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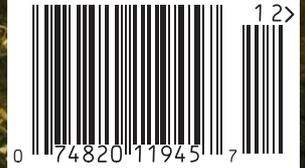
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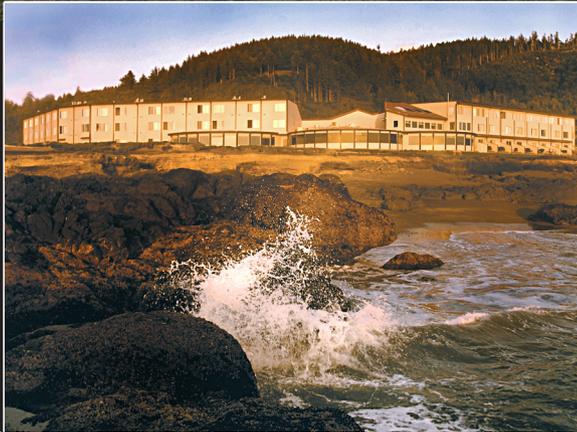
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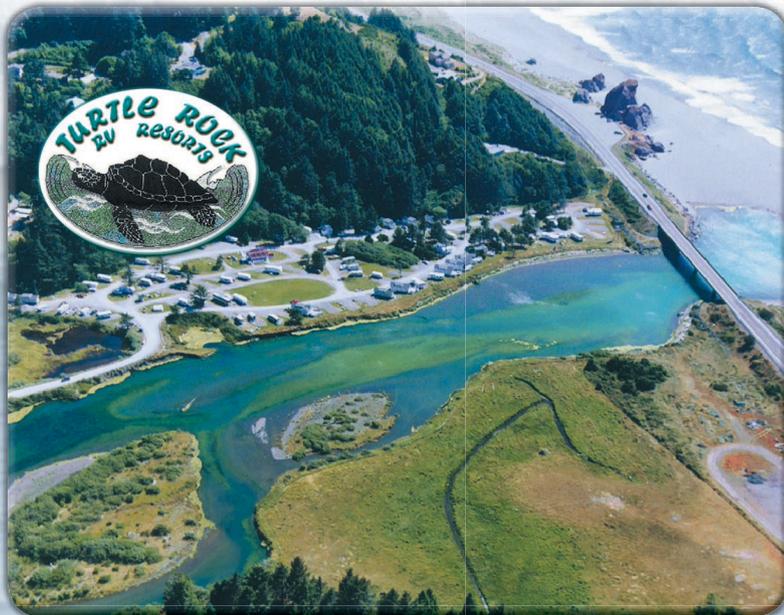
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OREGON COAST

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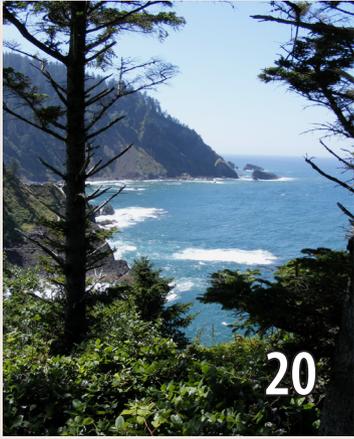
50 **Music Flows at Pistol River**—A small concert hall with great acoustics, located just off Hwy 101 on the South Coast, draws top-notch acts of many genres. —Scott Graves

ON THE COVER

Lights at Shore Acres, by Larry Andreassen

Concrete arch and Sylvia Beach
Hotel at Nye Beach, Newport.
—Scott Blackman





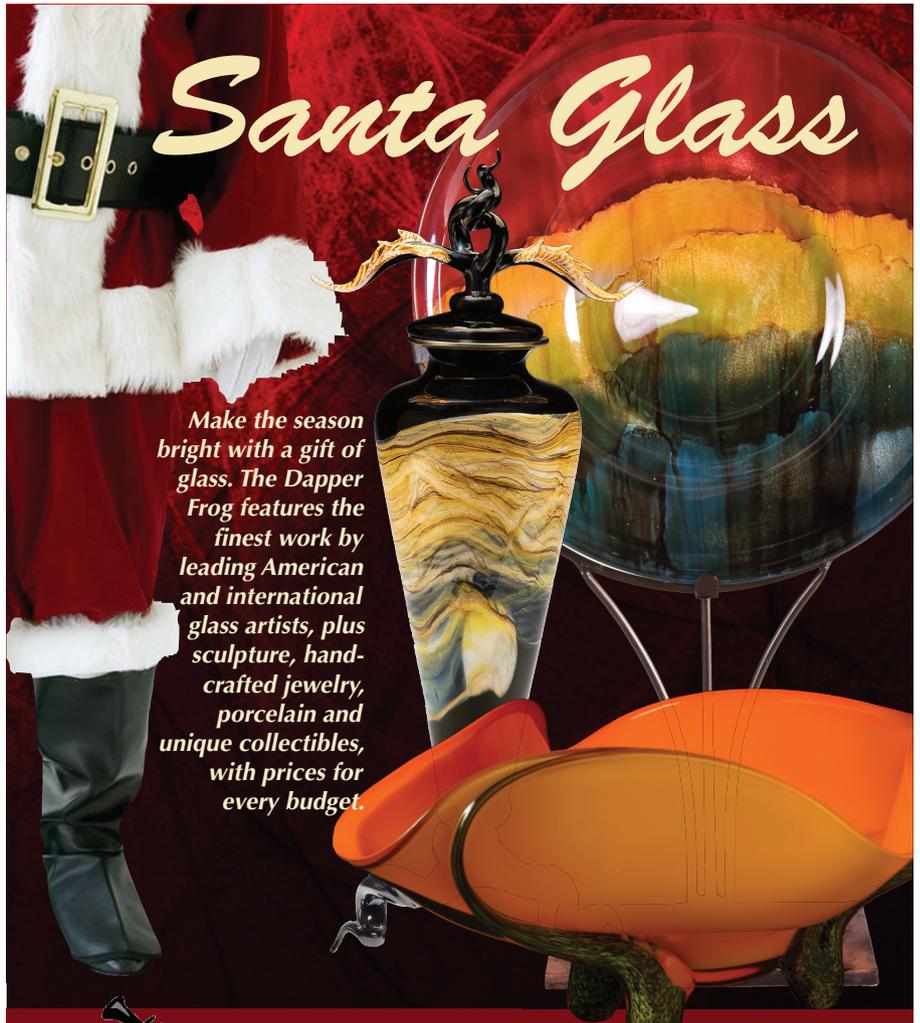
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STORM SEASON IS here!
There's something about the fierce nature of the elements during this season that brings the soul alive—howling wind, crashing

waves, and sideways-pelting rain make me appreciate the grand and powerful nature of this planet.

After a short stint outside, it's great to cozy up in a cabin or hotel room and watch the show, or to sip on a cup of steaming chowder in a restaurant full of other stormy-weather lovers, red-cheeked from the wind and rain. It's also a great time of year to check out our coastal shops and boutiques, filled with unique items and works of art that make great holiday gifts. Personal service and a relaxed pace are hallmarks of shopping on the Coast, a welcome change from the urban holiday hustle.

In this issue, Nancy Steinberg writes about the restoration of the land that once was home to the Pixieland amusement park. The park couldn't make it in the coast's rainy climate and lasted fewer than six years, but it left a lasting imprint. Thanks to a Forest Service restoration project that is currently coming to completion, the remains of the park—a dike, buildings, asphalt, ponds, and berms—are gone and the tide is flowing in and out. It is now a place where steelhead and salmon, along with a multitude of other wildlife, can grow and thrive.

Also in this issue, you'll find a story about common murrets at Yaquina Head (and why their colony there is so successful) and one about a great hike at the Cascade Head Scenic Research Area.

If you're on the North Coast, there's no better time of year to check out the Fascination parlor at the Seaside arcade, where, for a quarter, you can play a game that dates back to the '40s and enjoy the camaraderie that comes with it.

On the South Coast, check out the new Hawthorne Gallery and Redfish Restaurant in Port Orford, and of course the Holiday Lights at Shore Acres, celebrating 25 years this year.

Enjoy the holidays, and as always, let us know how you liked the issue or tell us about your coastal adventures. You can reach me at rosemary@nwmags.com.

—*Rosemary Camozzi*

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Seeing double ...

I love *Oregon Coast* magazine. It's what keeps me sane as my heart has always been on the Oregon Coast and I fully intend to return when my situation allows. Your magazine is always high quality and a highlight of my trips to the mailbox. I did have a little question about the September/October issue, though. On the cover is a lovely photo that, on page 3, is described as Haystack Rock at Cannon Beach. Then, on page 4 is another lovely photo labeled as Haystack Rock at Cape Kiwanda. Is there more than one haystack-like rock formation actually named Haystack Rock? Perhaps there's only one that moves from location to location? (I really do doubt this though.) Just wondering?

Thanks so much and keep up the good work.

Bonnie Chaty
Lacey, Wash.

Editor's note: Yes, strangely enough there are two famous rock formations with the same name on the North Coast. To confuse things even further, there is lesser-known Haystack Rock near Bandon.

CONTACT US

Oregon Coast welcomes your comments and suggestions. We reserve the right to edit them for clarity and space. If you prefer we not publish your letter, please let us know. Please include a phone number or e-mail address with all correspondence in case we need to contact you.

E-mail: feedback@nwmags.com

■ USPS mail: Editor, 4969 Hwy 101 #2, Florence, OR 97439

■ For article queries: feedback@nwmags.com.

■ To submit a calendar listing: emily@nwmags.com

Back issues, anyone? ...

I started subscribing to *Oregon Coast* magazine in 1982 with Volume 1, No.1, and continued until Vol. 16, No. 3 (May/June 1997), for a total of 81 issues. I will be 80 on December 3 and am sorting out things to get rid of when my wife and I decide we can no longer stay in a single-family dwelling.

I don't want to throw these issues away because of the beautiful photography and interesting writing but don't know whether there is any historical value or if anyone might be interested in back issues. The 81 issues pretty well fill a computer paper carton and weigh almost 40 pounds.

If anyone is interested you may reply by email: feedback@northwestmagazines.com. Thank you for any assistance you may offer. I still miss the Oregon Coast.

Donald (Kelly) Meyer
Denver, NC

Editor's note: We're honored that Mr. Meyer has treasured his back issues of Oregon Coast for all these years, and hope they will find a new home.

October cover hits home ...

Thanks so much for sending copies of *Oregon Coast* magazine. The bench on the cover of the September/October issue is in front of our house. Nice photo.

We built this bench about 10-12 years ago. The previous bench had been built by my wife's grandfather, probably in the Fifties. That great old bench was made of wood atop a wooden platform. One day we found it missing and have to assume someone had a toasty warm beach fire with it.

Weldon & Jody Teetz
Cannon Beach, Ore.

Perplexing terms ...

What is the difference between the geographical terms of a Cape, a Head, and a Point?

Kevin Stinson
E-mail

Editor's note: According to the Oregon Coastal Atlas, a cape is "a relatively extensive land area jutting seaward from a continent ... which prominently marks a change in, or interrupts notably, the coastal trend."

A head, on the other hand, is a "comparatively high promontory with either a cliff or a steep face" that extends into a large body of water.

A point is "the extreme end of a cape, or the outer end of any land area protruding into the water, usually less prominent than a cape."

Hope that clears it up.

Cannon Beach book club inspires ...

Thank you for the most excellent feature article on Cannon Beach in your September/October issue. The article forgot one important thing about this town: They have a wonderful book club that meets the third Wednesday of the month in the library. Through this group I'm reading fascinating books I would have never found on my own.

Keep up the good work.

Debbie Gardiner
Manzanita, Ore.

Side trip to the Air Museum ...

Am enjoying the magazine and articles about the Coast and Coast cities. Having just completed our umpteenth stay and drive along the Coast, I have a suggestion for future consideration. We came into Astoria and RV'd it down to Crescent City, then back to Grants Pass and home on I-5, or some combination of that and our own choice. Anyway, while in Lincoln City, we took a day to



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Writers & Photographers

Tara Barnett is a writer living in Portland, Oregon. In addition to *Fascination*, she loves science fiction and travel. She can be found online at tarabarnett.com.



Tara Barnett

Scott Blackman began photographing the coast in 1971. His photos have been published in *The New York Times*, *Audubon* calendars, National Geographic Society books, and *Oregon Coast*.

Judy Fleagle, former editor of *Oregon Coast*, lives in Florence and continues to write occasionally for the magazine. She is the co-author of the book *Crossings: McCullough's Coastal Bridges*.



Judy Fleagle

Laurel Gerkman is a real estate broker residing in Gold Beach, Oregon. An avid historian and geographer, she is captivated by the South Coast's physical and human landscapes.



Laurel Gerkman

Scott Graves is the managing editor for the *Curry Coastal Pilot* newspaper in Brookings. He spends his free time surfing, kayaking, and doing a variety of outdoor activities with his wife and daughter.

Kevin McNeal, from Washington, is a freelance photographer who focuses on grand and colorful landscapes that reflect some of the most unique places. His award-winning images can be seen in galleries and shows across the United States.

Gail Oberst was born in Oregon and has been a journalist and editor all of her professional life. She recently edited a book of personal essays, "Writing Our Watershed," and is now at work on a second book of watershed essays.



Gail Oberst

Tammie Painter is a full-time writer in Portland, Oregon. Her travel, gardening, and history articles have appeared in several magazines. To learn more about her, visit painterwrite.wordpress.com.



Tammie Painter

Robert L. Potts has worked in aerial photography, wildlands fire and range management, and various wildlife research projects. His photos have appeared in *Oregon Coast*, *Birder's World*, *Country Journal*, and many more publications.

Nancy Steinberg is a Newport-based freelance science writer and editor. She also serves as a consultant on science communication projects for government agencies, nonprofit and academic organizations, and other clients.



Nancy Steinberg

James and Judy Wild strive to capture nature's appeal through their photography, which focuses on the Pacific Northwest. They market their photography through their business, Wild Images.

drive to McMinnville and toured the Evergreen Air Museum. What a great day that was. Of all the places to not expect a great collection of aircraft, McMinnville is the place. Was I ever wrong! The drive from Lincoln City was certainly worth it as we spent most of the day in the Air Museum and the Space Museum. It was a pleasure to see the old WWII planes and the space paraphernalia, and well worth the side trip from the Coast.

A leisurely jaunt down the Coast with numerous stops along the way is worth the time. Seems we missed most of the events, either too early or too late for them. However, it was worth the time and effort, but don't be in a hurry.

*Ted Smith
Auburn, Calif.*

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129 W Bond St., Astoria
503-325-6104; www.shanghaiedinastoria.com

SCROOGED IN ASTORIA Dec 1–18; Thur–Sat 7:30 p.m., Sun 2 p.m.; tickets \$6–\$15.

Coaster Theatre

108 N Hemlock St., Cannon Beach
503-436-1242; www.coastertheatre.com

ANNIE GET YOUR GUN Nov 18–Dec 30; Thurs–Sat 8 p.m., Sun 3 p.m.; tickets \$18–\$23.

The Barn Community Playhouse

1204 Ivy St., Tillamook
503-392-3454; www.tillamooktheater.com

MOON FOR THE MISBEGOTTEN Nov 18–Dec 3; Fri–Sat 7 p.m., Sun 2 p.m.; tickets \$9–\$12.

Theatre West

3536 SE Hwy 101, Lincoln City
541-994-5663; www.theatrewest.com

SAVING GRACE Through Nov 12; Thurs–Sat 8 p.m.; tickets \$8–\$12.

THE PSYCHIC Dec 29–Jan 21; Thurs–Sat 8 p.m.; tickets \$8–\$12.

Newport Performing Arts Center

777 W Olive St., Newport
541-265-ARTS; www.coastarts.org

THE FULL MONTY Nov 11–27; Fri–Sat 7 p.m., Sun 2 p.m.; tickets \$13–\$15.

Florence Events Center Theater

715 Quince St., Florence
541-997-1994; www.eventcenter.org

CABARET Nov 4–13; Fri–Sat 7 p.m., Sun 2 p.m.; tickets TBA.

HOLLY JOLLY FOLLIES Dec 9–18; Fri–Sat 7 p.m., Sun 3 p.m.; tickets TBA.

Sprague Community Theater

1202 11th St., Bandon
541-347-7426; www.spraguetheater.org

A CHRISTMAS CAROL Nov 25–27; Fri–Sat 7 p.m., Sat & Sun 2 p.m.; tickets TBA.

OLD BEFANA Dec 9–18; Fri–Sat 7:30 p.m., Sun 2 p.m.; tickets \$12–\$15.

Brookings–Harbor Community Theater

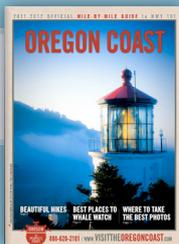
97900 Shopping Center Ave. Suite # 39, Brookings
541-469-4700; www.brookingsharborcommunitytheater.com

HAPPY DAYS Nov 4–20; Fri–Sat 7:30 p.m., Sun 2 p.m.; tickets \$7–\$10. ■

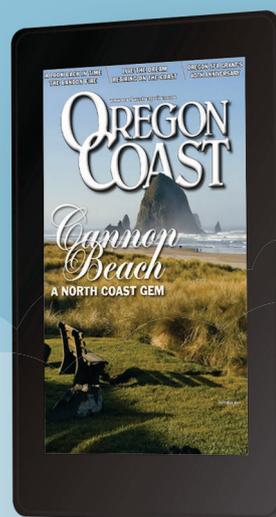
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TOP ROW, FROM LEFT:

Wild Rain Gallery, Tillamook—Laura Collins.

Bandon Public Library, Bandon—Joanne B. Drapkin.

Northwest by Northwest Gallery, Cannon Beach—Eric Jacobsen.

BOTTOM ROW, FROM LEFT:

Northwest by Northwest Gallery, Cannon Beach—Christopher Burkett.

Backstreet Gallery, Florence—Geraldine McMahan.

Bandon Public Library, Bandon—Pearl Maxner.

BELOW: Backstreet Gallery, Florence—Ramona Welzel.

Cannon Beach History Center and Museum

1387 Spruce St., Cannon Beach 503-436-9301; www.cbhistory.org

THROUGH FEB 28 Exhibit showcases an update regarding the cannons discovered in 2008, featuring video footage and images of the cannons' discovery as well as restoration.

Northwest By Northwest Gallery

232 N Spruce St., Cannon Beach 503-436-0741; www.nwbynwgallery.com

NOV 4–JAN Christopher Burkett, photographs; Georgia Gerber, bronze sculpture; Eric Jacobsen, oil paintings.

Latimer Quilt and Textile Center

2105 Wilson River Loop Rd., Tillamook 503-842-8622; www.latimerquiltandtextile.com

THROUGH NOV 6 Larkin Van Horn, quilts.

NOV 7–DEC 31 “STITCH,” quilt show (open house Nov 13 from 12–4 p.m.).

Wild Rain Gallery

17050 Wilson River Hwy, Tillamook 503-842-6405; wildraingallery@yahoo.com

NOV–DEC Laura Collins, Donna Ludwig, & Royce Kugler, oils; Mike Loney & Gerald Sticka, acrylics; Seward Whitfield & Mark Teresa, mixed media; Black Diamond & Trask River, stoneworks; Lynda Sprecher & Skip Rognlien, glass.



Tillamook County Pioneer Museum

2106 Second St., Tillamook 503-842-4553; www.tcpm.org

THROUGH NOV 20 Shawn Hill Johnson, photographs.

NOV 7–FEB “TCPM Staff Art Show.”

Burrows House Museum

545 SW Ninth St., Newport 541-265-7509; www.oregoncoasthistory.org

THROUGH 2011 “Rough Waters: Shipwrecks on Oregon’s Coast,” photographs and objects.

Backstreet Gallery

1421 Bay St., Florence 541-997-8980; www.backstreetgallery.org

NOV Geraldine McMahan, hand-built pottery, handmade boxes (reception Nov 12, 3–5 p.m.).

NOV 30, DEC 28 After Hours, food, drink, entertainment (5–7 p.m.).

DEC “Little Dickens Miniature Show,” juried miniature show (reception Dec 10, 3–5 p.m.).

Coos Art Museum

235 Anderson Ave., Coos Bay 541-267-3901; www.coosart.org

THROUGH DEC 3 Various artists, “Western Oregon Regional Art Competition;” Laurie Lee, winner of CAM Biennial 2010; Scott Berger, works by the Regional Competition juror; students, public school art.

DEC 9–FEB “Wood Invitational;” “Celebrating Charleston.”

Coos Bay Public Library

525 W Anderson Ave., Coos Bay 541-269-1101; bay.cooslibraries.org

NOV Tony Adams, acrylic paintings; Jon Littlefield, “Getting In and Out of Coos Bay” exhibit on the history of area transportation to accompany the library’s fall speaker series.

DEC Elizabeth Brende, silk fabric art and 3-dimensional objects.

Bandon Public Library

1204 Eleventh St. SW, Bandon 541-347-3221; info.cclsd.org/ban

NOV Pearl Maxner, watercolor and graphite and display of “How to of Book Illustrations.”

DEC Joanne B. Drapkin, “Art Evolution” show of solar prints, collages, and collagraphs.

Manley Art Center & Gallery

433 Oak St., Brookings 541-469-1807; www.wildriverscoastart.com

NOV Tuesday Painters, mixed media.

DEC Violet Burton, photographs; Len Burton, oils. ■

Tea at the Flavel House

ASTORIA

Ring in the holidays in a much-beloved fashion, with a cup of tea and traditional holiday plum pudding in the festively decorated Flavel House Museum in Astoria.



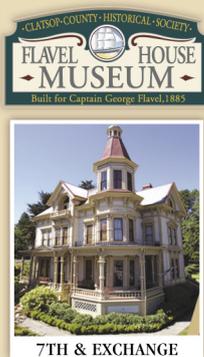
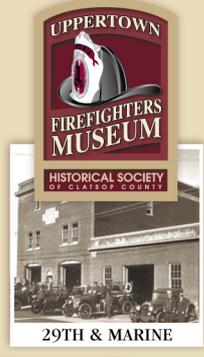
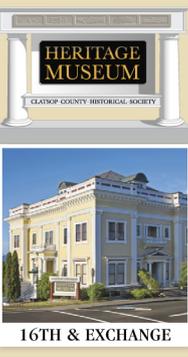
COURTESY CLATSOP COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Plum Pudding Tea is held daily December 10–23 from 2–4 p.m.

The Queen Anne-style architecture of the Flavel House makes it the ideal location for the Plum Pudding Tea, which is a traditional Victorian holiday treat. Plum pudding, also called Christmas Pudding, has a long history, with its origins tracing back to medieval England.

Cost per person is \$10 and includes warm plum pudding, a cup of tea, and a self-guided tour of the historic Flavel House Museum. Reservations are recommended for groups of eight or more. (503-325-2203; www.cumtux.org)

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 <p>CLATSOP COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY FLAVEL HOUSE MUSEUM Built for Captain George Flavel, 1885</p> <p>7TH & EXCHANGE</p>	 <p>OFM OREGON FILM MUSEUM</p> <p>7TH & DUANE</p>
 <p>UPPERTOWN FIREFIGHTERS MUSEUM HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF CLATSOP COUNTY</p> <p>29TH & MARINE</p>	 <p>HERITAGE MUSEUM CLATSOP COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY</p> <p>16TH & EXCHANGE</p>

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 ASTORIA, OREGON
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Gingerbread & Tea

SEASIDE

It's a holiday tradition you don't want to miss, as the Seaside Museum & Historical Society presents the annual Gingerbread Tea at the Butterfield Cottage. The Tea takes place on the first Saturday after Thanksgiving and on the first three Saturdays in December, this year November 26 and December 3, 10, and 17. Tea times are from 2–4 p.m.



COURTESY BUTTERFIELD COTTAGE

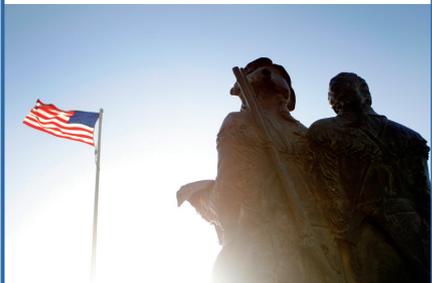
Expect sumptuous gingerbread paired with delightful teas, along with live music performed by talented local musicians. The Tea presents a great opportunity to peruse the historic cottage, the only beach cottage that serves as a museum in Oregon.

The drawing for the Gingerbread Tea Raffle will be held on December 17 at 4 p.m. Tickets may be purchased at the Seaside Museum for \$1 per ticket or eight tickets for \$5. (503-738-7065; www.SeasideMuseum.org)



SEASIDE OREGON

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Circle No. 32 on AD INFO CARD.

Candy Cane Express

GARIBALDI

Delight the kids and grandkids, and maybe adults too, with a ride on the Candy Cane Express. The Oregon Coast Scenic Railroad offers the special holiday train ride behind a vintage steam locomotive as it travels between Garibaldi and Rockaway Beach along Tillamook Bay and the ocean. The train is decked out with twinkling lights and trees, and passengers can visit with Santa while on board. Guests receive a goody bag with a cookie and a candy cane, and there will also be hot chocolate and



COURTESY OREGON COAST SCENIC RAILROAD

cider to keep revelers warm.

Trips are scheduled three times a day on December 10–11 and 17–18, boarding in Garibaldi. Tickets are \$15–\$20. (503-842-7972; www.ocsr.net)

Gift of Music

GLENEDEN BEACH

'Tis the season for giving, and a great way to do that is at the Gift of Music concert in Gleneden Beach on December 18. The concert will take place at Salishan Spa & Golf Resort from 2–4 p.m.

The concert features concert rock violinist Aaron Meyer. Aaron is known for his cutting-edge original music and his ability to perform with a passion. His music ranges from contemporary progressive rock and classical genres, making him a favorite with all ages. He's also known for his prolific charitable work, bringing music education into schools along with other charitable causes. (www.aaronmeyer.com)

Canned, packaged goods, or cash donation are required for admission, with proceeds benefiting the Lincoln City Food Pantry. (800-452-2300; www.salishan.com)



COURTESY AARON MEYER

OREGON COAST Chambers of Commerce

- Astoria-Warrenton Area Chamber of Commerce**
PO Box 176 • Astoria, Oregon 97103 • 800-875-6807
- Bandon Chamber of Commerce**
PO Box 1515 • Bandon, Oregon 97411 • 541-347-9616
- Brookings-Harbor Chamber of Commerce**
PO Box 940 • Brookings, Oregon 97415
800-535-9469 • 541-469-3181
- Cannon Beach Chamber of Commerce**
PO Box 64 • Cannon Beach, Oregon 97110 • 503-436-2623
- Central Oregon Coast Association**
PO Box 2094 • Newport, Oregon 97365 • 800-767-2064
- Coos Bay/North Bend/Charleston Bay Area Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center**
50 Central Avenue • Coos Bay, Oregon 97420
800-824-8486 • 541-269-0215
- Coquille Chamber of Commerce**
119 North Birch Street • Coquille, Oregon 97423
541-396-3414
- Depoe Bay Chamber of Commerce**
PO Box 21 • Depoe Bay, Oregon 97341 • 877-485-8348
- Florence Chamber of Commerce**
290 Hwy 101 • Florence, Oregon 97439 • 541-997-3128
- Gold Beach Chamber of Commerce**
29795 Ellensburg #6 • Gold Beach, Oregon 97444
541-247-0923
- Gold Beach Visitor Center**
PO Box 375 • 94080 Shirley Lane • Gold Beach, Oregon 97444
800-525-2334 • 541-247-7526
- Lakeside Chamber of Commerce**
PO Box 333 • Lakeside, Oregon 97449 • 541-759-3312
- Lincoln City Chamber of Commerce**
4039 NW Logan Rd & Hwy 101 • 541-994-3070
- Lincoln City Visitor Info Center**
540 NE Hwy 101 • 541-994-3302
- Lincoln City Visitors & Convention Bureau**
801 SW Hwy 101, #1 • Lincoln City, Oregon 97367
800-452-2151
- Myrtle Point Chamber of Commerce**
PO Box 265 • Myrtle Point, Oregon 97458 • 866-208-5200
- Nehalem Bay Area Chamber of Commerce**
PO Box 601 • Wheeler, Oregon 97147
877-368-5100 • 503-368-5100
- Newport Chamber of Commerce**
555 SW Coast Highway • Newport, Oregon 97365
800-262-7844 • 541-265-8801
- North Bend Visitor Center**
1380 Sherman Avenue • North Bend, Oregon 97459
541-756-4613
- Pacific City–Nestucca Valley Chamber of Commerce**
PO Box 75 • Cloverdale, Oregon 97112
888-KIWANDA • 503-392-4340
- Port Orford & North Curry County Chamber of Commerce**
502 Battlerock City Park
PO Box 637 • Port Orford, Oregon 97465
541-332-8055 or 541-332-4106
- Reedsport/Winchester Bay Chamber of Commerce**
Hwy 101 & Hwy 38 • PO Box 11 • Reedsport, Oregon 97467
800-247-2155 • 541-271-3495
- Rockaway Beach Chamber of Commerce**
PO Box 198 • Rockaway Beach, Oregon 97136
503-355-8108
- Seaside Chamber of Commerce**
PO Box 7 or 7 N Roosevelt • Seaside, Oregon 97138
503-738-6391 • www.seasidechamber.com
- Seaside Visitors Bureau**
7 N Roosevelt (Physical)
989 Broadway (Mailing) • Seaside, Oregon 97138
888-306-2326 • 503-738-3097
- Tillamook Chamber of Commerce**
3705 Highway 101 North • Tillamook, Oregon 97141
503-842-7525
- Toledo Chamber of Commerce**
PO Box 249 • 311 NE 1st St • Toledo, Oregon 97391
541-336-3183
- Waldport Chamber of Commerce**
PO Box 669 • Waldport, Oregon 97394 • 541-563-2133
- Yachats Area Chamber of Commerce**
PO Box 728 • Yachats, Oregon 97498 • 800-929-0477

NOAA's Ark

NEWPORT

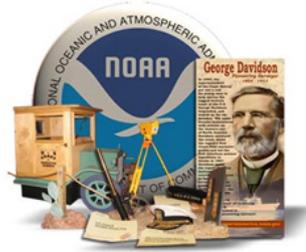
The Treasures of NOAA's Ark, an exhibit of historic artifacts from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and its predecessor agencies, is on display at the Hatfield Marine Science Center in Newport through January 2, 2012.

Featuring 19th-century maps and charts, early scientific instruments, and text about the history and science behind the nation's ocean charting and exploration efforts, the exhibit was previewed at the recent grand opening of NOAA's new Marine Operations Center, and then moved across the street to the HMSC Visitor Center.

The history of NOAA and the nation are intertwined. It is difficult to talk about weather, water, climate, and commerce without discussing the agency and its ancestors: the U.S. Coast Survey, the U.S. Weather Bureau, and the U.S. Commission of Fish and Fisheries.

The exhibit features resources that recall the agency's history and service to the nation with maps, nautical charts, photographs, books, scientific instruments, and other artifacts.

The exhibit can be viewed at the HMSC Visitor Center from 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Thursdays through Mondays. The Center is closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. (541-867-0226; hmsc.oregonstate.edu)



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COURTESY OREGON COAST AQUARIUM

Sea of Lights

NEWPORT

Check out both the holiday lights and ocean creatures at the Oregon Coast Aquarium's 19th annual Sea of Lights, December 2–3 from 6:30–9 p.m. Tens of thousands of colorful twinkling lights and lighted displays greet guests, who besides enjoying the holiday decorations can visit with Santa in his sleigh, enjoy holiday music by Coastalaires and the Central Coast Chorale Hand Bell Choir, or take part in some holiday-themed face-painting. Admission is \$2 per person with two items of non-perishable food, pet food, or a new unwrapped children's toy, or \$5 per person without food or toy. (541-867-3474; www.aquarium.org)

Decorated Dogs & Bridge Walk

WALDPORT

It's the perfect way to celebrate the holidays, with a mix of the zany and the traditional at the Christmas in Waldport and Candlelite Bridge Walk on December 10.

The annual family-friendly event begins at the Waldport Visitors' Center/Alsea Bay Bridge Interpretative Center with the traditional arrival of Santa by fire truck at 5 p.m. Then there's the zany, with the decorated Xmas dog contest. Primp up your own pup or just enjoy all the dogs in their best duds; this is one event the kids will love. Hot dogs, chips, cookies, and hot chocolate will be available and the Coast Wind Ensemble entertains with a performance of holiday favorites.

When the day darkens, it's time for

OCEANFRONT VACATION HOMES • 503-678-1144

NEWPORT

- Spectacular View
- Sleeps 9–11

WALDPORT

- Steps from the beach
- Fireplace
- Sleeps up to 15

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the annual "Bridge Walk" from about 6:30 to 7 p.m. Walkers carry flashlights as they traverse the Alsea Bay Bridge, a tradition that began more than two decades ago. (541-563-2133; www.waldport-chamber.com)



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Karin Clarke

COURTESY CELEBRATE ARTS

Coast Celtic

YACHATS

If you like your music in small venues with world-class musicians performing amid a coastal setting, then you won't want to miss the Yachats Celtic Music Festival, November 11–13. Yachats is a charming village that knows how to mix a potent brew of Celtic music, an atmosphere conducive to fun, and a sense of joy that permeates throughout the crowd.

The 10th annual festival features world-renowned acts and music from Ireland, Scotland, Asturias, and Galicia. The lineup includes Celtic greats such as Irish flute player Hanz Araki, violinist and singer Kathryn Claire, harpist AnnaLee Foster, bagpiper Kevin Auld, fiddler Dale Russ, and several other performers.



Hanz Araki

COURTESY YACHTS CELTIC FESTIVAL

Performances are scheduled in cozy venues, such as the historic Little Log Church and the Yachats Commons. The festival also includes children's activities, educational opportunities for all ages, and a marketplace. Kick up your heels and feel the vibe that only Celtic music can inspire! (800-929-0477; www.yachatscelticmusicfestival.com)

Celebrate Arts!

FLORENCE

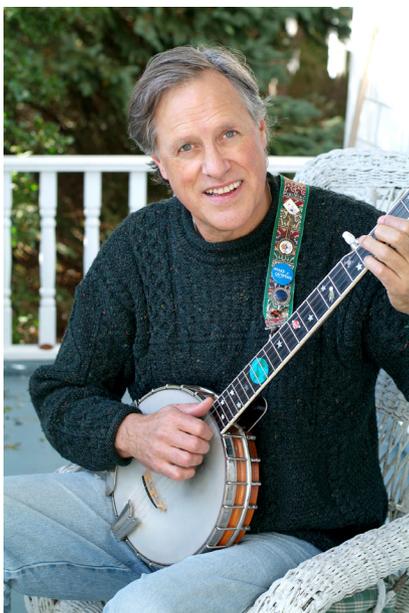
"Celebrate Arts!," considered the Florence Events Center's most prestigious annual juried visual arts show, promises to be even more exciting than last year's record-breaking collection of fine art and extraordinary photography entries.

"Celebrate Arts!" is open to the public November 8–16 at the Florence Events Center. Visitors to this popular art exhibit can expect to see a wide variety of works of art by familiar and established artists and could discover new favorites among the talented artists showing their work for the first time in this year's exhibit.

The juror for this year's "Celebrate Arts!" is Karin Clarke. Clarke has a multi-faceted background in the art world that includes proprietorship of two Lane County galleries. She has worked as an illustrator and graphic designer and juried numerous prestigious art shows over the years, including the Mayors Art Show in Eugene, Art About Agriculture, and All Around Oregon. Clarke is also an established and successful artist in her own right, exhibiting and selling many of her own paintings.

Awards will include Best of Show in two and three-dimensional art, in photography, Young Artists, People's Choice, Merit Awards, and Honorable Mentions.

Those planning to be on the central Oregon Coast in November won't want to miss the opportunity to attend this exceptional art event. (541-997-1994; www.eventcenter.org)



COURTESY BONNIE CHAPIN

Tom Chapin



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Folk at the Coast

FLORENCE

If you need a little post-holiday pick-up, there's great music and tons of fun at Florence's Winter Folk Festival, held January 14–15 at the Florence Event Center. The festival brings traditional folk music, bluegrass, and blues to the coast.

This year's headliner is Tom Chapin & Friends and We Five. Grammy, Emmy, and Peabody award-winning folk artist Tom Chapin will be joined by musical friends Jon Colbert and Michael Mark, who have collaborated with Tom and are featured musicians on his award-winning children's and adult recordings. We Five, born of the mid-60s folk rock era, are known for their smooth harmony, songs about love and good times, humor, and a performance style that is polished without being stagy.

Other scheduled performers include C. Daniel Boling, Border Radio, Coty Hogue, Hank Payne and Claire Favro, Three Together, Abby Mae and The Home-school Boys, John Hill and Jill Yvonne, and The Dirty Blues Band.

Also on site is the Vendors Fair, with plenty of traditional handmade items the coast has become famous for, such as jewelry, soaps, pottery, sea glass and floats, pet gifts, wood carvings, cranberry mustards and more, along with Folk Festival performers' CDs for sale. (541-997-1994; www.winterfolkfestival.org)

Florence Waterfront.

Tom Chapin & Friends
Saturday, January 14

We Five
Sunday, January 15

TWO GREAT HEADLINER CONCERTS!
Eight amazing folk performers
Free Artisan Craft Fair Saturday & Sunday

Tickets and Information
Florence Events Center Box Office
541-997-1994 or toll free 888-968-4086
Hours Monday–Friday 12:00–4:30 p.m.
www.winterfolkfestival.org



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Country Music Showdown

NORTH BEND

Put on those boots and don't forget the cowboy hat! It's time to find out who can belt out the best country music at the Texaco Country Showdown Western Regional Finals. The country music singing competition takes place November 19 at the Mill Casino Hotel.

The Texaco Country Showdown is America's largest country music talent search. The Showdown is designed to find the most promising country music talent and give these performers a chance to launch their professional music careers.

Whoever wins at the Western Regional Finals competition at the Mill Casino will go on to compete for the Grand Prize of \$100,000 at the National Finals held at the historic Ryman Auditorium in Nashville, Tennessee.

Besides country music competitors, performing as backup band at the Western Regional Finals is the country music band Taylors Crossing from Elmira, Oregon. Tickets are \$7. (541-756-8800; www.themillcasino.com)



Battle Rock at sunset.
 —Larry Andreasen

**A blanket of snow dusts the
Coast Range surrounding
Cannon Beach. —James
and Judy Wild**



Cascade Head – Beauty, Science and Conservation



TAMMIE PAINTER

Cascade Head from Hart's Cove.

Cascade Head Scenic Research Area is a great place to hike, with a bounty of protected flora and fauna.

STORY AND PHOTOS
BY TAMMIE PAINTER



COURTESY DAVE IMPER, USFWS

Oregon Silverspot Butterfly.

ONLY A FEW miles from the traffic and bustle of Lincoln City, Cascade Head is a place of peaceful beauty. Visitors hike, plants and wildlife flourish, and researchers study Oregon's coastal ecosystem high above the Pacific.

HISTORY

Cascade Head's formation began 15 million years ago with a volcanic eruption in what is now Idaho. The basaltic lava river flowed 300 miles and its terminus became Cascade Head.

In the 1800s, settlers homesteaded the area, which had been occupied by the Neschesney tribe. Most of them left in the 1920s, and in 1934, the federal government established the 11,890-acre Cascade Head Experimental Forest to study the coastal Sitka spruce and western

hemlock forest ecosystems. By the 1960s, developers set their sights on the area, but in 1966 conservationists purchased the land and donated it to The Nature Conservancy.

In 1974, Congress designated half the forest, some private land, the prairie headlands, and the Salmon River estuary as the Cascade Head Scenic Research Area. Six years later, the United Nations recognized Cascade Head as a Biosphere Reserve.

IMPORTANCE TODAY

Cascade Head is a living laboratory for research on ecosystem productivity, wind effects, and carbon and nutrient cycling, with research being conducted by the Environmental Protection Agency, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, NASA, and universities from around the world.

The Cascade Head Scenic Research Area maintains a unique habitat for four federally listed endangered animals: marbled murrelet, spotted owl, coho salmon, and Oregon silverspot butterfly. Found in only five other locations worldwide, much effort goes into the conservation of the silverspot butterfly, whose larvae require the early blue violet for nourishment. Other wildlife inhabiting Cascade Head include elk, coyote, black bear, snowshoe hare, bald eagles, great-horned owls, and the giant Pacific salamander.

With over 400 identified species of plants, Cascade Head is a botanist's dream. Rare plants add to the area's diversity. Hairy checkermallow, listed as endangered by Oregon's Department of Agriculture, is found here, as is 99 percent of the world's population of Cascade Head catchfly. Other species like red fescue, wild rye, coastal paintbrush, and streambank lupine also flourish in the prairie headland.

VISITING AND HIKING

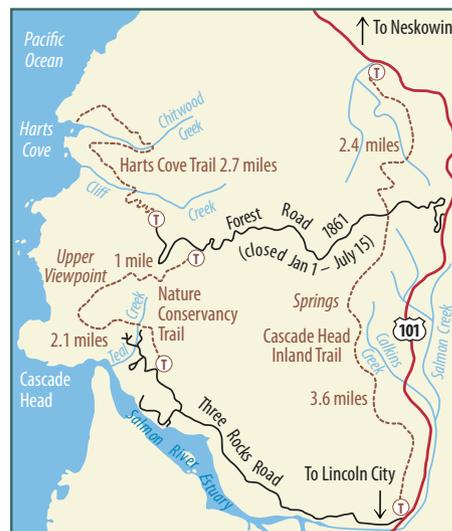
To experience the beauty and diversity of Cascade Head, strap on your boots and hike down to Hart's Cove. Despite the first half mile of steep switchbacks, the 5.4-mile (round trip) hike is worth every step.

After the switchbacks, cross Cliff Creek and you'll find yourself engulfed by ancient trees and giant ferns. Some of the trees along this stretch are over 200 years old and measure 6 feet in diameter. After the first mile you'll hear sea lions barking and the surf pounding. Half a mile further, take a break at the viewpoint from which you'll see the headland that is your final destination. Moments after you cross Chitwood Creek, the forest thins and the meadow begins. Stay on the paths to protect the rare plants and continue to the edge of the headland where there is a viewpoint with views of Two Arches Rock, Hart's Cove, and capes Kiwanda and Lookout.

To access the Hart's Cove Trail, drive north out of Lincoln City along Highway 101. Three-and-a-half miles beyond the junction of Hwy 101 and OR 18, turn left and continue four miles on Forest Service Road 1861.

The trail is closed January 1 to July 15 to protect the Oregon silverspot butterfly. No dogs or bikes are allowed on Cascade Head's trails.

There are two other trails as well. The lower Nature Conservancy Trail is a moderate 4.2-mile hike, gaining 1,200 feet of elevation. The upper trail to Cascade Head is an easy 1-mile hike that gains 160 feet. To learn more about these hikes, visit web.oregon.com/hiking/cascade_head.cfm, and for information about research at Cascade Head go to www.fsl.orst.edu/chef. ■



Cascade Head from Hart's Cove.

TAMMIE PAINTER

Holiday Shopping on the Coast



Get away from the big-box stores this year, and give your family unique gifts from the coast's one-of-a-kind shops and boutiques.

Heceta Head Lightkeeper's House lit for Christmas.

SCOTT BLACKMAN



BY GAIL OBERST

A FEW YEARS ago, I quit sending relatives my special cookies for Christmas after I heard they were chipping their teeth on home-baked goods that, in some cases, took weeks to arrive at their destinations. Instead, I dreamed up a new personal tradition that is a lot more fun for both the giver and the recipient: I spend a few days shopping on the Coast, and I assemble gift baskets and card stuffers with trea-

sure that are unique, personal, and a lot safer than my cement cookies.

Following is a list of my favorite things to pack into a gift basket, card, or box of treasures.

SWEETS: Saltwater taffy, fresh fudge, cranberry candies, and hand-made chocolates are local specialties. There are candy kitchens galore, up and down the coast. And here's an added bonus: most of these shops offer free samples!

SEAFOOD: Most seafood companies, and even some restaurant chains on the coast, sell their canned and smoked salmon, oysters, sardines, and tuna packed up and ready to add to your gift basket. But here's an even cooler idea, literally. Why not send fresh seafood direct from Oregon? Several companies can arrange to send everything from quick frozen crabs to whole salmon, anywhere in the U.S. Who wouldn't

want to get fresh Oregon clams for their Christmas chowder?

ORNAMENTS: I found one of my favorite Christmas ornaments at a bayfront gift shop that doubled as a wine shop. She was a buxom, hot-pink mermaid who dressed like Mae West and now takes top billing on my tree every year. Since then, I've found a half-dozen other ornaments—made of sand dollars and mother-of-pearl shells—now hanging on trees in other states and countries.

ART, JEWELRY AND BOOKS: Oregon's coastal communities attract some of the greatest artists and



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SHOP

YACHATS

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info@yachats.org

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Circle No. 161 on AD INFO CARD.

writers in the world, and if your Christmas list includes someone who appreciates beauty, this is the place to shop. Handcrafted earrings, bracelets, and necklaces; sparkling gemstones and slumped glass trays; clay sculptures, pots and plates; dramatic renditions of the sea in oils, watercolors and other media—all made by local artists. Watch for book signings this time of year, too. A book written about the coast and signed by the author is not only fun to buy, but also a treasure to get. Or pick up a book of Oregon Coast photos, taken by the region's talented photographers.

GIFT CERTIFICATES AND ATTRACTION TICKETS: Had fun at the Sea Lion Caves or the Oregon Coast Aquarium lately? Caught your limit from a coastal charter boat? Have a favorite restaurant you visit every time you go to the coast? Is there a special show coming up you wouldn't dream of missing? A gift certificate or ticket lets you share your love for coastal food, fun, culture, and comfort and in addition, requires the recipient to visit to the beach. They'll thank you for the excuse. And these gifts don't require baskets. Just a card and an envelope!

All in all, shopping on the coast is a fun and stress-free experience, whether you pick out a hand-made gift, an item from an artsy boutique, or a gift certificate for food or lodging. Suddenly, the holiday season becomes quite a bit more jolly.



*Old Town
Old-Fashioned Christmas*

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Come See What We See!

Circle No. 211 on AD INFO CARD.

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America's **BEST Albacore Tuna**
The Rosengarten Report, 2003
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And here's another thought: bring the family to the coast during the holiday break for a resort, vacation home, or motel stay. You can sit in front of the fire, sip nog, and catch up on gossip as you watch stormy waves crash on the cliffs below. If the weather clears, you can teach your kids, or your grandkids, to fly kites. And when you leave, you don't have to make the beds. ■



JEROME SKIBA |ISTOCKPHOTO.COM.JPG

"Roll 'Em!"



THE ALLURE OF "FASCINATION"

STORY AND PHOTOS BY TARA BARNETT

Seaside's Fascination parlor debuted in the 1940s, and it still draws a crowd on Saturday nights.

WHEN I HEAD to Seaside, the first place I stop is Funland on Broadway. I walk through the arcade, the noise of Guitar Hero and a hundred other interactive wonders making a kind of post-electropop choir in the background, each player wrapped up in their own little virtual universe. I don't stop for these marvels of modern gaming technology. I'm here for one reason: Fascination.

Fascination can be described as Skee-ball crossed with Bingo. You sit down and wait for a round to start, holding your ball until the announcer says, "Roll 'em!" Each normal play costs a quarter, which you place on the table to be collected. The goal of the game is to roll a ball up the table into a matrix

of holes. The holes correspond with lights, and five lights in a row is all it takes to win. You play against other visitors to the parlor, and the whole room is interconnected using a hidden vintage system. The tables face the walls, and an announcer oversees the whole operation from a podium, calling out table numbers as you go.

Seaside's cove of buzzing electromechanical machines sits huddled between two massive, modern collections of arcade games. The system is outdated compared to the rest of Funland, and yet it never fails to fill up on a Saturday night in the summer.

Fascination parlors were once scattered all across the United States, particularly in ocean resort towns. There



was a parlor on the Atlantic City boardwalk, one on Coney Island, and even one in Portland. With the decline of electromechanical machinery and the closure of many amusement parks, the once ubiquitous game almost completely vanished. Currently, there are fewer than a dozen known Fascination parlors still in operation. Fixing these machines is difficult, and custom parts must often be made to replace those that break.

The inventor of the game, John T. Gibb, installed Seaside's Fascination parlor in the late 1940s, and we still play on the machines he installed. Mark Utti, the current owner, purchased the parlor from Mr. Gibb's widow in 1990. If you happen to win a round of Fascination, take a good look at the winning ticket: each has John T. Gibb's signature printed on it. Contrary to popular recollection, Fascination was never a gambling game, but there was once a day when these iconic paper tickets could be redeemed in stores on Broadway like cash.

Fascination seems to touch people, cultivating a secret club of devotees. One employee had a license plate

bearing the famous slogan: "Roll 'Em." The game pops up regularly on a Facebook page called "You know you're from Seaside if..." In the 1960s, there was even a "Miss Fascination," chosen for her beauty, to represent the game. Mr. Utti mentioned a man he'd met in Las Vegas who begged him for a chance to call the game. He happily obliged.

Of course, we must not forget the true reason Fascination has remained a fixture for over 60 years: it's fun! Fascination has a number of features that set it apart from similar table games. Unlike Skee-ball, you can never really be "good" at Fascination. Skill in Fascination is an illusion. The only tip you need to know is that a gentle roll over the pink chevron will be more effective than a hard throw. This is because of Fascination's most important difference from Skee-ball: the ball bounces.

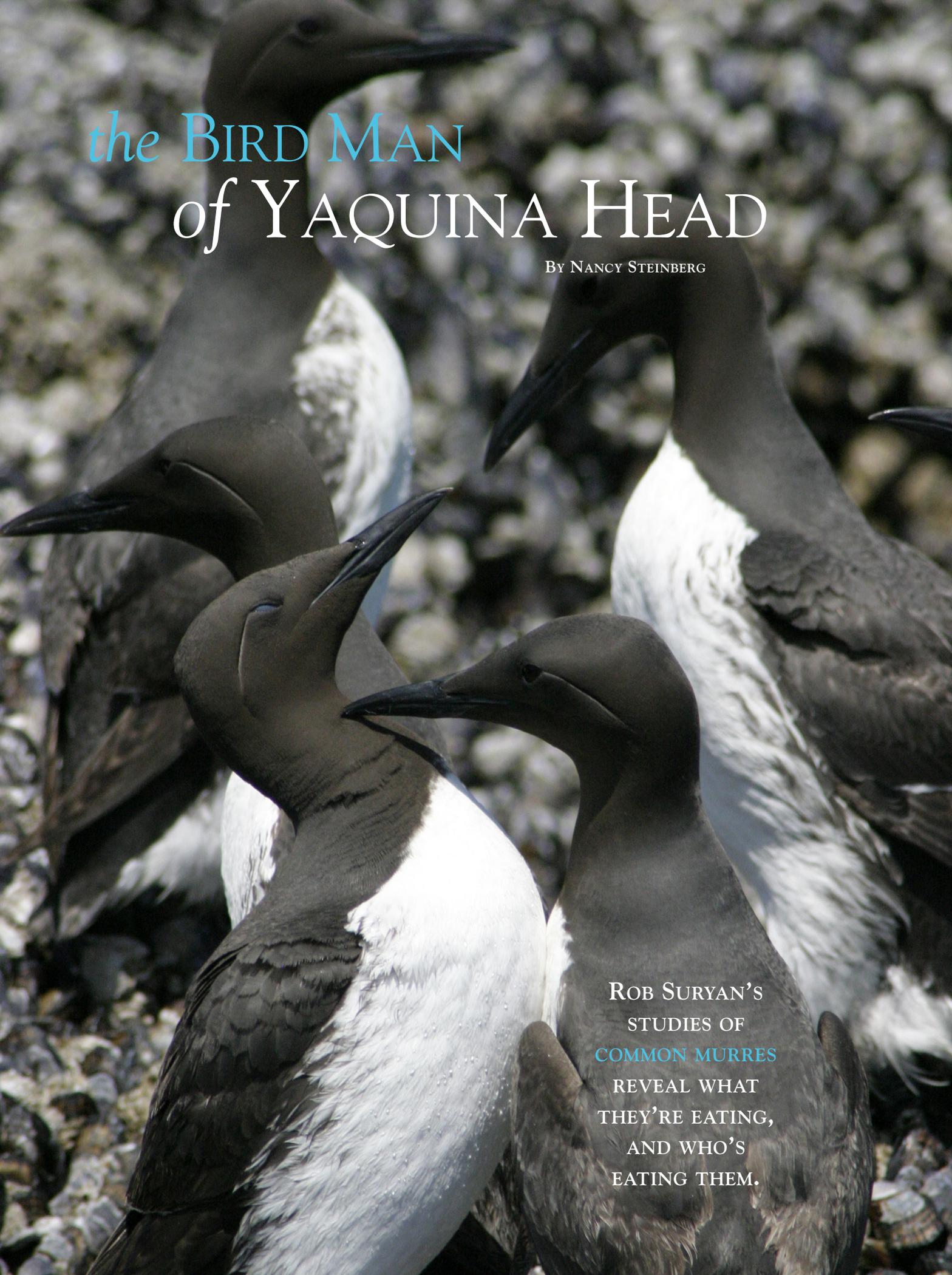
A bouncing ball cannot be controlled, which makes the game effectively random. But, as players quickly find out, it doesn't *feel* random. During a game, people clench their fists

and bite down on curses (it is a family establishment, after all), watching that fistful of rubber wend its way into a hole that's already lit. Or, another personal favorite, watch it perform a toilet swirl around a needed hole, then dive almost gleefully into the hole right next to it.

The best part of Fascination is often the announcer. With a voice suited to auctions and racetracks, the announcer's job is to narrate the game, painting a picture of what's happening all around you. Tension builds as a frantic voice calls out table numbers. "11's got one left!" he calls. "33 is right behind! Anyone can win!" You might not know who 11 and 33 are, but you feel like you're running nose-to-nose. And, as someone does win and the game resets with an unceremonious click, I guarantee you'll want to put that next quarter on the table. □

WHEN YOU GO

The Fascination Parlor is located in Seaside's Funland Arcade on the corner of Columbia and Broadway. (503-738-5612)

A group of Common Murres is shown on a rocky shore. The birds have dark grey-brown upperparts and white underparts. They are clustered together, with some looking towards the camera and others looking away. The background is a blurred expanse of grey rocks.

the BIRD MAN
of YAQUINA HEAD

BY NANCY STEINBERG

ROB SURYAN'S
STUDIES OF
COMMON MURRES
REVEAL WHAT
THEY'RE EATING,
AND WHO'S
EATING THEM.

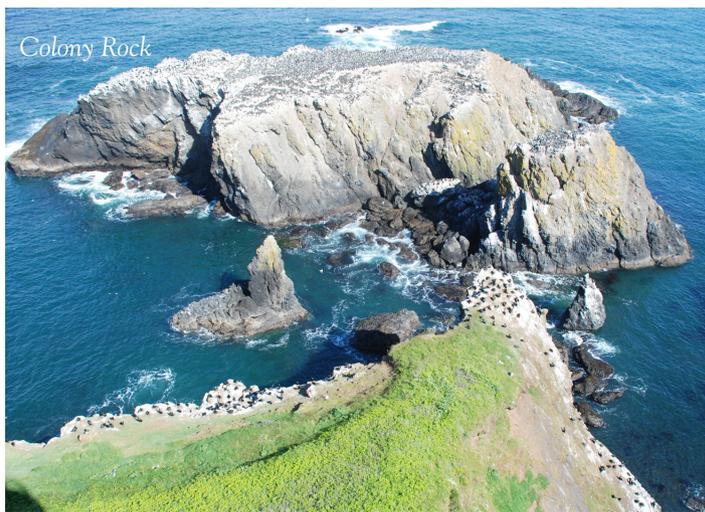
IF YOU HAPPEN to venture out to the rocky headland at Yaquina Head in Newport early on a misty summer morning, you may encounter some quiet figures pacing the lofty lighthouse gallery deck, peering through spotting scopes out to sea. Fear not: these are not ghosts of lighthouse keepers past. They are scientists from the nearby Hatfield Marine Science Center studying the enormous colony of common murres that spend their summers breeding and nesting on Colony Rock and Flattop Rock just offshore.

Common murres are fish-eating seabirds that come to these rocky perches in the spring and summer to mate and raise their young. They look a little like penguins and swim like them too: they are capable of diving to 500 feet in pursuit of prey. As other murre colonies along the coast have declined precipitously or

even been abandoned in recent years, the colony at Yaquina Head is flourishing. Currently, an estimated 90,000 birds are found there each summer. Rob Suryan, an assistant professor at Oregon State University, and partners at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the federal Bureau of Land Management (the funders of this project) are asking some basic questions about these birds' feeding and population ecology. What are they eating? What effects are predators having on the murres? How many chicks are hatching and growing up to leave the colony? Why is the colony thriving while others are not?

In order to answer these questions, Suryan and his students and interns watch the Yaquina Head birds almost every day during the summer breeding season. To determine the murres' diets, they use a high-powered camera to

take photos of the adult birds returning to their mates and chicks with fishy prey flopping in their beaks. They are finding that the murres eat all kinds of bait fish, taking advantage of whatever is abundant in a given year. Sand lance dominated the diet in 2008, whereas 2010 was the summer of smelt. They also eat herring, anchovies, surf perch, and young rockfish. Relative abundance of these prey species is intimately tied to ocean conditions, including water temperature and the amount and timing of



upwelling of nutrient-rich waters in the summertime. For example, murres eat more herring and smelt in warmer years and more sand lance in cold years.

The thriving Yaquina Head murre population has also attracted the attention of predators, bald eagles in particular. While the eagles will stalk the colony, swooping in to grab an adult here and there, the secondary effects of their hunting do the real damage. For example, if an adult murre tending an egg is snatched away, that egg almost certainly will not hatch. In addition, inexperienced juvenile eagles sometimes land on the colony, causing the adult murres to scatter and allowing more timid predators like gulls an opportunity to grab the unprotected eggs. Amid the commotion, eggs are often knocked off the rocks and broken.

Other parameters being monitored

by the science team include timing and numbers of eggs hatching, number of chicks fledging, and "foraging trip duration," or the amount of time the adults spend at sea gathering food. "The quicker the birds can find food and return to the colony, the more often the chick gets fed, and the greater the chances of chick survival," explains Suryan. Generally, reproductive success at this colony is high, with a few poor years mixed in, again likely related to ocean and climate conditions. Each pair of birds

produces a single chick per season. "In good times, sixty to eighty percent of the parents raise young, and in some really bad years it drops to twenty percent or less," Suryan says.

So why is the colony at Yaquina Head doing so well? It's not entirely clear yet. Heavy eagle disturbance may have led to the abandonment of other nearby colonies; many of those birds are suspected to have

moved to the relative safety of Yaquina Head, where there is somewhat less eagle predation. Also, the birds can adapt to whatever prey is abundant in a given summer, and Yaquina Head seems ideally located near great fishing grounds. The main tool for answering this key question is long-term monitoring, which Suryan is hoping to establish at the site.

In the meantime, the murres continue to flourish—a coastal success story. □

Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area is open to visitors from sunrise to sunset every day. The Interpretive Center is open from 10 a.m.–5 p.m. in the fall, 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. in the winter, and 9 a.m.–5 p.m. in the summer. (541-574-3100; www.blm.gov/or/resources/recreation/yaquina)

PIXIELAND:

From Log Flume Ride to Flooding Tide



NANCY STEINBERG

Native plants are taking over where pixies once frolicked.



STORY BY NANCY STEINBERG

The site of the former Pixieland amusement park, now the property of the U.S. Forest Service, is undergoing a massive wetland restoration that will return it to its natural state.

IN THE EARLY 1970s, visitors to Pixieland, a short-lived amusement park just north of Lincoln City, enjoyed family fun including riding a train called Little Toot, whizzing down a log flume, watching a melodrama in an opera house, and eating scones purchased in a building whose roof was topped with a huge Scottish tam made of fiberglass. Constructed along the Salmon River at the junction of Highway 101 and Route 18 in the late 1960s, Pixieland was the brainchild of Jerry and Lu Parks. They wanted to build on the popularity of their nearby restaurant, Pixie Kitchen, where the garden of animated pixies in the backyard was almost as much of a draw as the seafood. To this end, they invested more than \$800,000 (including two very successful public stock offerings) in building an amusement park that they called a “Fairy Tale Story of Oregon.”

Before Pixieland was built, the site was a healthy estuary where young salmon reared before heading out to sea. To dry the site out, an earthen dike and a series of tide gates and levees were constructed. The land behind the dike was drained and regraded. With the help of two former Disneyland employees and hundreds of thousands of dollars raised from investors, an amusement park grew out of the wetland.

Along the top of the dike ran Little Toot, the Pixie Train. In Grunykland, riders traveled in fiberglass bears past animated pixie scenes. The iconic log flume ride was a must-do. Visitors strolled down Main Street, where they could watch candles being made or eat ice cream in the Darigold barn. Whale boat rides, bumper cars, performances at the opera house, and more rounded out a day at Pixieland. Visitors could even stay

RIGHT TOP: Pixieland's Main Street, with the arcade, the print shop, the Shoot-Out, and the Darigold Cheese Barn.

CENTER: The iconic log flume ride.

BOTTOM: Fisher's Scone Hut.

right on-site at an RV park constructed adjacent to the amusement park.

But Pixieland never garnered enough visitors or dollars to justify the high hopes and massive investments it inspired. The Oregon Coast weather and the amusement park's relatively remote location conspired to sink the park, and it closed after only a few years.

WETLAND RESTORATION

In 1977, Congress implemented the Cascade Head Scenic Research Management Act, which authorized the U.S. Forest Service to purchase property in the Salmon River watershed, including Pixieland. The act specifies that the sites purchased must be returned to naturally functioning estuarine habitats. The Forest Service began purchasing land and restoring it, a little bit at a time.

Catherine Pruett grew up vacationing at the Oregon Coast as a child. "We always wondered what happened to Pixieland," she says with a wry smile. Ironically, Pruett now spends a lot of her time at the former park, as the executive director of the Salmon-Drift Creek Watershed Council. The Council is partnering with the Forest Service to restore the site with funding from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and other sources.

Nearly all traces of the park's infrastructure were removed in 2006. Last summer, massive amounts of asphalt and other remaining debris were removed, including the last of the pixie houses and a mountain of invasive blackberry and Scotch broom.



RIGHT TOP: This dike was removed to let the tides back in.

BELOW: Native plants are coming back to the Pixieland site.



FYI

The Pixieland site is currently, but temporarily, closed to the public during the restoration process. However, volunteer labor is welcome—e-mail Pruett to offer assistance (sdwcdirector@gmail.com).

Thousands of native plants have been carefully planted throughout the site. Part of the dike was also knocked down, and the natural slope of the land along the river was restored.

Kami Ellingson, Watershed Program Manager for the Siuslaw National Forest, gets positively dewy-eyed when she describes natural flooding that occurred during one particularly soggy storm last winter. “The river flooded into the Pixieland site, right over the top of the natural levee, which is exactly what we wanted to happen,” she explains.

This summer, more dramatic changes took place: the dike surrounding the site was taken out, allowing the tide to flood and ebb and encouraging native marsh plant species to thrive there again. Benefits to some species are expected to be significant and immediate. At a similar restoration at the nearby Tamara Quays site, Ellingson



says, “The fish used it immediately, and we had otters in there very soon after dike removal.” She expects the same pattern to occur at Pixieland.

Dan Bottom, an estuarine ecologist with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration who has studied salmon habitat use at a number of restoration sites in the Salmon River watershed, concurs. Based on the work he’s done at the Tamara Quays site, he expects Pixieland to rebound in a similar fashion. Without the dike blocking the way, fish will be able to access the site and its quiet off-channel areas, and there will likely be a feast

of insects to eat in the restored marsh. “There are some benefits to salmon the day the dike comes out,” Bottom asserts. While he can’t say that access to more marsh will translate into more salmon adults, he does explain that the availability of more habitat will have a “significant influence on overall resilience of the population,” as more estuary means more options for young salmon survival strategies.

While the pixies are gone from Pixieland, they will soon be replaced by rabbits and egrets and bobcats and waterfowl...and salmon dressed in their pixie pink. ■

**Ecola State Park's Indian
Beach at high tide.**

—Kevin McNeal



Behind the Magic

HOLIDAY LIGHTS AT SHORE ACRES



The gray whale delights holiday visitors to Shore Acres.

Thanks to one very dedicated couple and lots of volunteers, the holiday lights at Shore Acres State Park still shine brightly after 25 years.



Santa in the bathtub.

STORY BY JUDY FLEAGLE

WHEN VISITORS arrived at Shore Acres on a December evening in 1987, 6,000 hedge lights adorned the garden. A switch was thrown, and a Christmas tree came alive with light. The first “Christmas at Shore Acres,” as it was called then, was certainly a far cry from today. Now 6,000 lights cover just one flowerbed.

Seven hundred visitors made the trip that first night to Shore Acres State Park (on Cape Arago just south of Coos Bay), and over the next couple of weeks, a total of 9,000 visitors signed the guest book. Many wrote comments. “Apparently, the main reason for coming was not to see the lights,” says David Bridgham, former president of the Friends of Shore Acres, “but to go inside the Gardener’s Cottage, which was normally closed to the public.”

In October, only a couple months earlier, the nonprofit group Friends of Shore Acres had made the decision to put on a Christmas Open House. In brainstorming ways to increase the exposure of the gardens to the public and to raise money for improvement projects, the Friends decided that Butchart Gardens’ night illumination provided an excellent model to follow. The holidays were coming up, so it was decided to try a test run.

The success of that first display changed everything. “We weren’t talking about Butchart Gardens any more,” explains David. “Our test run had developed its own show.”



COURTESY FRIENDS OF SHORE

Shore Acres Lights in 1987.

The next year, the Friends buried power lines and added colored lights. By the fifth year, the pond area was lighted. And every year thereafter, improvements to the gardens, the Garden House, and the light show continued. Among the most noticeable were the new entertainment Pavilion added in 2002 and the Information and Gift Center constructed in 2003.

Today, the bushes, hedges, and trees within the formal gardens are strung with as many as 300,000 lights, most of which are LED. During the last decade, many lighted sculptures (some animated) have been added, and the huge trees surrounding the gardens are lit with landscape lights. The total effect is magical and has been enjoyed by more than a million visitors in the past 24 seasons.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

From the beginning, the Friends of Shore Acres invited the Bay Area communities (Coos Bay, North Bend, and



Shore Acres today.



LEFT: Shirley and David Bridgham.

BELOW: Shirley checks "the book."



PHOTOS BY JUDY FLEAGLE



LARRY ANDREASEN

Charleston) to help string lights, and they received an immediate positive response. When groups or businesses were asked if they wanted to have a night to host in the Garden House or to have a tree to decorate, the response was also positive. "It has grown to the point that groups and businesses sign up for half nights, and we have a waiting list. Once a person or group signs up, they get to continue until they choose to leave," explains David. "That's true for tree decorating too, which also has a waiting list." The trees are donated from a tree farm.

Outlining the Garden House in individual lights has been done for years by the volunteer firefighters. "We watch them use the extension ladders and a whole lot of courage in placing lights on the roof lines, the pelican, and the chimney," says Shirley.

Another group that has also been involved is the Shutter Creek Correctional Institution. "The inmates

have done the 'heavy lifting' of putting up the whales and other large light sculptures for many years," explains David. "We would be hard pressed to do it without their help."

"The only time we could use more help is in January during the take down and put away process," adds Shirley Bridgham, David's wife and current president of Friends of Shore Acres.

LIGHTS—OLD AND NEW

"Before LED lights were added in 2006, we had 30-amp breakers and would only use up to 24 amps," explains David. "There was a 6,000 lights-per-bed limit, and we had to have an electrician come to check after the lights were set up. With LED, the same amount of lights used only 3 or 4 amps."

Since LED lights are more brilliant, they found that they could use less to get the same effect. LED rope lighting made creating light sculptures and outlining structures easier. Last year the benches were outlined for the first time.

David proudly describes a unique way they found of using the LED miniature lights. "Where rhodies and hydrangeas are draped, we clustered the



lights to make it look like rhody and hydrangea blossoms.”

Setting up lights begins in mid-October and lasts for six weekends. Depending on the weather, anywhere from six to 50 volunteers turn out each day. Often it’s the same people, year after year, most of whom come from the Bay Area.

The planning is done before the volunteers arrive. Shirley has “the book” where her photos (updated each year) show every bed and area. Then a spreadsheet for each area shows what is needed for every bush, hedge, bench, etc.

David and Shirley hang tags on bushes and lay out extension cords so that when the volunteers arrive, they read the tags, hang the lights, and plug them in. No deviation is allowed. After everything is done, the Bridghams do a walk through. “If I see colors that don’t work well together or anything else that I don’t like, I change it,” says Shirley.

David says, “The word among volunteers is that if you don’t do it right, Shirley will ask you to do it over—please.”

LIGHT SCULPTURES PARTNERSHIP

While Shirley is the planner, David is the artist, and his expertise shows in his light sculpture creations. He designed and built most of the small ones, including the first ones—the iconic cranes that replicate the bronze sculptures in the pond. He uses animation software to design sculptures that appear to move. New this year is a

hummingbird with “movable” wings.

Renowned local artist Don McMichael, known for his whale paintings, has done the larger light sculptures, including the gray whale and orca as well as the sea lions, leaping frog display, flying pelicans, and the pelican sitting on the Garden House.

The light sculptures follow certain themes. “We don’t do religious or commercial symbols,” David says. “We do try to keep within the garden and coastal themes. So we have the marine life seen in tide pools and offshore and the flowers that the garden is most noted for—tulips, rhododendrons, roses, and dahlias.”

An exception is the clipper ship *Western Shore*, which is a nod to local history. The actual ship was built in 1874 in North Bend by shipping-and-lumber magnate Asa Simpson. His son Louis, who subsequently ran the businesses, built Shore Acres and created these gardens.

Another exception is Santa in the bathtub, upstairs in the Garden House. Kids get the biggest kick out of Santa and make up stories as to why he’s there. One year, Santa wasn’t in the tub and there were so many sad-faced kids that within two days Santa was back.

This year Santa is not only in the tub, but he’s on the buttons that volunteers receive. Each year a new volunteer button is designed, and the 2011 Holiday Lights poster commemorates the 25th year by showing all the buttons since 1987.

Today there are approximately 1,500 volunteers working to see that the Holiday Lights continue to shine. Volunteers receive a pass to the park as well as the button.

BRIDGHAMS RECOGNIZED

Shirley and David have been involved with Shore Acres since the

first meeting of the new Friends group and have been in charge of Holiday Lights since the test run.

All of their years of work and commitment have not gone unnoticed. They have received the Bay Area Chamber of Commerce Citizens of the Year for 1993, the second BACC Citizens of the Year followed by the Travel Oregon Volunteer Achievement Award both for 2008; and a Lifetime Achievement Award from the city of North Bend in 2010.

After 25 years, they both say that they have thought about letting someone else be in charge. Then they become recharged after reading through comments such as this one: “Tonight he proposed . . . I accepted!”

“What makes Holiday Lights work is the help of the volunteers and the community and our close relationship with the State Parks,” Shirley says. David adds: “What also makes it work is the scale and symmetry of the formal garden and that it’s a walk-thru—not a drive-by—experience.”

“Seeing the Holiday Lights at Shore Acres,” adds David, “ought to be on everybody’s ‘bucket list.’” ■

FYI:

Shore Acres State Park is located on Cape Arago Highway, 13 miles southwest of Coos Bay/North Bend and Hwy 101. The park is open daily 8 a.m. to dusk. There is a \$5 parking fee and a webcam on the Friends of Shore Acres site allows for a weather check online.

Holiday Lights—Thanksgiving night to New Year’s Eve, 4–9:30 p.m.

For more information, contact Friends of Shore Acres (541-756-5401; www.shoreacres.net) or the Information and Gift Center (541-888-2472). □

Ochre sea stars and sea
grass cling to the rocks at
Strawberry Hill near Yachats.

—James and Judy Wild



Three-part HARMONY



A family of artists has created a fine-art gallery, restaurant, and luxurious lodging in a beautiful setting in Port Orford.

STORY BY LAUREL GERKMAN

HARMONY, BY DEFINITION, is a pleasing blend of complementary elements. In Port Orford, it's an unexpected threesome—exquisite cuisine and sophisticated art inconspicuously tucked into a backdrop of dramatic coastal scenery, set next to Battle Rock State Park on Highway 101.

The Redfish Restaurant, Hawthorne Gallery & Sculpture Garden opened in the summer of 2010, but proprietors Chris and Julie Hawthorne arrived in the area 35 years ago. Chris worked on a fishing vessel, and Julie took a waitress job. During the next decade, he began experimenting with stained and blown glass. She pursued ceramics.

Meanwhile, brother Greg Hawthorne took the straight path to becoming an artist by crafting diverse

TOP: The Hawthorne Gallery showcases a talented family as well as other renowned artists.

RIGHT: The Loft is a luxurious lodging option.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE HAWTHORNE GALLERY



Redfish Restaurant offers fine dining in a spectacular setting.

works that incorporate painting, sculpture, and design. His subsequent success allowed him to open a gallery in Big Sur, California, with wife, Susan, who honed her skills in photography and graphics.

Greg began showing Chris and Julie's artwork in his gallery, thus shaping what blossomed into a creative family collaboration that covers many mediums: sculpting, ceramics, jewelry, painting, glass, and architecture.

Then, the two couples decided to collaborate, their objective being to develop a gallery business on an inspirational site without detracting from the surrounding natural splendor. To accomplish this, they pooled their own abilities and resources as well as drawing in other members of their multi-talented, extended family. There are now eight family members

who have pieces in the gallery, including several of the next generation.

"Folks often ask, why Port Orford?" say Chris Hawthorne, "The answer is simple, because we live here. This is our home."

FINE FOOD, FINE ART, FINE SCENERY

The Hawthornes have also created Redfish Restaurant, which offers inspired food and drink in a modern, casual, and original setting. Perched on a bluff, it overlooks some of the South Coast's most spectacular features and its namesake, Redfish Reef.

The dining room motif is contemporary and reminiscent of more urban settings. Amid its soft earth tones, the décor—custom cut-steel furnishings, vibrant acrylic paintings, and alluring glass fixtures—demands your attention.



From this 180-degree vantage point, diners can observe crashing surf, rousing storms, and a painter's palette of sunset hues. Whales are spotted year around. This magical blend of oh-so-fine fare, art, and rugged coastline tends to induce a "life is good" mood while you're enjoying Chef Patrick Zulick's inventive twists on French-influenced Pacific Northwest cuisine. Zulick strives to source locally, ensuring fresh, unprocessed foods that pay respect to providers, clientele, and the environment.

Presentation is artful; epicureans will delight. Greens are lightly splashed with Oregonzola blue cheese or blueberry vinaigrette. The popular Redfish burger is topped with caramelized Vidalia onions. Entrees come tastefully complemented: crispy pancetta, red onion crème fraîche, blood orange beurre noisette, or crispy fried fingerling potatoes tossed in Oregon black truffle oil.

There's a full bar, regional micro-brews on tap, and a stellar wine list that offers exceptional choices at every price level. *Wine Spectator* magazine recently

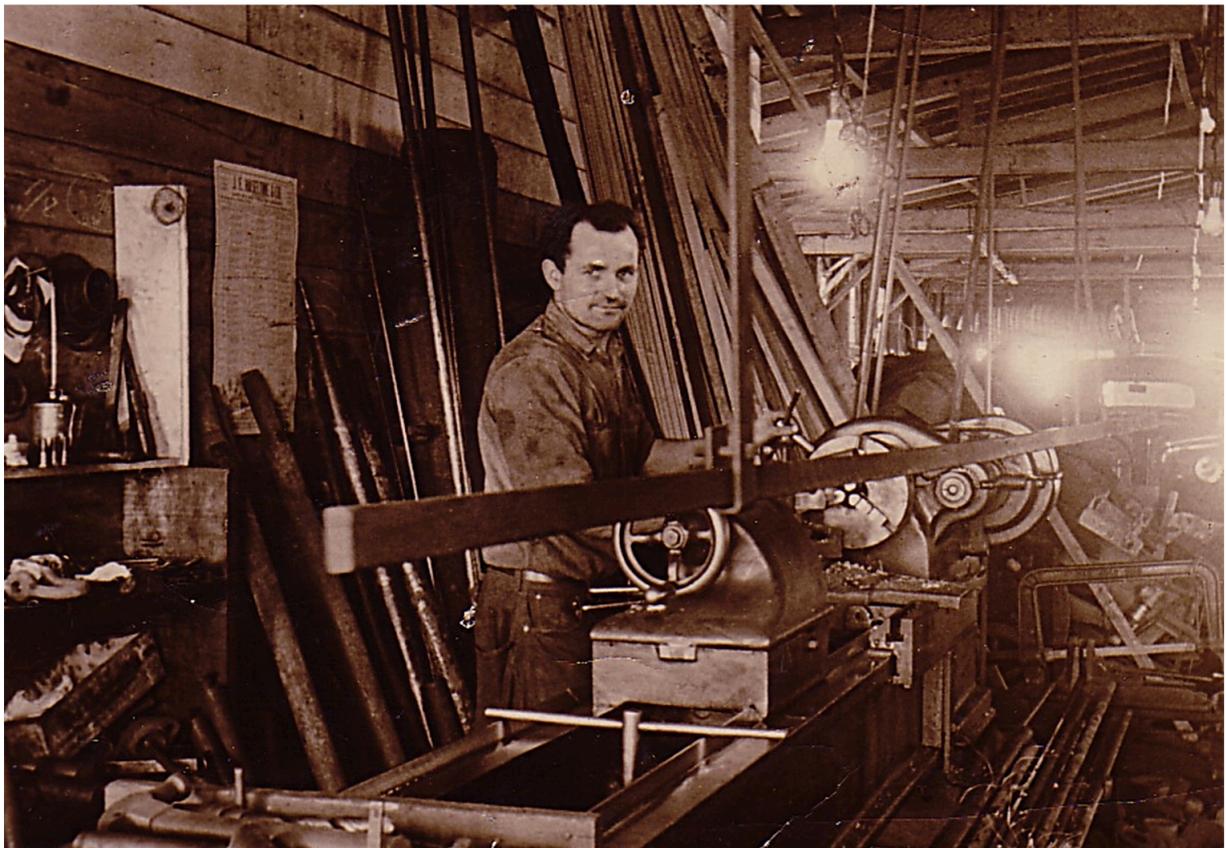
acknowledged Redfish with its Award of Excellence.

Upstairs, above the restaurant, is The Loft—a private, single-room luxury ocean view accommodation.

Next door, the gallery's 5,000-square-foot footprint holds humble beginnings. In the early 1920s, it was a blacksmith shop that evolved into Battle Rock Garage. Later, the structure was briefly utilized as a bowling alley and then became Orford's Restaurant and Bar.



The wine cellar at Redfish Restaurant.



Battle Rock Garage owner Paul Leutwyler.

COURTESY PORT ORFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY



While drawing up new construction plans, the Hawthornes chose to retain the building's history and integrity. Look up, and you will see the original "bones."

Now it serves as the Hawthorne Gallery & Sculpture Garden, providing a spacious outdoor and indoor showcase for displaying the works of 14 renowned artists of national and global acclaim: the Hawthorne family's signature pieces; Albert Paley, forged iron and steel; Mike Gustavson's glaze-fired raku ceramics; David Ruth, large-scale glass sculptures; Max DeMoss, lost-wax bronze; Barbara Spring, wood sculptures; Ed Flynn, thought-provoking collages.

"Our ongoing goal is to exceed expectations," says Chris Hawthorne about the family enterprise. From this writer's perspective, it's a mission accomplished. ■



COURTESY OF THE HAWTHORNE GALLERY

WHEN YOU GO

Redfish Restaurant—
(541-366-2200;
www.redfishportorford.com)

**The Hawthorne
Gallery**—(541-366-2266; www.hawthornegallery.com)

The Loft—A single-room accommodation with a luxurious king bed, organic cotton linens, soaking tub, plush leather sectional, gas fireplace, and a slate balcony overlooking Battle Rock

and the Pacific. (541-366-2266;
www.redfishloft.com)

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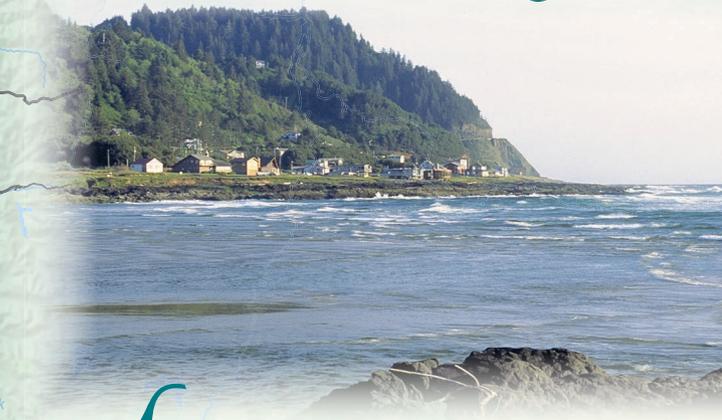
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Stay & Play



AS A SERVICE to our readers OREGON COAST provides a selective guide to events along the Coast. All listings are grouped by town and location, north to south. For your planning convenience, we are covering two months of activity when possible. Although we believe information to be accurate at presstime, always check in advance to confirm details. If you have an event that you would like to have listed in OREGON COAST, please send us the information at least 90 days prior to publication.

Gallery and theater listings are not included in the Calendar of Events. See separate sections entitled Coastal Art Galleries and Theater on the Coast.



COURTESY TILLAMOOK FOREST CENTER

Holiday Wreath-Making

TILLAMOOK

There's no better place than the Tillamook Forest Center to get into the holiday spirit—by making your own wreath. The Forest Center helps visitors appreciate the forest around them with educational displays, tours, and films, but November 26–27, visitors can discover the artistic possibilities of using forest materials by attending a wreath-making workshop. The special holiday workshop has become a very popular family event over the past few years.

Registration and a \$12 fee are required in advance. Wreath forms, boughs, and some ornamentations are provided. Attendees are encouraged to also bring in other things from home if they choose to augment their wreath. The Tillamook Forest Center will be closed from December–February, so the workshop is a great excuse to explore the Center before it closes for the season. Come see what the forest has to offer, in more ways than one! (866-930-4646; www.tillamookforestcenter.org)

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Through Nov 15 Wild Mushroom Celebration 800-451-2542; www.wildmushroomcelebration.com

Dec 10–11 Bed & Breakfast Holiday Open House 800-451-2542; www.funbeach.com

LONG BEACH

Nov 4–6 Cribbage Tournament 800-451-2542; www.funbeach.com

Nov 25–27 Holidays at the Beach 800-451-2542; www.funbeach.com

Dec 31 Fireworks at Midnight over the Ocean 800-451-2542; www.funbeach.com

ILWACO

Nov 11–12 'Ocian' In View Cultural Weekend 800-451-2542; www.funbeach.com

Dec 3 Lighted Boat Parade & Crab Pot Christmas Tree 800-451-2542; www.funbeach.com

Dec 11 Tuba Christmas 800-451-2542; www.funbeach.com

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A sea nettle (*Chrysaora*)
jellyfish rests in the sand at
South Beach in Newport.

—*Scott Blackman*



OREGON COAST

Dec 26-Jan 1 Winter Whale Watching Week 541-765-3407; www.whalespoken.org

ASTORIA

Nov 25 St. Lucia Festival of Lights 800-875-6807; www.oldoregon.com

Dec 2-4 Starving Artist Faire 503-325-6104; www.shanghaiedinastoria.com

Dec 3-4 Little Ballet Theater Nutcracker Ballet 503-861-1971; www.oldoregon.com

Dec 10-23 Plum Pudding/Tea at Flavel House Museum 503-325-2203; www.cumtux.org

Dec 31-Jan 1 New Years Eve Party 503-325-6104; www.shanghaiedinastoria.com

WARRENTON

Nov 11 Veterans Day at Fort Stevens 503-861-1470; www.visitftstevens.com

Dec 1-31 Holiday Treats at Fort Stevens Museum 503-861-1470; www.visitftstevens.com

Dec 10 Christmas Tree Lighting 503-861-7447; www.ci.warrenton.or.us

SEASIDE

Nov 5, Dec 3 First Saturday Art Walk 503-738-6391; www.SeasideChamber.com

Nov 25 Pacific Power Parade of Lights 503-738-6391; www.SeasideChamber.com

Nov 25-27 Holiday Gift Fair 503-738-6391; www.SeasideChamber.com

Nov 26-Dec 17 Gingerbread Tea 503-738-7065; www.SeasideMuseum.org

Dec 12 Downtown Wine Walk 503-717-1914; www.SeasideDowntown.com

CANNON BEACH

Nov 4-6 Stormy Weather Arts Festival 503-436-2623; www.cannonbeach.org

Nov 25-Dec 11 Haystack Holidays 503-436-2623; www.cannonbeach.org

ROCKAWAY BEACH

Nov 26 Lighting of The Tree 503-355-8108; www.rockawaybeach.net

Nov 26-27 Holiday Gift Fair 503-355-8108; www.rockawaybeach.net

Dec 10 Breakfast with Santa 503-355-8108; www.rockawaybeach.net

GARIBALDI

Nov 25-26 Garibaldi Museum Holiday Open House & Raffle 503-322-8411; www.garibaldimuseum.com

Dec 10-18 Oregon Coast Scenic Railroad Candy Cane Express 503-842-7972; www.ocsr.net

TILLAMOOK

Nov 2-4 North Coast Salmon Rendezvous 503-842-6313; www.tillamookchamber.org

Nov 4-5 TFC Holiday Bazaar 503-842-2272; www.tillamookchamber.org

Nov 11 Tillamook Air Museum Veteran's Appreciation Day 503-842-1130; www.tillamookair.com

Nov 26-27 Holiday Wreath Making 866-930-2663; www.tillamookforestcenter.org

Dec 2 Festival of Trees & Silent Auction 503-842-4553; www.tillamookchamber.org

Dec 3 Christmas Tree Lighting www.tillamookchamber.org

Dec 3 Habitat Holiday Auction 503-842-7472; www.tillamookchamber.org

Dec 3 St. Alban's Annual Christmas Bazaar 503-842-6192; www.tillamookchamber.org

CAPE MEARES

Nov 25-26 Cape Meares 10th Annual Exhibit & Sale 503-842-4076

CLOVERDALE

Nov 8 Harlem Ambassadors Basketball Show 503-392-4340; www.pcnvchamber.org

LINCOLN CITY

Anytime before Dec 31 Nelscott Reef Tow In Classic and Big Wave Paddle In www.nelscottreef.com

Nov 1-30 Native American Heritage Month 541-994-9994; www.lincolncity-culturalcenter.org

Nov 12 Chowder Cook-Off 800-452-2151; www.oregoncoast.org

Nov 19 Restoration Pow Wow 888-CHINOOK; www.chinookwindcasino.com

Nov 25-27 Big 'N Better Christmas Bazaar 541-994-9994; www.lincolncity-culturalcenter.org

Nov 30-Dec 3 Fantasy of Trees 888-CHINOOK; www.chinookwindcasino.com

Dec 3 Angels Ball 888-CHINOOK; www.chinookwindcasino.com

Dec 3 Holiday Open House & Craft Sale 541-994-6338; www.conniehansengarden.com

Dec 10-11 11th Hour Santa Crafts Fair 541-994-9994; www.lincolncity-culturalcenter.org

GLENEDEN BEACH

Nov 16 Snowflake Fashion Show 541-996-7102; www.oregoncoast.org

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Dec 18 Gift of Music Concert 800-452-2300; www.oregoncoast.org

DEPOE BAY

Dec 3 A Whale of a Christmas 541-765-2889; www.depobaychamber.org

NEWPORT

Through May 2012 "Swampland" Exhibit at Oregon Coast Aquarium 541-867-3474; www.aquarium.org

Through Dec 31 Hatfield Marine Science Center: Back Wing Tours 541-867-0100; www.hmcs.oregonstate.edu/visitor

Nov 5 Oyster Cloyster Festival 541-574-7141; www.oystercloysterfestival.com

Nov 19 Nye Beach Writers Series: Henry Hughes & Jennifer Richter 541-563-6263; www.writersontheedge.org

Dec 2-3 Sea of Lights 541-867-3474; www.aquarium.org

Dec 2-4 Holiday House Christmas Craft Show 541-336-5769

Dec 3 Yaquina Lighted Boat Parade 541-265-6200; www.discovernewport.com

WALDPART

Dec 10 Christmas in Waldport & Candlelite Bridge Walk 541-563-2133; www.waldport-chamber.com

YACHTS

Nov 11-13 Coastal Celtic Festival 800-929-0477; www.coastalceltic.com

Nov 25-Dec 25 Winter Celebration www.yachats.org

Dec 3-4 Ladies Club 84th Annual Christmas Bazaar 541-547-3205; www.yachats.org

Dec 10-18 Heceta Lightstation Victorian Christmas Open House 541-547-3696; www.hecetalighthouse.com

Jan 1 New Year's Peace Walk 541-547-3640; www.yachats.org

Jan 21-22 Agate Festival 800-929-0477; www.yachats.org

FLORENCE

Nov 4-5 Tastes of Native America & the Oregon Coast 877-3-RIVERS; www.threeriverscasino.com

Nov 4-16 Celebrate Arts! 541-997-1994; www.eventcenter.org

Nov 11 Veterans Day Parade www.florenceveteransdayparade.com

Nov 14 The Lowe Family 541-997-1994; www.eventcenter.org

Nov 18 SEA "Bottom Line Duo" 541-997-1994; www.eventcenter.org

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A Mini Coos County

CHARLESTON

The world of miniatures is taken to new heights at the annual Christmas Train display; available for viewing at the Charleston Rural Fire Department November 28–December 24.



COURTESY BAY AREA VISITOR ASSOCIATION

This is no generic display, there are more than 200 little buildings representing the towns of Coos County along with a miniature train that winds throughout the display. Visitors who know the area will recognize the fishing village, dairy barns, farmer's market, casino, and more.

If the building looks dark, don't leave, the lights in the train room are kept off so that visitors can see the displays better. The display is free to the public, and coffee and cookies will be available.

The Charleston Rural Fire Department is located at 92342 Cape Arago Hwy. The display can be viewed nightly from 6–10 p.m. (Visitor Center 541-269-0215, Fire Station 541-888-3268)

Nov 18–19 Many Hands & Victorian Belles Holiday Arts and Crafts Fair 877-3-RIVERS; www.threeriverscasino.com

Dec 2–3 Art Fest: Empty Bowls 541-902-1933; www.eventcenter.org

Dec 2–4 Nativity Festival 541-997-7404

Dec 3 Oregon Brass Society 541-997-1994; www.eventcenter.org

Dec 11 Community Chorus Concert 541-997-1994; www.eventcenter.org

Dec 12 Siuslaw High School Band and Choir Concert 541-997-1994; www.eventcenter.org

Dec 21 Eugene Ballet "The Nutcracker" 541-997-1994; www.eventcenter.org

Dec 31 New Year's Eve Party 877-3-RIVERS; www.threeriverscasino.com

Jan 14–15 Winter Folk Festival 541-997-1994; www.winterfolkfestival.org

REEDSPORT

Dec 2–3 50th Annual Holiday Bazaar 541-271-3495; www.reedsportcc.org

NORTH BEND

Nov 19 Texaco Country Showdown: Western Regional Finals 541-756-8800; www.themillcasino.com

Nov 22–Dec 1 Festival of Trees 541-756-8800; www.themillcasino.com

Dec 8 Christmas Tree Lighting & Celebration 541-756-4613; www.northbendcity.org

Dec 31 Mill Casino New Year's Eve Party 541-756-8800; www.themillcasino.com

COOS BAY

Nov 3 Community Concert Association: Mark Marsi 541-269-1272; www.cccca.com

Nov 4, Dec 2 First Friday Wine Walk 541-269-1222 x 289; www.theworldlink.com

Nov 10, Dec 8 Art Walk 541-756-1989; www.oregonsadventurecoast.com

Nov 17 Historically Speaking Lecture Series: H.S. Contino and her book, Shipwrecks of Coos County 541-269-1101; bay.cooslibraries.org

Nov 24 Turkey Trot Fun Run and Walk 541-267-7960; www.SouthCoastRunningClub.com

Nov 25 Tree Lighting & Santa's Arrival 541-267-3341; www.oregonsadventurecoast.com

Dec 10 Christmas Concert at the Historic Egyptian Theatre 541-269-8650; www.Egyptian-Theatre.com

Dec 15 Historically Speaking Lecture Series: Helen Mineau, "From Cow Pastures to Jets: Air Travel in Coos County" 541-269-1101; bay.cooslibraries.org

Dec 24 Candle Light Christmas Cantata 541-756-3855; www.CoosUMC.org

CHARLESTON

Nov 5 Identification Workshop: Fall Mushrooms 541-888-5558; www.SouthSloughEstuary.org

Nov 5, Dec 3, Jan 7 Birds on the Estuary 541-888-5558; www.SouthSloughEstuary.org

Nov 24–Dec 31 Holiday Lights at Shore Acres 541-888-3732; www.shoreacres.net

Nov 28–Dec 24 Christmas Train Display 541-269-0215; www.oregonsadventurecoast.com

Dec 10 Mac's Run 541-269-1199; www.SouthCoastRunningClub.com

Jan 1 Polar Bear Plunge! www.oregonsadventurecoast.com

COQUILLE

Dec 3 Christmas in Coquille 541-396-3414; www.coquillechamber.net

Dec 3 Tour of Homes 541-396-3414; www.coquillechamber.net

BANDON

Dec 2–3 Coastal Harvest Holiday Craft Faire/Bake Sale 541-347-1585; www.bandon.com

GOLD BEACH

Dec 3 Holidays Crafters Bazaar 541-247-7147; www.tistasty.com

BROOKINGS

Nov 12 Community Christmas Bazaar 541-661-3204; www.brookingsor.com

Nov 12, Dec 10 Second Saturday Art Walk 541-469-1085; www.wildriverscoastart.com

Nov 26–Dec 24 Nature's Coastal Holiday Light Display 800-535-9469; www.brookingsor.com

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

SMITH RIVER

Dec 10 An Acoustic Christmas with Pam Tillis 707-487-7777; www.lucky7casino.com

CRESCENT CITY

Nov 4 Art Walk 707-464-1336; www.dnaca.net

Nov 7 Concert: Crooked Still 707-464-1336; www.dnaca.net

Dec 2–4 Holiday Bazaar 707-464-9556; www.dnfair.org

Dec 4 Curry-Del Norte Orchestra's Symphony by the Sea 541-247-7210

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Nature's Coastal Holiday Light Display

BROOKINGS

Don't miss a chance to see what happens when you light up the night with a menagerie of color and displays during Nature's Coastal Holiday Light Display. Brookings' Azalea Park is festooned with cheer with more than 300,000 lights November 26–December 24. Lighted sculptures follow the Pacific Northwest theme and free hot cider and cookies are provided. Admission is \$1 for adults, free for children under 12. Open 5–9 p.m. nightly. (800-535-9469; www.brookingsor.com)



COURTESY BROOKINGS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Music Flows at Pistol River



TOP: Les Stansell, left, performs with Oscar Lopez.

RIGHT: The Pistol River Friendship Hall is in the foothills along the Coast between Brookings and Gold Beach.

A small concert hall with great acoustics, located just off Hwy 101 on the South Coast, draws top-notch acts of many genres.



STORY BY SCOTT GRAVES

FLAMENCO. BLUEGRASS. COUNTRY. Blues. New Age. Folk. Indie rock. Nigerian pop?

You name it and, for nearly 30 years, an eclectic mix of big-name live music acts has delighted audiences filling the intimate Pistol River Friendship Hall, located between Gold Beach and Brookings. “We’re mostly an acoustic venue—we have no specific genre,” said Les Stansell, who, with his wife, Mary, founded in 1982 what would later become the nonprofit, member-based Pistol River Concert Association. “After three decades, the essence of what we do remains the same: provide high-quality touring artists in a first-rate, intimate venue.”

The price per show: \$15.

Once a month, the 100-person capacity hall—tucked into the rolling coastal foothills a stone’s throw from Highway 101—showcases artists such as guitarist Ed Gerhard, banjo-extraor-

dinaire Tony Furtado, Los Angeles’ Latin-based band Los Pinguos, the acoustic Celtic group Molly’s Revenge, and veteran jazz guitarist George Cole. “We have a full house for nearly every show,” Stansell said. “Half our audience is from Brookings, but many people travel from outside the area to see an artist they’ve been following.”

The artists, he said, are often surprised by the quality of the hall and the crowd’s enthusiasm. “Some of these artists play in big cities, at bigger venues, and get smaller crowds,” Stansell said. “When they see our remote location, they think, ‘Whoa, what have I gotten myself into?’ But then the curtain comes up, they see the audience, and it’s magic.” The intimacy of the hall, its acoustics, and the quality sound system weave a spell that is hard to resist, he said.

Working offstage is a small, dedicated group of volunteers that make up the association. In addition to the shows,

the group hosts community events and fundraising activities. A bin inside the entrance is used to collect canned food that is donated to a local battered women’s shelter.

As for the future, Stansell said, “We’re always looking for new people to join the group, the next generation to step up and keep things going.” ■

Coming up at Pistol River

Two November concerts at the Pistol River Friendship Hall feature Mark Taylor, Joelle Concalves, and Liz Bortolotto from Sol Flamenco, who will take you to Spain with flamenco music, song, and dance (www.marktaylorflamenco.com). The shows take place November 19 at 8 p.m. and November 20 at 3 p.m. Tickets are available at stores in Brookings and Gold Beach or online at www.pistolriver.com. For more information, visit the website or call Les Stansell at 541-247-7636.

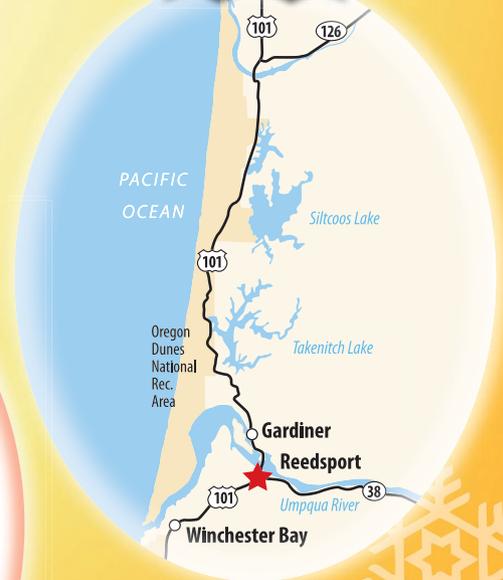
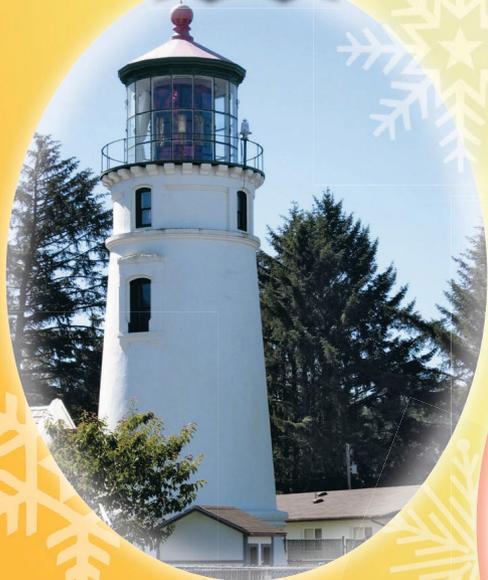
Holiday lights decorate the
Astoria Column.
—Robert Potts



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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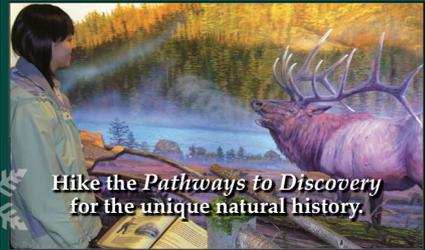
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