



Above: A snow-covered path awaited hikers at last year's First Day Hike at Stub Stewart State Park near Vernonia.

Right: Breath-taking views at Cottonwood Canyon near Wasco.



The right path for the new year Oregon's state parks offer 'First Day Hikes'

The Columbia Press

Oregon's state parks will offer residents a chance to take a step in the right direction on the first day of the new year.

The eighth annual First Day Hike will be held at 10 a.m. Jan. 1 at Fort Stevens State Park. It's offered through a partnership of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department and the National Park Service. There's another first day hike planned at Oswald West State Park in Nehalem and at 30 other parks across the state.

The usual \$5 day-use fee is waived and park rangers will serve as guides for the free hikes.

Hikers can register at the Oregon State Parks Store, bit.ly/Park-StoreEvents. Although registration is not required, it will help park staff plan for the hike and give them contact information should the hike be canceled because of weather or other conditions.

Hikers should meet at 10 a.m. Jan. 1 in Parking Lot A for an easy four-mile hike on various trails. It's not recommended for children younger than 7. Dogs must be on a 6-foot leash.

It's a leisurely hike that makes its way along the park's extensive paved trails and will pass Swash Lake, an intertidal marsh famous for winter waterfowl watching.

Participants should dress in layers, wear sturdy shoes and bring water as well as a camera or binoculars.

For more information about the Fort Stevens hike, call 503-861-3170.

A look at stories that made the news in 2018

The Columbia Press

Warrenton achieved some milestones in 2018 and the good news is most of them were positive.

New shopping and dining opportunities came to town and the city government got busy making Warrenton a better place to live in and look at.

Here's a month-by-month look at some of the biggest local stories this year:

JANUARY

Warrenton Police became the first law enforcement agency in the county to carry Naloxone, a drug that can revive someone dying of a heroin overdose. Other agencies soon followed suit.

Warrenton-Hammond School District begins planning for a new campus after learning it cannot expand at either of its two campuses because both are within or near tsunami inundation zones.

District Attorney Josh Marquis announces his retirement after 24 years in Clatsop County. He leaves office in January 2019.

FEBRUARY

Pacific Power lineman Gary Dick and the late Hal Snow, Warrenton's former city attorney, receive the top awards for community service from the Astoria-Warrenton Area Chamber of Commerce.

Spc. Devin Kuhn, a soldier from Philadelphia, dies from an accidental shooting during training at Camp Rilea.

Prolific car prowler Randy Stackhouse pleads guilty for burglarizing dozens of vehicles and is sentenced to two years in prison.

A heavy snow blankets most of Clat-

State's maritime workers are aging while jobs are increasing

The Columbia Press and news sources

Oregon's maritime workforce is diverse and plays a key economic role in many coastal and rural communities, including Clatsop County.

There were nearly 19,000 maritime jobs in Oregon in 2017, with average wages exceeding most other industries, according to the state. Maritime jobs include commercial fishers who live in Oregon and other states but fish the state's waters, those who live and pay taxes in Oregon but fish elsewhere and active mariners in the U.S.

Coast Guard or Navy.

A task force created by the state Legislature in 2017 was charged with describing the industry, determining labor market information and working out a plan for maritime workforce development, since it appears the sector is growing.

The task force sunsets at the end of the year and the group presented its findings this month.

A challenge for the state is that the maritime workforce is aging, with many employees will retire or change careers within the next 10 years.

Many job openings are expected, presenting the problem of ensuring adequately trained replacements.

To measure maritime employment, the task force sought information from employee and licensing records as well as government data on service members.

Of the nearly 19,000 maritime workers, it found there were 10,019 covered by Oregon's Unemployment Insurance program, 3,498 commercial fishers in Oregon, 1,447 distant waters (such as Alaska) commercial fishers,

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