

Riverbend ranked among nation's most beautiful hospitals

PeaceHealth Sacred Heart Medical Center at RiverBend ranked sixth in a national contest to determine the most beautiful hospitals in the United States.

With 11,215 votes, RiverBend placed sixth among 68 finalists from across the country. RiverBend was the only finalist in Oregon.

"The honor takes on special meaning as RiverBend approaches its 10th birthday on August 10," said Marcy Marshall, director of strategic communications and engagement for PeaceHealth Oregon. "We're so grateful that more than 10 years ago this community stepped forward to build a regional medical center that is beautiful inside and out.

"RiverBend's setting along the river, its design, art and furnishings all were chosen to provide a comfortable, healing environment for patients and caregivers. But, of course, the most beautiful aspects of our hospital are the people who work in it and the patients they serve."

The annual contest is sponsored by Soliant, an Atlanta-based specialty health care staffing provider. The contest received more than 250,000 total votes for the 68 finalists in 2018.

"Being named among Soliant's most beautiful hospitals is a significant achievement," Soliant President David Alexander said. "Each winner joins a distinguished list of outstanding hospitals committed to delivering first-class patient care in environments that foster healing."

The voting period was from June 1 to July 20. This description of RiverBend was taken from PeaceHealth's nomination letter:

"PeaceHealth Sacred Heart Medical Center at RiverBend in Springfield, Ore., is gorgeous inside and out. The 347-room hospital on 181 scenic acres along the McKenzie River is warm and inviting, and staff are friendly and caring. RiverBend's lodge-like lobby, with a towering stone fireplace, comfortable seats and grand piano, makes you pinch yourself and ask, 'Is this really a hospital?' RiverBend was designed by an architectural firm better known for grand hotels than medical centers. The design was intended to create a tranquil, comfortable setting for families and patients managing health issues. Art throughout the campus was carefully chosen to reduce stress and promote healing. Many of RiverBend's patient rooms have views of the river, woods and hills. The campus has nearly three miles of bike and walking paths. Patients at this regional medical center truly have an opportunity to experience the healing power of nature."

WATCH FOR WHALES THIS WEEKEND ON COAST

The Oregon Chapter of the American Cetacean Society (ACS) is hosting its Seventh Annual Summer Whale Watch Weekend on July 28 and 29, at Boiler Bay State Park in Depoe Bay.

ACS volunteer members and Certified Naturalists will be on hand from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. each day to help visitors watch for whales and other wildlife, as well as provide information on whales, dolphins, porpoises and their habitats.

This family friendly event is free, open to the public, and fun for all ages.

No worries about seasickness, this is an eco-friendly shore-based whale watch. Observe whales in their natural habitat without causing a disturbance. Here are a few of the things visitors can learn: What is a cetacean? What are the differences between a dolphin and porpoise? What is baleen? What whales, dolphins and porpoises are found off the Oregon Coast? What do they eat (prey) and what eats them (predators)? What are the threats affecting them? What can you do to help?

The most frequently observed cetaceans along the Oregon Coast are gray whales. Learn about the Pacific Coast Feeding Group of gray whales and the myth of resident whales.

Whales are facing many

threats and some species and populations are on the verge of extinction. Learn how to make a difference wherever you live in the world.

The American Cetacean Society is the oldest whale conservation organization in the world, founded in 1967. The mission of this all volunteer non-profit is to protect whales, dolphins, porpoises and their habitats through public education, research grants and conservation actions. Information on the ACS can be found on the web-



The tail of a grey whale surfaces following a breach of the Oregon coast. (courtesy photo)

site: www.acsonline.org.

For more information, con-

tact Joy Primrose, ACS Oregon Chapter President at marine_

lover4ever@yahoo.com or call 541-517-8754.

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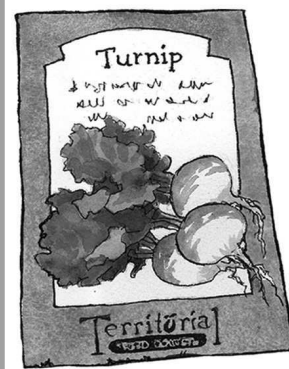
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CONTEST RULES: Visit the Cottage Grove Sentinel Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Cottage-Grove-Sentinel/> and upload a picture of your vegetable, fruit or flower garden to the photo album section of the page. In the comment space, describe what makes you so proud of your garden. **The person who receives the most "likes" by August 31, 2018** will win the \$200 in gift certificates valid at the participating businesses. The name of the winner will be posted on our Facebook page on August 8, 2018. Participants must be 18 years old or more. Previous winners, employees of this newspaper and participating businesses and their immediate family members are not eligible to participate in this contest.

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