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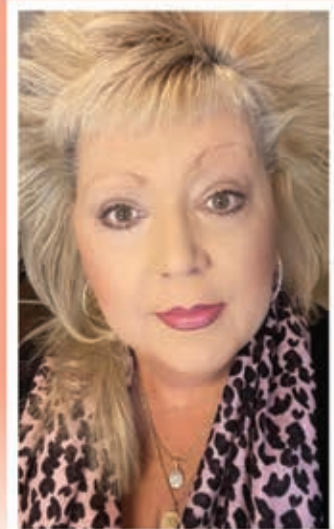
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Fridays & Saturdays

ARTISAN FAIRE

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Weather permitting at the Salishan Marketplace, 7755 N Highway 1010, in Gleneden Beach. Experience local Oregonian vendors featuring unique gift ideas and one-of-a-kind crafts and handmade goods at the Artisan Faire. Faire runs through Oct. 25.

September 5

SALMON RUN GOLF COURSE WILL HOST THE 1ST ANNUAL CONNECTED SENIOR GOLF TOURNAMENT

September 5 & 13

2025 BIOSPHERE EXPLORANCES

Meet at 10:30 a.m. at Knights Park, N 3 Rocks Road in Otis. Enjoy a walk in this estuary and learn about its history and geology while taking in breathtaking views. The explorances are free and no registration is required. Call 541-996-1274 for more information.

September 6, 13, 20 & 27

NESKOWIN FARMERS MARKET.

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Proposals For All Meadow in Neskowin. At this outdoor market you can find fresh produce, pastured meats, local eggs and cheese, artisan bread, pastries, original crafts, and more. Proposals for All Meadow is on the east side of Highway 101 at the corner of Summit Lane, across from the Neskowin Beach Wayside.

September 6, 13, 20 & 27

October 4, 11, 18 & 25

TAFT HALL SATURDAY MARKET

10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Taft Hall, 1206 SE 48th Place in Lincoln City. Come join Knothead Pretzels and other local vendors for this indoor Saturday market.

OC
WAVES

September 7, 14, 21 & 28

October 5 & 12

LINCOLN CITY SUNDAY MARKET

10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Lincoln City Cultural Center, 540 NE Highway 101. At this outdoor market, all items are handmade or homegrown by the seller. Market days are weather permitting. Visit LincolnCitySundayMarket.org or call 541-9949994 for more details.

September 11-14, 2025

79TH ANNUAL BANDON CRANBERRY FESTIVAL

In 2025, Bandon will celebrate the 79th Annual Bandon Cranberry Festival, sponsored by Rogue Credit Union. The festival is held each year to recognize local cranberry farming through education, entertainment and fun for all ages. The Rogue Credit Union Cranberry Festival is a lively introduction to our community, as well as a time-honored tradition for residents.

September 12

2025 BIRD WATCHING EXPLORIENCE

9 a.m. at the Cascade Head Interpretive Wayside. Look for migrating warblers and other songbirds inside the Salmon River Estuary Restoration Area. Meet at the wayside on N Fraser Road just north of Lincoln City off of Highway 101. Exploriences are free and no registration is required. Bird Watching Exploriences: Sept. 12 at 9 a.m. Salmon River Estuary at Fraser Road. Oct. 10, 9 a.m. at the Lincoln City Water Treatment Plant. Nov. 8, at 8 a.m. at the Salmon River in the Cascade Head Scenic Area. Dec. 5, at 9 a.m. at Taft waterfront and Siletz Bay.

September 13 - 14

79TH BANDON CRANBERRY FESTIVAL.

The annual Cranberry Parade kicks off the main festivities on Saturday morning.



September 13 - 14

20TH ANNUAL MILL-LUCK SALMON CELEBRATION

Join Ko-Kwel Casino Resort Coos Bay (formerly The Mill Casino) for the 20th Annual Mill-Luck Salmon Celebration Saturday and Sunday, September 13 and 14. This free outdoor festival is a vibrant tribute to Native American and Coquille Tribal culture. Enjoy a weekend filled with tribal canoe races, traditional salmon bake meals, live Native American dancing, drumming, and flute music. 3201 Tremont Avenue North Bend, OR 97459

September 13 & 27

BROOKINGS BODACIOUS BAZAAR

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Port.

September 19 - 21

OKTOBERCREST 2025 AT THE SALISHAN MARKET PLACE

Gleneden Beach. Oktoberfest Beachcrest style! Enjoy live music every day, a ton of brand-new fall beer releases, games like stein hoisting, bratwursts and pretzels plus special OktoberCrest merchandise! Events at Beachcrest Brewing Company.

September 19-21

LINCOLN CITY FALL KITE FESTIVAL 2025

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Held on the beach at the D River State Recreation Site, the annual Fall Kite Festival is a longstanding family vacation tradition. Experience two days of kite-flying activities and let your heart soar. Visit ExploreLincolnCity.com/Annual-Events.

September 20

ANNUAL PREFONTAINE MEMORIAL RUN

The Race Is On. Saturday, September 20, 2025 take part in the Annual Prefontaine Memorial Run. This event is part of the annual Bay Area Fun Fest. This challenging 10K road race honors legendary distance runner Steve Prefontaine with a hilly, out-and-back course through Coos Bay. The event includes a 10K run and 2-mile walk. 235 Anderson Avenue Coos Bay, OR 97420

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 20

ANNUAL CRUZ THE COOS

Cruz the Coos is one of the largest and longest-running classic car cruises on the Oregon Coast, drawing thousands of spectators to downtown Coos Bay. The Show 'n Shine features beautifully restored vintage cars and trucks, with a chance to meet the owners and enjoy local food and amenities at the Ko-Kwel Casino Resort Coos Bay (formerly The Mill Casino Hotel & RV Park). 50 Central Avenue Coos Bay, OR 97420

September 20

SOLVE BEACH & RIVERSIDE CLEAN-UP 2025

From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at SW 51st Street in Lincoln City. Join SOLVE for the annual Fall Clean-up, this event celebrates the International Coastal Cleanup Day and National Public Lands Day. For more details, visit SolveOregon.org.

September 20

THE GREAT OREGON COAST BBQ & BREW FESTIVAL

12 p.m. to 6 p.m. Music, BBQ Cook-off, Brews. Held at the Newport Armory, 541 SW Coast Highway in Newport. Local pit-masters compete for the People's Choice Award. Live music, delicious food, local brews, and art. \$25 to attend, includes BBQ samples, Brew samples, and logoed sample glass.

September 20 - 21, 2025

ANNUAL BAY AREA FUN FESTIVAL

The Bay Area Fun Festival – The Last Big Party of the Summer – is happening September 20–21, 2025! As summer winds down, the South Coast turns up the fun! The Bay Area Fun Festival, also known as the greatest last party of the summer, takes over Coos Bay and beyond every third weekend in September. Thousands of locals and visitors gather to enjoy the sights, sounds, and flavors of downtown Coos Bay. 50 Central Avenue Coos Bay, OR 97420

September 21

NEWPORT PRIDE RUN 2025

Race starts at the Newport Performing Arts Center, 777 W Olive Street in Newport. Join participants this year as they celebrate love, inclusivity, and togetherness. The 'Run for Unity' is designed to show support for the Newport Oregon Pride community.

September 26 & 27

SOUTHERN OREGON COAST LEGENDS MUSIC FESTIVAL AT THE CURRY COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS.

September 28

6TH ANNUAL NEWPORT CHAMBER GOLF CLASSIC AT AGATE BEACH GOLF COURSE

This golf event will be a nine-hole tournament, attracting a wide range of community leaders and local participants. Registration at 9:30 a.m. with a four-person Scramble Shotgun start at 11 a.m. All proceeds raised will directly benefit the Newport Chamber's initiatives to continue providing professional assistance, programs, resources and advocacy to our Chamber businesses and community. For more information, call the Chamber office at 541-265-8801 or email info@newportchamber.org.

October 3 - 5

2025 OREGON COAST JAZZ PARTY

Performances at the Newport Performing Arts Center 777 W Olive Street in Newport. Enjoy a lively, marvelously music-focused weekend of live jazz in an idyllic coastal location filled with charm, shopping, local brews, and fresh seafood.

October 4

2025 CLAMMING EXPLORIENCE

Meet the guide at 4 p.m. at the pavilion at the end of SW 51st Street in the Historic Taft District of Lincoln City. Enjoy a brief orientation followed by clamming on Siletz Bay! The exploriences are free and no registration is required.

October 25

3-HOUR TOUR NEWPORT CHAMBER AUCTION

6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Hallmark Resort, 744 SW Elizabeth Street in Newport.

December 5

ANNUAL HOLIDAY CHAMBER LUNCHEON & RAFFLE

11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Best Western Agate Beach.

December 6

YAQUINA BAY LIGHTED BOAT PARADE 2025

This annual event is held the first Saturday of December each year, this is a fantastic tradition and a great way to start your holiday season. Best places to view the Boat Parade are on the Historic Bay Front at a number of Restaurants and businesses or from the Piers.

November 8

2025 BIRD WATCHING EXPLORIENCE.

Meet in the parking lot at Knight Park at 9 a.m. on the west end of Three Rocks Rd just north of Lincoln City. This walk along the Salmon River wanders through woodlands, marsh, and riverbanks. Look for grebes, gulls, cormorants, waterfowl, and raptors. Exploriences are free and no registration is required.

November 8 & 9

WILD RIVERS MUSHROOM FESTIVAL

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Chetco Brewing Company Warehouse.

Opening November 28

NATURES COASTAL HOLIDAY FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS AT THE AZELEA PARK.

November 28 - 29

FREE FISHING DAYS 2025

Thanksgiving Weekend. On Free Fishing Weekends, you don't need a license to fish, crab or clam anywhere in Oregon. That's no license, no tag, no endorsement needed. Area closures, bag limits and all other regulations still apply. For more details, visit MyODFW.com.

OC WAVES 2025

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COASTAL PILOT



Large kites fly all weekend while competitions and demonstrations rotate throughout. Photo by Brad Mosher

KITE FEST RETURNS IN ROCKAWAY BEACH

WILL CHAPPELL
Headlight Editor

For the 49th year, Rockaway Beach's annual Kite Festival will brighten the skies over the beach and ocean for crowds of spectators from September 12 to 14.

Sponsored by the American Kitefliers Association, the annual festival welcomes profession and amateur kite fliers alike for a weekend of friendly competitions and exhibitions.

Competitions include awards for the nicest kite, the kite that drags on the ground the longest before becoming airborne and many other cool events.

Classes will be offered to teach kids how to build and fly small kites, while vendors at Rockaway Beach's wayside will have kites available for purchase.

Large kites will take up residence for longer stretches throughout the weekend, while professional groups put on acrobatic displays choreographed to music. Members of the public are also invited to get in on the fun by flying their own kites.

For more information on the event, visit rockawaybeach.net.

Photo by Erin Dietrich



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YAQUINA LIGHTED BOAT PARADE TO LIGHT UP THE BAY

This annual event is held the first Saturday of December each year, this is a fantastic tradition and a great way to start your holiday season, according to the Newport Chamber of Commerce.

There are lots of ways to enjoy the Lighted Boat Parade - decorating and entering your own boat; viewing from the piers along the shoreline or from the many restaurants along the Bayfront.

Started in 1994 by Fran and Don Mathews with Marine Discovery Tours, this event has been a local favorite for many years. Don Mathews died in 2018, but the Marine Discovery crew rallied, and the lighted boat parade went on. And then came COVID and the parade was canceled.

Locally beloved, the Yaquina Bay Yacht Club sponsored an "unofficial" parade in 2021, 2022 and 2023 and the Newport Chamber resurrected the event in 2024 to continue its tradition in our community.

SCHEDULE

Friday Night 12/5/25

6 p.m. Boater's Pre-parade Meeting (Pre-registered boats only) @ the Embarcadero in the Mariner room (downstairs from the guest registration

desk)

Saturday 12/6/25

2 p.m. - 4 p.m. Pet Pictures with Santa Paws @ the Yaquina Bay Yacht Club. All dog owners are invited to bring your pet for a picture with Santa Claus.

Donation of \$5 or new pet toy or unopened pet food requested but not necessary. All donations will be given to the Lincoln County Animal Shelter.

5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Boat Parade

Find your spot on the Historic Bay front (at a local restaurant or on the pier) to get an up-close view of the Lighted Boats parading around Yaquina Bay.

5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Watch Party

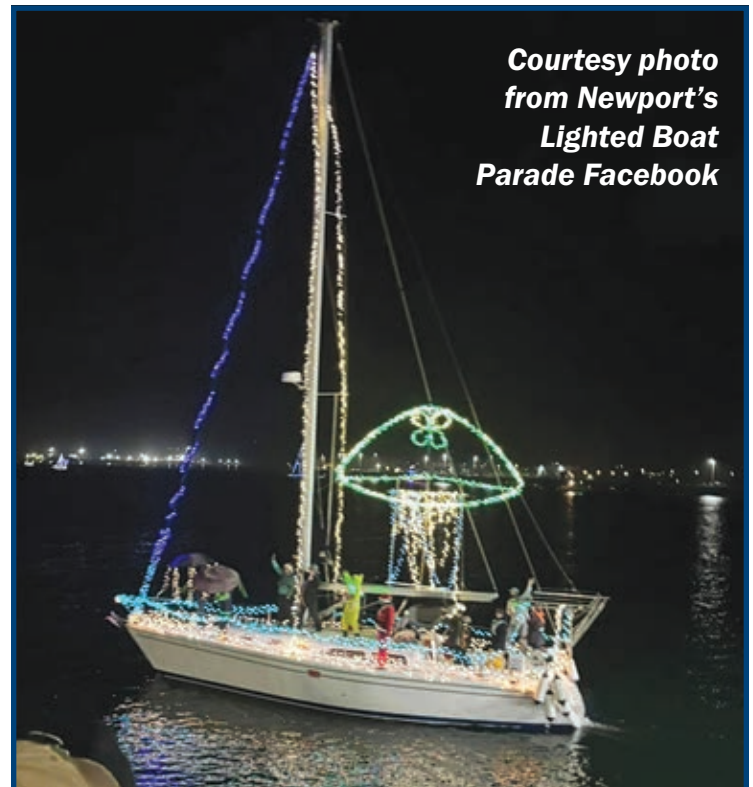
Join us at the Yaquina Bay Yacht Club for a view of the parade. We will be

serving hot cocoa and cookies.

7:15 p.m. Boater's Celebration & Award's Party (Registered Boats only) @ the Rogue Public

House in the Military Room.

For more information, contact the Newport Chamber of Commerce at 541-265-8801.



*Courtesy photo
from Newport's
Lighted Boat
Parade Facebook*



Courtesy photo from the Newport Chamber of Commerce

BROOKINGS-HARBOR WAS AWASH WITH SWASHBUCKLING ACTIVITY



Captain Billy has been at the festival for the past seven years handing out pirate flags to kids. Lincoln Fitzgerald, 10, and his sister Kennedy, 6, came up with their parents from Redding. (photos by Linda Lee)

The 14th annual Pirates of the Pacific Festival kicks off

BY LINDA LEE
Curry Coastal Pilot

The port of Brookings-Harbor was alive with swashbuckling activity as the fourteenth annual Pirates of the Pacific Festival hosted a packed venue full of a variety of vendors showcasing their hand-made items as well as a diverse range of food and even one merchant selling home-brewed rum.

This year's event had not one, but two areas

that were center stage to a revolving door of bands that played everything from the blues to rock, to funk and even a self-proclaimed Celtic pirate band that wrote their own music with lyrics based on the lives of pirates.

Also on deck were fire breathers and fire dancers

who gave a special night-time performance that was mesmerizing to see.

Pirates walked amongst the crowds looking for



See **PIRATES**, page 10

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Bound together are the American & Pirate flags. (Photo by Linda Lee)



PIRATES

From Page 9

their next booty and the mermaids came out of the ocean to share their magic with our community and offered photo opportunities to the crowd.

Local dance troupes, dressed in their pirate best, had the community delighted as they performed dance routines to perfection to pirate-themed music.

The cannon fire was something few did not miss as it left the onlookers with a thumping in their chest and a ringing in their ears.

Sword fight demonstrations reached an all-time high as there was no shortage of pirates willing to unsheathe their blades and fight for a lady's honor, or the chest of gold that sat at the end of the dock.

There was also a

treasure hunt that mapped out clues for participants to follow to find the bounty offered and there were prizes awarded for best costumes as well as interactive crafts and games for the kids.

Something different this year was the booth of the Illinois Valley Lion's Club, out of Cave Junction. They sold tickets to raffle off a Harley Davidson motorcycle. Kids had the chance to climb on the

bike and get their picture taken.

It's no secret that the Pirates of the Pacific Festival saw record crowds this year with people coming in from across the country to enjoy the event and all it had to offer.

The weather provided sunshine, the performers provided their talents and the people of the community provided their pirate spirit.

Well done!



Fire Dancers: Lauren Angell and The Rogue Fire Circus perform fire dances. (Photo courtesy of Andrei Pischalnikoff)



Cyprus (l), Lilly and Alexander Weirchberger had a good time meeting people and selling their homemade Honey Wine. (Photos by Linda Lee)



Nix Guzman Shark White Beard have been attending the festival since it began.



Mermaid Eden came out of the ocean to share her magic.



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BREATHTAKING PACIFIC OCEAN VIEWS



Perched on a promontory, elevated safely out of tsunami zone providing panoramic vistas from many rooms, including a spacious deck that begs for relaxation. Walk down the stairs next door for direct access to miles of sandy shore. Extensive remodel completed in 2019. Offered fully furnished. 25-348



2729 SW Anchor Avenue, Lincoln City \$1,650,000

FIRST TIME ON MARKET



Custom Victorian-style home on 4.59 private acres. Three bedrooms and 2.5 baths, the home showcases quality woodwork throughout. Enjoy the peaceful setting from the covered front porch, upstairs balcony, or the back Trex deck. One-of-a-kind property offers quiet coastal wooded setting. 25-811



9669 Yaquina Bay Road, Newport \$975,000

SET ON 9+ WOODED ACRES



This custom 4-bed, 3.5-bath home offers privacy and comfort just 10 minutes from Newport. With vaulted ceilings, large windows, and quality wood finishes, the open kitchen flows into a spacious living area. A 1,152 sq ft garage provides ample space for storage or projects. Enjoy a peaceful retreat with easy access to coastal amenities. 25-1043



245 Olalla Road, Toledo \$1,195,000

STUNNING COASTAL RETREAT!



Home offers unparalleled views of Yaquina Bay & Yaquina Bay Bridge. 2BR/3BA and 2,023sf of thoughtfully designed living space. Finished basement, attached garage, and variety of flooring materials add to the versatility and charm. Built in 1991, it's steps away from Newport's famous bayfront shops, restaurants & more. 25-1071



850 SE Crescent Place, Newport\$750,000

SPACIOUS SINGLE-LEVEL



3-bed, 2-bath home in Toledo on over half an acre! Features a sunroom, detached 3-car garage, and separate office/studio with ADU potential (city approval required). Enjoy in-town convenience with privacy and room to grow, coastal living at its best. Schedule your tour today! 25-954

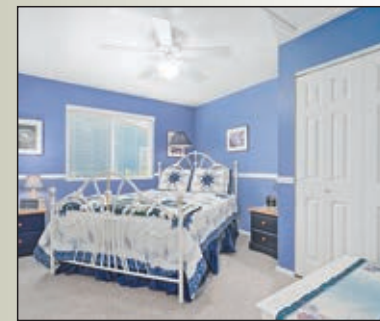
534 NW Skyline Drive, Toledo\$469,000



COASTAL DREAM

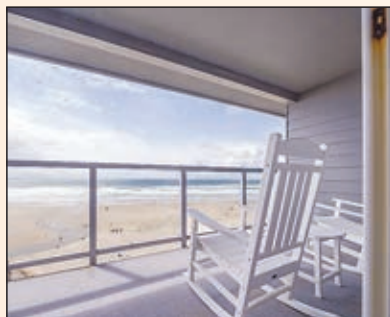


Fully furnished and ready to enjoy. From the manicured & landscaped front yard you can smell salt in the air & feel the ocean breeze from your own front deck. This lovely 3BD/2BA home has all the amenities for life at the Coast. With vaulted ceilings & modern floorplan this can be either your permanent or 2nd home. 25-1149



1701 NW Oceania Drive, Waldport\$648,000

FULLY EQUIPPED NYE SANDS OCEANFRONT CONDO



Currently a successful vacation rental, managed by Sweet Homes Rentals, & the STR license can be transferred just w/City approval! This 3rd floor unit has elevator from gated assigned parking, main floor living w/balcony & add'l BD & BA on upper level. Great view w/beach access. 25-1293

507 NW Alpine Street #302, Newport\$675,000





KO-KWEL CASINO RESORT: NEW NAME, SAME WORLD CLASS EVENTS

Those who have spent any time visiting the South Coast will be familiar with a fixture of North Bend hospitality: the Mill Casino. On the 30th anniversary of their opening, the mainstay on the bay announced that they would be rebranding in a way that better represents the casino's tribal ownership and heritage. The institution was reborn as Ko-Kwel Casino Resort.

"It was time for the Coquille Indian Tribe's long-standing gaming and hospitality brand to clearly represent tribal ownership and the core values that define our leadership and service standards,

Ko Kwel

CASINO RESORT

to be proudly recognized as 'Coquille,'" states Margaret Simpson, CEO of the Coquille Economic Development Corporation.

"The tribe has faced significant challenges in its journey towards self-reliance over the past 35 years. As we expand our hospitality brand and outreach, we wanted to unify our projects under a single brand that honors our culture and recognizes the achievements of our tribal citizens."

This announcement came alongside the unveiling of plans for expansion. With plans to open at the end of 2025, the state's very first tribal distillery will include two full-service bars, a cigar lounge, digital golf suites, and an upgraded Plankhouse restaurant.

"After more than two years of planning, negotiating with the state of Oregon, and completing design work, we are thrilled to have broken

ground on this historic project," said Simpson.

GREAT EVENTS CONTINUE ON THE BAY

Despite the branding facelift, the resort has continued to bring brilliant events to the area, with the most recent being the 7th annual Food Truck Off. The celebration of flavor has become a staple of summertime on the South Coast, bringing together passionate and talented chefs from Southwestern Oregon and beyond to duke it out in the culinary coliseum.

See **CASINO**, page 15

CASINO

From Page 14

This year saw trucks from as far away as Idaho, alongside local favorites, and regulars at the Front Street and NoBe food truck pods that spice up Coos Bay and North Bend's food scenes. A portion of each day's \$5 entry fee haul went toward supporting the Boys and Girls Club of Southwestern Oregon.

A contingent of chefs, travel writers, and restauranteurs made up a judges panel which tasted signature dishes from each truck, and gave awards in four different categories. The people also got a vote thanks to the People's Choice award. Winners received a cash prize along with a plaque commemorating their victory.

Here are the winners for 2025, be sure to seek them out if you're visiting the area:

FOR THE GLOBAL CUISINE CATEGORY:

- 1st Place – Authentic Filipino
- 2nd Place – On the Strip
- 3rd Place – CABA Empanada

FOR THE BEST DESSERT CATEGORY:

- 1st Place – Greenhorn Smokehouse

- 2nd Place – Betty's Scones
- 3rd place – Smokin' Aces Kettlekorn

FOR THE TACO OR SANDWICH CATEGORY:

- 1st Place – Yoda's Hut
- 2nd Place – Sublyme Burgers
- 3rd Place – Fire Bros BBQ

FOR THE KITCHEN SINK:

- 1st Place – Feathers & Flavors
- 2nd Place – Coastal Slice
- 3rd Place – John's Grotto

AND THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE FAVORITE:

- Yoda's Hut!

The resort's next big event ties in perfectly to the rebranding, as the 20th Annual Salmon Celebration is the weekend of September 13. The yearly event celebrates the Coquille Tribe and Native culture in general.

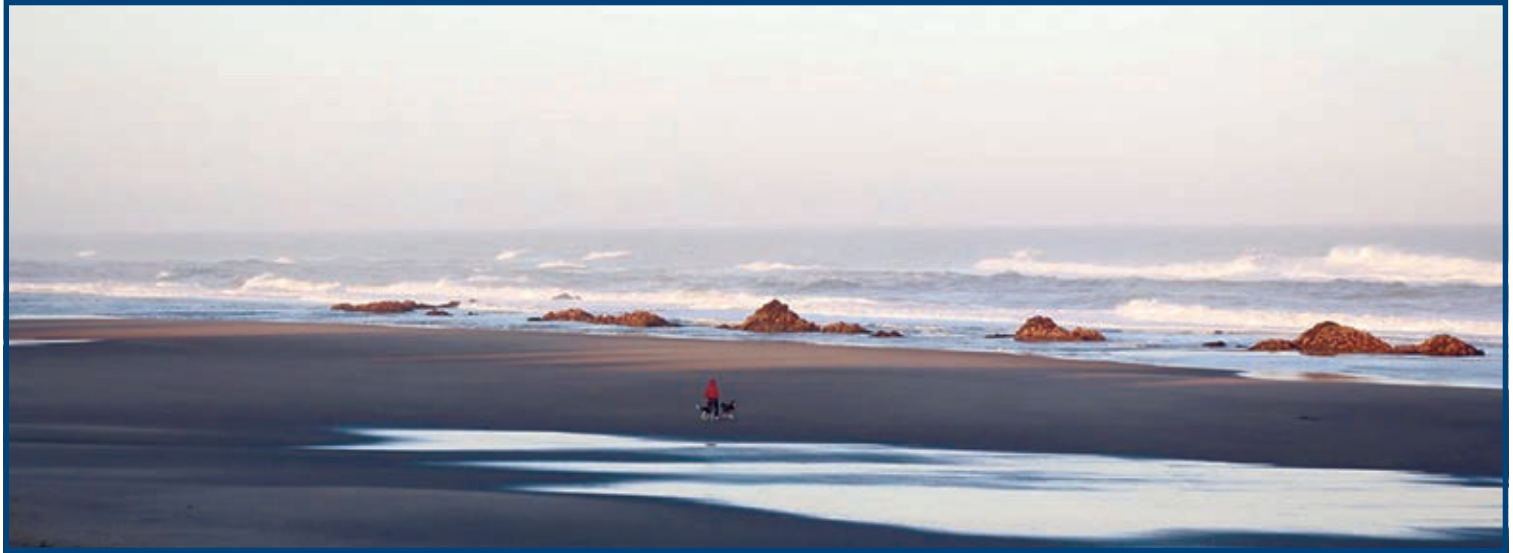
The event brings canoe races, tribal vendors and demonstrations, a traditional salmon bake meal, and authentic Native American performances to the Ko-Kwel Casino Resort.

For more details on the resort's ongoing events, visit: <https://www.kokwelresorts.com/coos-bay/events>



This year's peoples choice winner Yoda's Hut is open every day at Front Street Food Trucks in Coos Bay. (Courtesy of Ko-Kwel Casino Resort)

THE COAST CAN BE WONDEROUS, BUT ALSO FULL OF SURPRISES



The coast can be wonderful, but it's also full of surprises to be aware of. (Photo by Jeremy C. Ruark)

WILL LOHRE
Country Media, Inc

The Oregon Coast has no shortage of beautiful hiking trails and sprawling beaches ready to be explored this fall and winter.

Still, there are some crucial considerations people should keep in mind when heading out to the coast for an adventure, both in terms of conservation and safety.

Finding a way to enjoy Oregon's plentiful wilderness while respecting the trail and staying safe is the name of the game. Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) Public Information Officer Stefanie Knowlton said that many of Oregon's most beautiful landscapes, including the coast, include inherent risks and

hazards, such as cliffs and drop-offs.

Based on camping and day-use estimates, Oregon Parks and Rec estimates that about 34 million people visited Oregon State Parks on the coast in 2024. Whether you're hiking God's Thumb in Lincoln County or hitting the Hobbit Beach Trail in Florence, there are important things to keep in mind.

"Leaving marked trails or ignoring safety signs and barriers can increase the risk of injury or fatal falls," Knowlton said. "We encourage visitors to stay on trail, and respect signs and barriers to recreate safely."

Social trails or unmarked trails may lead to safety hazards, such as steep drop-offs, where visitors could fall and sustain

injuries. It isn't just people who can feel the impacts, though. Stepping away from official trails can cause erosion and further damage areas that are meant to be preserved. Every time someone follows a social trail, it continues to wear that path into the landscape, possibly reinforcing a pathway that leads to hazardous conditions, Knowlton said. It could also impact sensitive habitats and wildlife.

"We also encourage packing the 10 essentials, including food, water, and sun protection," Knowlton said.

The "10 essentials," (aptly named) include:

Navigation – Map, compass, and GPS

Sun protection – Sunglasses, sunscreen, and a hat

Insulation – Jacket, hat, gloves, rain shell, and thermal underwear

Illumination – Flashlight, lanterns, and headlamp

First-aid supplies – First Aid Kit

Fire – Matches, lighters, and fire starters

Repair kit and tools – Duct tape, knife, screwdriver, and scissors

Nutrition – Food

Hydration – Water and water treatment supplies

Emergency Shelter – Tent, space blanket, tarp, and bivy

In addition to hikes in the coastal range, it's no secret that the beach itself is an obvious draw to the coast. Like many things in the Northwest, it's rugged, unpredictable, and formidable. While there are certain areas suitable for

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swimming and lazing about with your favorite beach chair, there are important things to remember when getting out near the waves.

A few Oregon Parks and Rec tips that are unique to the coast include:

Knowing the tide schedule. Some beaches and access points can disappear during high tide, so don't get stuck without a way back.

Never turn your back on the ocean. Sneaker waves have the power to sweep you off your feet, so always keep your eyes on the water when you're near the surf.

Stay clear of beach logs, which can weigh anywhere from a few hundred pounds to several tons. They become buoyant in the surf and can knock you over and even pin you down.

As far as conservation efforts go, many of the same principles apply to both the trails and the beaches. Oregon Parks and Rec advocates for a "Leave No Trace" approach.

"It essentially means leaving an area as good as, or better than, you found it," Knowlton said. "One example of that is disposing of your trash responsibly. If you leave it behind, wildlife might ingest potentially toxic items."

Trash can also impact the ecological health of



Dazzling sunsets are a key natural attraction along the Oregon Coast. (Photo by Jeremy C. Ruark)

the shoreline. Knowlton also emphasized the importance of respecting wildlife. Stay a safe distance away from seals, sea lions, and other marine life. And leave plants and creatures where you find them.

It's also a good idea to check what conservation specifics may apply to the beach you plan to visit. Snowy Plover nesting season is upon us, and respecting rules protecting them is another way to protect the health of shorebirds. Knowlton asks that people follow the signs to learn what restrictions are in place Mar. 15-Sept. 15 along about 40 miles of coastline.

During nesting season on those beaches, no dogs (even on a leash) are allowed. Additionally, driving vehicles, riding

bicycles, operating electric-assisted bicycles, camping, burning wood, flying kites, or operating drones are all prohibited.

Recently, some communities have even begun to restrict driving on beaches in the interest of maintaining and preserving their beaches natural settings. One example comes out of Manzanita, where the Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission voted to ban driving on beaches in Manzanita due to safety concerns. The concerns were brought to the commission by the Manzanita City Council.

Knowlton provided more insight into why Manzanita and other communities have taken such measures.

"Several communities have reached out to state

parks to restrict driving on the ocean shore in the past due to concerns about safety and habitat protection," Knowlton said. "As visitation increases, these beaches have lots of foot traffic combined with vehicle traffic, and sometimes they don't mix safely. We work with communities to balance their needs with recreation, safety, and habitat protection. We work on developing rules through a public process."

So, if you're planning on trailblazing or a beach outing, make sure you've checked what rules apply to your next stop, and try to stay safe. The coast can be wonderful, but it's also full of surprises to be aware of.

For more information, contact the OPRD at 800-551-6949.

WILSON RIVER TRAIL CONTINUES TO GROW



The footbridge near milepost 20 on the Wilson River Highway is a good access for the trail on the river's north side.

WILL CHAPPELL
Headlight Editor

Already the longest trail in Oregon's State Forests at 26 miles, the Wilson River Trail continues to expand thanks to volunteer efforts, with a new 6.1-mile section to the Drift Creek Trailhead currently under construction.

Once completed, that will leave four to six more miles of trail to connect to the Storey Burn trailhead and the Oregon Department of Forestry's complex of trails in Washington County. Joe Offer, ODF's Recreation, Education and Interpretation Program

Manager, said that will only serve to enhance what is already the department's best trail.

"We obviously have other great trails here, but this one just for kind of the overall length, as far as seeing all the different habitats the forest has, seeing different management scenarios too as far as timber sales, to see some of the new, some of the old, see different forest, all that kind of stuff," Offer said. "I just think there's so much that happens on this trail, you can't beat it."

The Wilson River Trail started to take shape in the late 1990s as

ODF took a more active approach to managing recreation opportunities on state forest lands and began to stitch together segments of existing trail to form the Wilson River Trail. "People have been out here recreating for forever," Offer said, "but as far as the department was concerned, there was enough recreation, enough public use, it made sense to really get on top of that and start managing it instead of letting it manage itself."

In the years since, the trail has grown to 26 miles, stretching from Koenig Creek Campground in the west to Idiot Creek

Loop Road in the east. Open to all non-motorized traffic, the trail passes the Tillamook Forest Center, as well as all the busiest campgrounds in the Tillamook State Forest except Gales Creek.

Construction and maintenance of the trail is overseen by volunteers from four trail keeping organizations: Trailkeepers of Oregon, Oregon Equestrian Trail, Westside Trail Federation, a mountain biking focused group, and the Northwest Trail alliance.

In addition to these groups, in recent years

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the trail has also found a new champion in the State Forests Trust of Oregon, formerly the Tillamook Heritage Trust, a nonprofit supporting ODF's work in all state forests.

Erin Skaar, a member of the trust's board, said that in the late 1990s, as the department prioritized recreation opportunities on state forest lands, the trust was founded to support those efforts by raising funds for recreation and education projects.

"Our work now as the trust is to really work hand-in-hand with REI (recreation, education and interpretation) to say where are you going next, what do you need," Skaar said. "And then, it's our

job to basically raise the money to help fund these things."

The trust's first major project was the Tillamook Forest Center, which opened in 2020, before a three-year closure due to the coronavirus pandemic. With that project completed, Skaar said that the trust started seeking out new projects, landing on the Wilson River Trail.

"This was our first foray out of and away from the forest center, really to say, what do we do next," Skaar said. "And this just made so much sense. It was laid out, it was started, and it had energy. People are excited about this."

So far, the trust has awarded a grant to help fund the newest section's construction and Skaar said that the group is

also working to boost awareness of the trail and opportunities to volunteer in its construction and maintenance.

"It's just a super fun opportunity for people and so I hope that as this gets going and publicized that in Tillamook people will actually come out from our own community and have the experience," Skaar said.

Both Skaar and Offer stressed the variety of hiking opportunities available on the trail, saying that sections near the forest center and at Kings Mountain were generally busier, while those at Idiot Creek and Diamond Mill were less frequented.

For those looking to get involved in volunteering on the trail, Offer said to reach out to Trailkeepers

of Oregon, which hosts frequent work parties on the trail, with a calendar of opportunities available online.

Work began on the in-progress section of trail in 2019 and 2020, with work crews from the Northwest Youth Corps roughing in the trail route, before the Covid pandemic paused work for several years. Given the volunteer nature of the trail's construction, Offer said he couldn't predict when the new section of trail would be complete.

Offer said that more information about the trail and its specific sections was available at ODF district offices in Tillamook and Forest Grove, as well as online, though he cautioned that the website was in the midst of an upgrade.

A section of the trail near the Keenig Creek trailhead.



BANDON'S ANNUAL CRANBERRY FESTIVAL ENTERS ITS 79TH YEAR



One of the longest running festivals on the Oregon Coast is returning this September 11-14 in the Bandon Cranberry Festival. A wonderful way to get to know the spirit and tradition of beautiful Bandon's way of life, the festival is held the second week of every September to recognize the local institution that is cranberry farming.

Though Bandon is known most widely for its gorgeous beach front and

close-knit vibes, it is actually an ideal place for cranberry farming. Berry's have been grown in Bandon since the first commercial farms in 1890, and the crop that comes from the South Coast make up 30 million pounds of berries a year. That's nearly 5% of the entire national production grown over the 1600 acres of farms



around Bandon. Mild weather on the coast year-round extends the growing season through the autumn until harvesting can occur between mid-October and early December.

As for the festival, you can expect live music, car shows, exhibitions from Bandon's many galleries and craft shops, fun sports tournaments,

and of course the famous cranberry-eating contest.

It all leads off with a week of anticipation. The Port of Bandon hosts an art show throughout the festival, with storefronts throughout the Cranberry City putting up cranberry-themed displays. Be sure to vote for your favorite.

The Bandon Historical Museum will feature memorabilia from the long line of festivals prior,

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including coronation dresses from Cranberry Courts past. This year's court will be presented on Thursday, 11, at the Sprague Theatre.

Friday, 12, opens with the Cranberry Kitchen Contest and Craft Bazaar at the VFW Hall Post 3440. The afternoon has Bandon's Old Town Marketplace Farmers Market and the "Quilts by the Sea" show put on by the Bandon Quilt Guild at Oddfellows Hall. The winners of the Cranberry Court and Cranberry Kitchen Contest will be announced that evening during halftime of the Cranberry Bowl Football Game at Bandon High.

Saturday commences the main part of the festival with a whole host of day long events. Not least of which is Cranberry Festival Parade, which is not to be missed. That day continues with delicious treats, fun for the whole

family, live music, and of course, the Cranberry Eating Contest.

The festivities continue into Sunday with the Show & Shine Car Show, Prancing Pet Parade, and awards ceremony for the Port's art show.

All of this is made possible through the generosity of local sponsors, and the time of gracious community volunteers.

For the full schedule of events, you can visit: <https://bandon.com/cranberry-festival-events-2025/>



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Courtesy photo, USFWS

THE CASTLE ROCK WILDLIFE REFUGE IN CRESCENT CITY IS A VERY SPECIAL PLACE

The rock, pseudonym should be designated as an island. Located a walking distance of just .5 mile off shore, Humans will not be accessing the 14 acre island, home to hundreds of thousand birds, sanctuary for the Aleutian cackling goose and nesting seabirds

Castle Rock is the second largest nesting seabird south of Alaska (Farallon Islands is first). An estimated 150,000

birds are estimated to use Castle Rock. The island is home to the largest breeding populations of common murres.

In all, biologists have counted 11 different bird Rock is the northern most breeding colony of northern elephant seals.

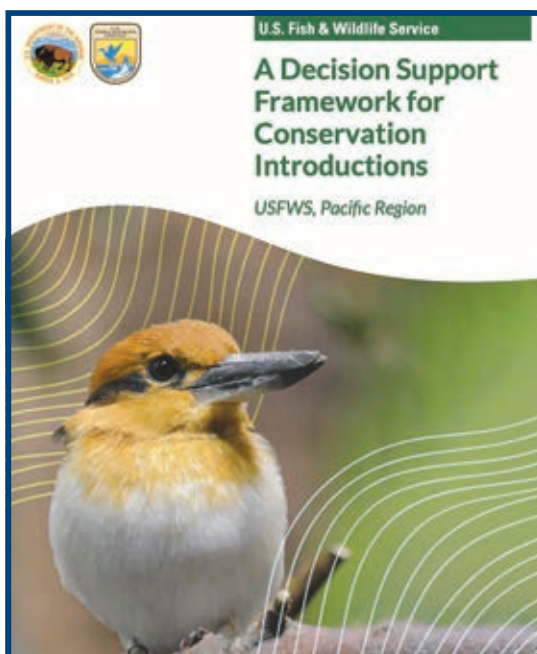
Harbor porpoises and gray whales are most the common mammals abounding about the island.

The Tolowa have a long

and storied relationship with Castle Rock. Though never inhabiting the small island The Tolowa hunted sea lions in long sea-going canoes. Eggs from the nesting birds was also a

staple from the nesting fowl.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service oversees all operations at the Castle Rock refuge.



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AMERICAN MUSIC FESTIVAL CELEBRATED 30 YEARS OF CONCERTS IN THE PARK

BY LINDA LEE

Curry Coastal Pilot

This year the American Music Festival (AMF) celebrated its 30th anniversary of the Concerts in the Park series in Brookings.

Each year an average of nearly one-thousand people gather on the lawns at Azelea Park to experience live music that they would only get to see if they ventured outside the region.

Lead by a band of volunteers, the Concerts in the Park began thirty years ago with the initiative by Les Cohen and a small group of music lovers hoping to bring musicians from across the country to the bandshell in Azelea Park.

AMF has hosted a variety of bands over the years featuring everything from tribute bands to jazz to pop to rock and the blues, to name a few.

"We had a stellar lineup of artists this summer with returning favorites and new-to-us acts, including the incomparable hard rocking band The Outlaw Mariachi," said Scott Graves, AMF series promoter. "Bring your lawn chairs, blankets and dancing shoes and enjoy a summer of great live music!"

The success of the concert series is directly tied to a group of dedicated volunteers within the community. Each year, they look for bands that wouldn't normally play at such a small venue, but because of the community turn out, it makes it worth it for them.

AMF tributes the on-going success to the sponsorship by local businesses, the continued turnout of the crowds of people wanting to come share in the love of music and the willingness of musicians willing to come to our coastal town.

"The community's generosity and financial support is



People come from all over the region to enjoy AMF's Concerts in the Park series. (Photo courtesy of <https://www.facebook.com/AmericanMusicFestivalBrookingsOregon>)



This Bonnie Rait tribute band played this summer.

key to maintaining such a wonderful summer tradition," Cohen said. "This is truly the community's concert series and we look forward to continuing the tradition for many more years to come."

For more information log onto: [facebook.com/AmericanMusicFestivalBrookingsOregon](https://www.facebook.com/AmericanMusicFestivalBrookingsOregon).

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