

Local seafood gets boost from government

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has awarded a \$735,200 grant to the Oregon Coast Visitors Association in hopes of aiding the distribution of local seafood.

“Oregon’s fisheries are the lifeblood of our coastal and tourism economies, supporting jobs that families rely on, and supplying communities across our state and around the world with exceptional products and experiences,” U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley said in announcing the grant.

Visitors to the Oregon Coast spend \$792 million each year at food markets and restaurants annually, contributing tremendous amounts of new money to the local economy, according to a 2018 visitor impacts report from Dean Runyan Associates, a travel and tourism research company based in Portland.

“As we continue to recover from the health and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, we must ensure that this crucial industry receives the support it needs to survive and provide for Oregonians and consumers around the country,” Merkley said. “I’m thrilled the USDA has recognized the important work the (visitors association) does for both Oregon’s fishing and aquaculture industry, as well as our great state’s tourism industry.”

The grant will be used to expand the regional distribution network of smaller seafood and aquaculture producers on the Oregon Coast whose operating budgets are under \$1 million annually.

“If visitor spending and related economic development doesn’t support our residents and create resilient food systems even under distressing economic conditions, then what is the point of it,” asked Marcus Hinz, executive di-



Photo by Tiffany Woods

Fishmonger Tryan Hartill at Northwest Wild Products in Astoria.

rector of the visitors association.

Those in the seafood industry who are interested in connecting with the project are urged to visit OregonCoast-FoodVision.com to learn more.

College plans open house, fundraiser

Clatsop Community College Foundation will hold an open house and fundraiser, “Be Part of the Magic,” on Saturday, April 30, at Patriot Hall.

Guests can visit with faculty, students and staff as they

In the next few years, the association hopes to raise \$15 million in additional investments to support the hyper-local seafood infrastructure project, from the smallest of family fishers to processors and distributors.

share the magic from enrolling in the various educational programs offered at the college. Entertainment includes Seth the Magician and a live auction.

Proceeds go to scholarships.

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It's Girl Scout cookie time

Girl Scouts have kicked off another cookie season and there's a brand new cookie this year.

Adventurefuls are a brownie-inspired cookie with caramel-flavored cream and a hint of sea salt. The new cookie is one of nine for sale in Oregon and Southwest Washington.

Local scouts will sell cookies at the Astoria Safeway on Feb. 25, 26, 27, and March 4, 5, 6.

They'll sell at the Seaside Safeway on Feb. 25, 26, 27, March 4, 5, 6, 11, and 12.

Cookies also can be purchased online at girlscouts.org. There's even an option to donate cookies to first responders and local causes.

Proceeds from cookies sales benefit local scouts ages 5 to 18.

Girls get a taste of being entrepreneurs through the cookie program and learn important online and offline business skills that set them up for success in life,



Adventurefuls is the newest Girl Scout cookie.

leaders say.

“Local Girl Scouts do incredible things with their cookie earnings,” said Karen Hill, director of Girl Scouts of Oregon and Southwest Washington.

“Whether earning their way to camp or funding a service project, they're setting goals and serving as leaders in their own lives and in their communities,” Hill said.



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