

The joy of sharing space with wild things

"Sharing Space with Wild Things" is the topic of this month's Nature Matters talk.

The presentation is at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 13, in the Lovell Showroom at Fort George Brewery, 1483 Duane St., Astoria.

Josh Saranpaa, executive director of the Wildlife Center of the North Coast, and Pauline Baker, rehabilitation coordinator, will give the audience an inside look at what wildlife rehabilitation is, its importance, and the impact people have on wildlife.

The Wildlife Center is a nonprofit wildlife hospital and environmental education center that has been rescuing, rehabilitating, and releasing native wildlife on the North



Josh Saranpaa

Oregon Coast for 21 years.

The talk is free. Doors open at 6 p.m. for those who want to purchase dinner or beverages before the event.

Nature Matters is held on the second Thursday of the month from October through May. It's sponsored by Lewis



Pauline Baker

and Clark National Historical Park in partnership with the North Coast Watershed Association, the Lewis & Clark National Park Association and Fort George.

For more information, call 503-861-2471.

We interrupt this test for a real emergency

Last week's county emergency alert system was interrupted for... an emergency.

A test of the ClatsopALERTS! emergency notification system had been planned for Friday, Nov. 30, but the county's Emergency Management Division (EMD) instead had to broadcast a real emergency that had many Clatsop County residents concerned.

The test was scheduled to send messages out to residential and business landline phones as well as cell phones and email addresses registered with ClatsopALERTS!

But a 7.2 earthquake near Anchorage -- one with a potential for tsunamis -- prompted EMD to send local emails and text messages about the Alaskan earthquake. That message informed recipients that no tsunami alert had been issued for the Oregon Coast.

EMD Manager Tiffany Brown said they wanted to avoid any potential confusion between the Alaska earthquake message and the scheduled test.

So they decided to cancel the

test.

Friday's test was to be the first of a series performed four times a year as a test of the local warning system and to boost registration among county residents

"One of our primary objectives in beginning these quarterly tests is to reduce confusion among our citizens," Brown said. "We didn't feel the test would achieve that, coming so soon after the earthquake message."

The ClatsopALERTS! test will be rescheduled for some

time this month.

ClatsopALERTS! is designed to provide local citizens with immediate information and warnings about storms, floods and tsunamis, water contamination alerts, missing persons reports, road closures and other events. Landline phones are automatically included in the ClatsopALERTS! database, but to receive messages on cell phones, users must register their numbers.

To register, go to www.co.clatsop.or.us.

Helping families at holiday time

Warrenton-Hammond Healthy Kids is partnering with Warrenton Grade School and Warrenton Christian Church for its third annual Holiday Toy Drive.

Donations of cash, checks or toys can be dropped off at the grade school. Also stop by the grade school to adopt a child or family.

Toys also can be dropped off at Columbia Bank in

Warrenton, the Warrenton Branch of Wauna Credit Union, Warrenton Christian Church and Darlene Warren Farmers Insurance.

All donations must be turned in by Wednesday, Dec. 19. A gift-wrapping party will be held at Warrenton Christian Church on Saturday, Dec. 22.

For more information, contact Debbie Morrow at 503-791-5973.



Bruce Dustin/The Columbia Press

Dalton Knight scored a team-leading 18 points in the Gaston win.

Boys basketball scores two wins in first week of play

BY BRUCE DUSTIN
The Columbia Press

The Warrenton boys basketball team was riding a high going into its second week of play, with two opening season wins: 48-37 against Nestucca, and a nail-biting 56-54 against Gaston.

The week will culminate in away games at Neah-Kah-Nie and Vernonia this Friday and Saturday.

"When Austin Little fouled out close to the end of the fourth quarter, everybody thought it was a bad call," Coach Nate McBride said after the Gaston win. "But it wasn't and I told my bench so."

The call did highlight the end of a game dominated by

defensive fouls contested by many in the stands.

"Even with two wins under our belt, we still have some things to work on," McBride admitted. "But, regardless of the negatives, our team has dominated with strong offensive and defensive play. We need to work on press breakers, and it'll make a big difference when Jake Morrow comes off the disabled list this week. But I'm really looking forward to a good season from our boys."

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