

State tops in food production

Oregon may not be a major producer of turkeys, but you can thank the state's farmers for other staples found throughout the holidays.

Oregon is No. 1 in the nation for Dungeness crab -- \$68 million worth! We're No. 2 for pears and onions, No. 3 for cranberries, and No. 4 for green peas and potatoes.

If you raise a toast during the holidays, remember that Oregon hops are used to produce many of the region's craft beers. The state ranks No. 3 in the United States for growing hops.

The Oregon wine industry has surged to 1,297 vineyards in the past decade with 908 wineries. Wine grapes are the state's No. 7 agricultural commodity, valued at \$238 million, according to the Oregon Farm Bureau.

"Thanksgiving is all about making time to reflect on the many things in life for which we're grateful," said Anne Marie Moss, the bureau's communications director. "In conversations around the dinner table, (we) urge readers to remember the farm and ranch families who grew the food."

The bureau announced a #CelebrateAg promotion this month to highlight the state's contributions to the nation's food supply.

Other interesting facts:

Oregon is No. 1 in the nation for Christmas tree production. Tree farms sold more than \$104 million in trees last year, according to the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

We're also No. 1 nationwide for blackberries, hazelnuts, peppermint, rhubarb, grass seed, and florist azaleas. A hundred percent of the nation's hazelnut market comes from Oregon, according to the National Agricultural Statistics Service. Close behind is crimson clover and orchardgrass seeds at 98 percent.

Post-turkey weekend activities kick off the holidays

Events can be enjoyed virtually, by foot, or by automobile

The Columbia Press

The weekend after Thanksgiving is the official kick-off for many Christmas activities.

There's no question the holidays will look and feel different during these days of COVID-19. Yet there still are things that you and your household can do.

DISTANCED SANTA VISITS

Downtown Astoria is all lit up for the holidays.

The Christmas tree on Marine Drive at 17th Street was put up and lit Nov. 21, although there was no ceremony this year due to the pandemic.

Santa will greet visitors from noon to 3 p.m. every Saturday through Christmas at the Liberty Theatre's kiosk.

Children 5 and older are required to wear masks and should bring written wish lists.

TOUR OF LIGHTS

Seaside Chamber of Commerce is having a contest to see which homes and businesses have the best decorations.

The contest is open in Seaside and Gearhart and runs from Nov. 30 to Dec. 18.

Residents are urged to take a self-guided tour of participating spots between 6 and 9:30 p.m. each night and then vote for their favorites.

The chamber will have a map of participating locations and a ballot.

CANNON BEACH IN LIGHTS

Haystack Holidays Cannon Beach will turn on all the sparkly lights downtown between 5 and 10 p.m. daily through New Year's.

Participating businesses are competing for best window

display and visitors can vote for their favorites between Dec. 3 and 20. The winning business will be announced Dec. 21.

CRAB POT DRIVE-BY

The Port of Ilwaco is the site of a drive-by Christmas parade between 5 and 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5.

Participants are encouraged to decorate their vehicles and drive by for the annual crab pot tree lighting.

They'll be able to tune in and listen to the ceremony and carols on their vehicle's radio.

For those who'd prefer to watch it virtually, the event will be shown live on the Discover Ilwaco Facebook page.

The event is hosted by Discover Ilwaco and the Ilwaco Merchants Association.

DECK THE WALLS

Trails End Art Association in Gearhart kicks off its monthlong Deck the Walls show of original art and gifts from 2 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5.

The nonprofit association supports local artists. Their gallery is at 656 A St.

HOLIDAY CONCERT

Columbia River Symphony has invited several musical groups and talented musicians for its annual holiday concert at 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11.

The concert is free and can be viewed online live or after the event at columbiariver-symphony.org.

Those who will appear include the Astoria Tuba Quartet, David Drury, North Coast Choral and North Oregon Coast Symphony.

Columbia River Symphony is a nonprofit performing arts group led by Conductor Cory Pederson.



Art of the Ilwaco crab pot event by Pacific County artist Don Nisbett graces the Discover Ilwaco Facebook page.

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