. 18 beginning at 6 p.m. The public is invited.

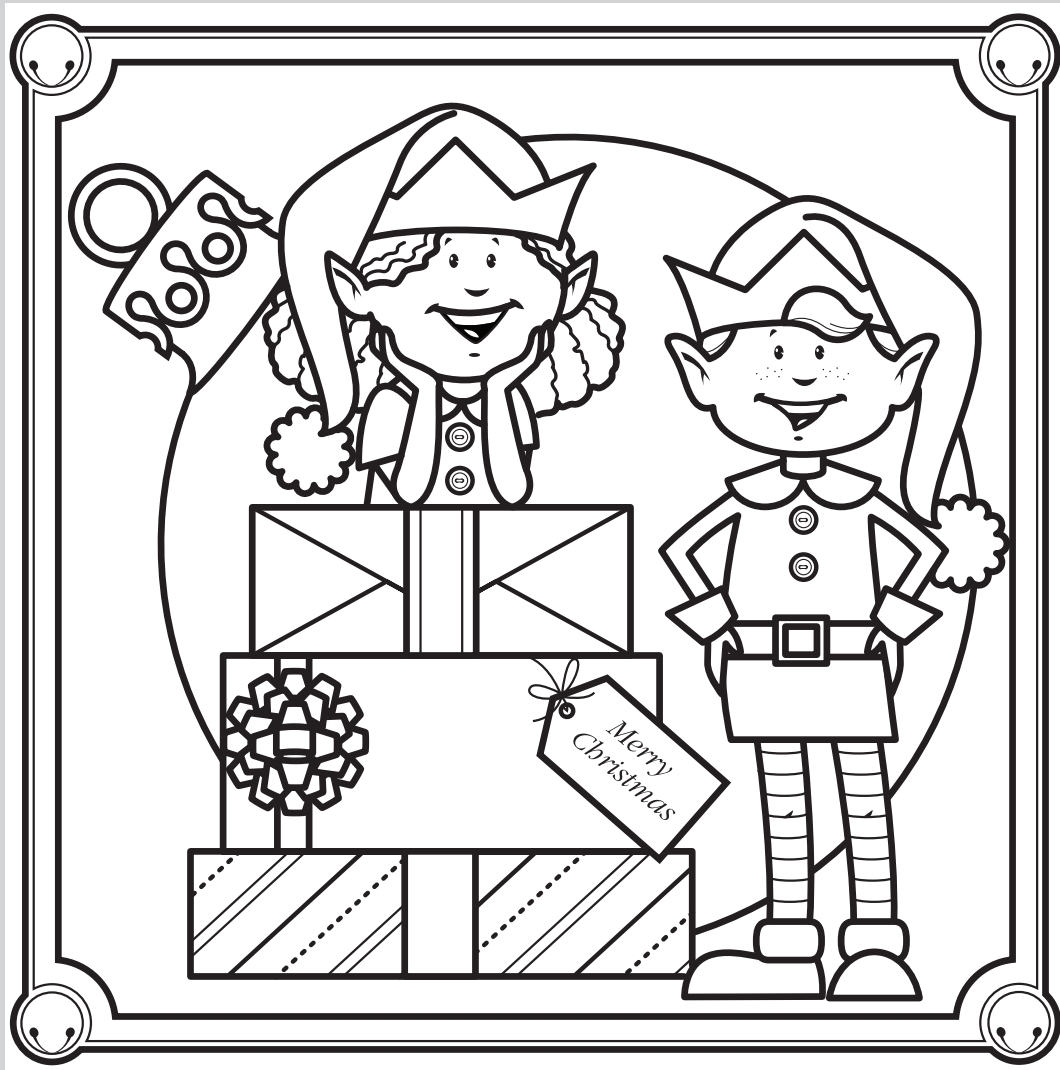
Turkey Shoot

The Cottage Grove/Eugene Sportsmen's Club will host turkey shoots (shooting only at clay targets) on Sunday, Nov. 22 and Sunday, Dec. 13. The public is invited to try this challenge. Everyone who enters will win a turkey. Registration starts at 9 a.m., and shooting starts at 10 a.m.

The cost is \$35 for four games. Eye and ear protection is required, and no shot size larger than 7.5# is allowed. Shells are available at the club.

Annual Rotary Children's Christmas Party

Thursday, Dec. 3rd, 6pm
Bohemia Elementary School
Games • Prizes • Refreshments • Santa
COLORING CONTEST



Sponsored by
Cottage Grove Rotary Club

Name _____ Age _____

Bring your colored picture to the party!

Holiday Bazaar



Humane Society of Cottage Grove's

5th Annual Christmas Bazaar

American Legion Hall • 826 Main Street, CG

**Friday, November 20th
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Saturday, November 21st
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**



Collectibles
Decorations
Christmas Cards
Lights
and Much More

All Proceeds Help Animals in Our Community.

Announcing!!

Thurston High School Choir's

Holiday Craft Faire

Friday & Saturday

10am - 5pm / 10am - 3pm
November 27 & 28

Hand-Crafted Items!

Food!
Movies for Kids!

FREE ADMISSION!

THURSTON HIGH SCHOOL
333 N. 58TH ST
SPRINGFIELD, OR 97478