

OC WAVES

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COVERING THE
OREGON COAST

While watching the King Tides in Depoe Bay this year, viewers got a special treat as a giant rainbow stretched across the sky and touched down in the ocean right in front of them. Photo by Tony Reed/Country Media

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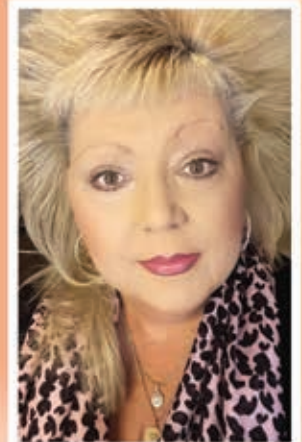
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Lincoln County Leader

The COTTAGE GROVE Sentinel

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The World North Coast **CITIZEN**

SN Siuslaw News

Tillamook Headlight Herald

Del Norte TRIPLICATE

CURRY COASTAL PILOT

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ASTORIA

SAILORS' VALENTINES SEA-CUTERIE

February 13 & February 14, 6-8 p.m.
**Barbey Maritime Center at the
Columbia River Maritime Museum**

Participants will design their valentine out of an assortment of meats, cheeses, fruits, and other snacks on a handmade pine charcuterie board. Tickets are \$70 for members, \$90 for non-members.

SEASIDE

LOWER COLUMBIA CLASSICS ANNUAL SWAP MEET

March 8, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.
Clatsop County Fairgrounds
A chance to find rare and/or unusual items from parts for a Model T to vintage toys.

CANNON BEACH

LIBERTY FACTORY: THE UNTOLD STORY OF HENRY KAISER'S OREGON SHIPYARDS

**Cannon Beach History Center and
Museum**
February 6, 4-5 p.m.
A presentation by maritime historian and author Peter Marsh at the Museum, located at 1387 S. Spruce Street, Cannon Beach, Oregon. This free event is open to the public.

WINTER WATERS

February 6-9
**Various Cannon Beach and additional
PNW locations**
A Pacific Northwest culinary festival celebrating regenerative seafare, Winter Waters, was created out of a passion for seaweed coupled with the mission to raise awareness of the versatility and creativity of sea vegetables as a culinary ingredient.

RESTORATION OF FAMILY HEIRLOOMS

February 27, 4-5 p.m.
Antique Furniture, Vintage Lighting, and Chair Seat
Cannon Beach History Center and Museum
A presentation by Jay Rosen, owner of North Coast Fix. This event is free and open to the public.

THE MYSTERY OF MARIE ROGET

February 7 - March 1
Coaster Theatre Playhouse
Shows start at 7:30 p.m. Sunday shows start at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$35 and \$30.

GET LIT AT THE BEACH-A GATHERING FOR READERS

April 11-13
Various Cannon Beach locations
A literary festival that brings together authors and readers to celebrate a mutual love of books and reading. Event tickets: \$75-\$120.

MANZANITA

AIRLIE PRESS POETRY EVENT

April 13, 4 p.m.
Hoffman Center for the Arts
Airlie Press poets Daneen Bergland and Irene Cooper will read from their new works. Winners of the Neahkahnne Mountain Poetry Prize will also read their winning poems. Free admission.

ART FOR THE HEART ARTIST EXHIBITION

February 2-28
An exhibition of artwork for viewing and/or sale by local artists. Twenty percent of all sales go to support fitness scholarships at NCRD to contribute to the heart health of our North County neighbors. Artist reception February 2, 1-3 p.m.

THE TOP EMERGENCY PREP CHEF CONTEST

February 3, 5-7 p.m.
Pine Grove Community Hose
Three local foodies will prepare food using only shelf-stable food with no heat or water.

NEHALEM

RIVERBEND PLAYERS PRESENT: THE MOUSETRAP

February 28 - March 16
NCRD Performing Arts Center
A classic murder mystery occurs in Monkswell Manor, a guesthouse where a snowstorm traps a group of strangers. Tickets are \$20.

NORTH COAST SYMPHONY FAMILY CONCERT IN NEHALEM

March 15, 3-5 p.m.
Nehalem Elementary School Gym
Tickets \$10, 18 and under are Free.

ROCKAWAY BEACH

ROCKAWAY WRITERS RENDEZVOUS

April 25-26
Various locations in Rockaway Beach
Third annual writers' conference with presenters and workshops, focused on a wide variety of genres.

GARIBALDI

GARIBALDI CRAB RACES

March 8-9
Old Mill Center
Crab racing. Fundraiser for the Garibaldi Lions Club.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OREGON COAST SCENIC RAILROAD

Spring trips begin March 15

Easter Eggstravaganza Train: April 18-20
Historic train cars pulled by diesel or steam engine. Roundtrip trips from Garibaldi to Rockaway Beach.

TILLAMOOK

THREE CAPES MARATHON RELAY

February 22

Cape Meares to Pacific City

Marathon Relay raises funds for youth running programs.

SASHIKO-BORO STITCH & BEYOND EXHIBIT

Latimer Quilt & Textile Center

This exhibit displays work falling under the category of Big Stitch. The focus is on Sashiko but other forms of cultural stitching such as Kartha will be on display. Free admission for the open house March 2, noon – 4 p.m.

“THINGS MY MOTHER TAUGHT ME”

Tillamook Association for the Performing Arts
February 21-March 9

A moving day does not go as planned. Tickets are \$20.

NORTH COAST THROWDOWN CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT

March 22, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Tillamook County Fairgrounds

Proceeds from the day will benefit the Career-to-Career scholarship fund. The scholarship benefits those returning to education after a break of five years or more.

TILLAMOOK COUNTY PIONEER MUSEUM

February 1 - March 29

Letitia Carson exhibit: An Enduring Spirit

of Hope and Freedom. Letitia Carson was a Black Oregon homesteader, farmer and matriarch living in the time of Oregon's exclusion laws. This exhibit tells the story of Letitia's transition from enslaved woman to landowner, and how her persistence and grit carved pathways for Black and Indigenous Oregonians today. Curated by Oregon Black Pioneers.

TILLAMOOK HEADLIGHT HERALD'S HOME & GARDEN SHOW

April 26-27, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Saturday,
11 a.m. – 4 p.m. on Sunday

Tillamook County Fairgrounds

Bee Days with the Tillamook Beekeeper Association and home and garden vendors. Free admission and parking.

NESKOWIN

Neskowin Chamber Music Series
Chapel of Wi-Ne-Ma Christian Camp
at 5195 Winema Road, Neskowin
February 23 Guitar/Cello Duo (Jason Vieaux and Zuill Bailey)

Mar 16 Weiss Kaplan Stumpf Piano Trio
Apr 6 Fry Street Quartet

Season and individual tickets available.
Lincoln County

FLORENCE

FEBRUARY 14

Old Town Florence will host the Wine and Chowder Fest
February 14 to 16.

The tree-day event promises great food, wine and some treasure-hunting around town. Old Town is about four blocks long, so when you arrive, go to information booths at the corner of Bay and Laurel Streets to get maps and directions. The event takes place from noon to 5 on February 15 & 16 and the Chowder trail happens from 11 a.m., to 3 p.m., on February 16.

FEBRUARY 15

Art and wine at the Florence Events Center
February 15 and 16 from 10 a.m., to 5 p.m. and 11 a.m., to 4 p.m., respectively.

The Florence Regional Arts Alliance invites you to take in the event that will feature local and regional art displays you can judge as part of the People's Choice award. Admission is free, but wine glasses and tickets will need to be purchased to sample wines. A variety of wines will be available for sampling and for sale. Some proceeds from the juried art sale will benefit FRAA.

FEBRUARY 28

The Florence Events Center will host the 27th annual Home and Garden Show on February 28 and March 1

Offering everything from exhibits and demonstrations to home and garden supplies, prizes and samples. The event will feature many long-time vendors, as well some who are new to the show. Look for the centerpiece booth of Laurel Bay Gardens.

On February 28, the show will run from noon to 6 p.m. and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. the following day

The Florence Events Center is located at 715 Quince Street in Florence.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

LINCOLN COUNTY

FEBRUARY 16

VOYAGES IN MUSIC

Windborne performs at 2 p.m. as part of the Voyages in Music series at the Lincoln City Cultural Center, 540 NE Highway 101. For tickets and more information, go to www.lincolncity-culturalcenter.org or call 541-994-9994.

FEBRUARY 20-23

NEWPORT SEAFOOD & WINE FESTIVAL

The 48th annual Newport Seafood & Wine Festival takes place at the south end of the Yaquina Bay Bridge. Sample a wide variety of wines and seafood and listen to live music. For complete information about this year's event, and to purchase tickets, go online at www.newportchamber.org/newport-seafood-wine-festival

MARCH 8-9

CELTIC SERIES CONTINUES IN LINCOLN CITY

Join the Celtic Light Orchestra in the next installment of the Celtic Music Series at the Lincoln City Cultural Center, 540 NE Highway 101. For tickets and more information, go to www.lincolncity-culturalcenter.org or call 541-994-9994.

MARCH 16

Voyages in Music

Gamelan Sari Pandhawa performs on bronze and wood instruments at 2 p.m. as part of the Voyages in Music series at the Lincoln City Cultural Center, 540 NE Highway 101. For tickets and more information, go to www.lincolncity-culturalcenter.org or call 541-994-9994.

MARCH 23-30

Festival of Illusions

The annual Festival of Illusions at the Lincoln City Cultural Center, 540 NE Highway 101, featuring magicians, concerts, workshops, and more. Full details at lincolncity-culturalcenter.org, or call 541-994-9994.

MARCH 22-30

Spring Whale Watch Week

Oregon State Parks hosts Spring Whale Watch Week with trained volunteers available to help people spot whales at 15 sites along the Oregon coast. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. each day. Learn more at orwhalewatch.org

APRIL 10

Celtic Series Continues in Lincoln City

Bon Débarras performs in the next installment of the Celtic Music Series at the Lincoln City Cultural Center, 540 NE Highway 101. For tickets and more information, go to www.lincolncity-culturalcenter.org or call 541-994-9994.

APRIL 12

Hatfield Marine Science Day

Hatfield Marine Science Center, 2030 SE Marine Science Drive, Newport, presents Marine Science Day from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dozens of research labs will host interactive exhibits about their work. The event is free, hands-on, and features something for people of all ages. Everyone is welcome. More details at hmsc.oregonstate.edu/marine-science-day

APRIL 25

Voyages in Music

Canadian vocalist and songwriter Barbra Lica performs at 7 p.m. as part of the Voyages in Music series at the Lincoln City Cultural Center, 540 NE Highway 101. For tickets and more information, go to www.lincolncity-culturalcenter.org or call 541-994-9994.

APRIL 27

Family Fishing Event

The Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife hosts its annual Family Fishing Event from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Regatta Park on Lincoln City's Devils Lake. Free, no equipment or experience required. A \$10 angling license is required for ages 12-17.



WINE AND CHOWDER FEST = FUN, FOOD AND ART



Valentines Day kicks off the three-day event Wine and Chowder Fest in Florence, but there's more to it than the title suggests. The three-day event is a chance to explore beautiful Florence, the Lane County Coast and even check out amazing local art.

You may even get to take home one of the coast's most sought-after treasures, a hand-blown glass net float. They'll be hidden around town, so look at

your maps, and mark them on your passport when you see them for a chance to take one home.

Meanwhile, in Old Town Florence February 16, you can walk the wine trail and sample wines from several area distilleries.

Fill up on chowder Feb. 16 as several local eateries offer their best chowders and take a moment to view a juried art show at the Florence Events Center.

Check out the Wine and Chowder fest, along with tons of other family fun activities in Florence

by going to the Florence Area Chamber website at <https://florencechamber.com/>



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Photos by Linda Lee

Every day seems to be a good day to fish in Curry County.

CURRY COUNTY, WHERE THE ROGUE ROARS AND STEELHEAD SOAR

BY LINDA LEE
Country Media

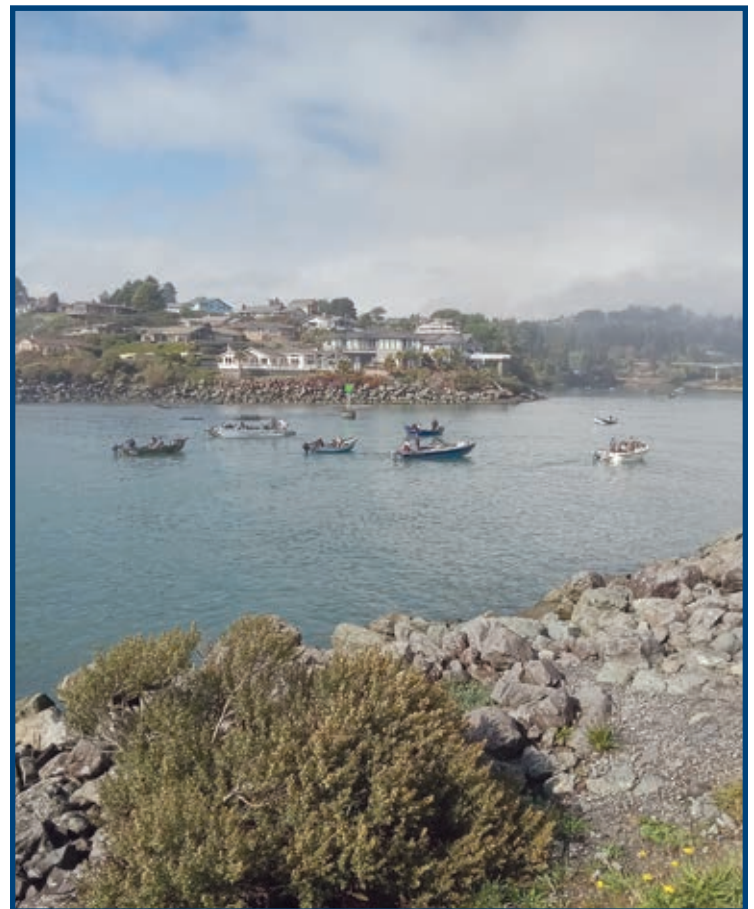
Nestled along the rugged Oregon coastline, Curry County casts a spell on anglers, beckoning them with promises of epic battles and breathtaking scenery. From the legendary Rogue River, a titan of the Pacific Northwest, to the intimate embrace of hidden creeks and the serene tranquility of sparkling lakes, this corner of the state offers a diverse fishing experience for every skill level and every angling ambition.

The Rogue River, a name synonymous with angling legends, reigns supreme. Its powerful currents carry the hopes and dreams of countless anglers seeking the thrill of

landing a trophy Chinook salmon or a hard-fighting steelhead trout. Spring Chinook, silver bullets of the river, typically arrive from April to June, their presence most keenly felt in the reaches above tidewater.

This period also marks the peak of the steelhead run, with experienced anglers vying for these acrobatic fish from January through March. For the truly adventurous, the upper Rogue presents a unique challenge, where wild summer steelhead, known for their ferocity and resilience, test the mettle of even the most seasoned anglers.

The Rogue is just the beginning. Curry County



Local anglers were out in force to take advantage of the nice weather for their day of fishing.

See **FISHING**, page 9

FISHING

From Page 8

boasts a wealth of other remarkable fisheries. The Chetco River, a torrent of power, is renowned for its robust winter steelhead runs and the sheer size of the Chinook salmon that grace its waters.

Anglers seeking the thrill of battling giants will find the Chetco a worthy adversary. The Elk River, a picturesque stream that flows into the Pacific between Port Orford and Cape Blanco, offers a more intimate encounter with the wild, providing excellent opportunities for pursuing fall Chinook salmon.

For a more relaxed pace, the county's numerous lakes and ponds offer tranquil escapes. Floras Lake, a jewel nestled amongst the coastal dunes, is a haven for trout anglers. The lake supports a healthy population of wild cutthroat trout, a species prized for its spirited fight and vibrant colors.

The arrival of hatchery rainbow trout in mid-spring further enhances the fishing, attracting anglers with the promise of exciting catches. Garrison Lake, situated near Port Orford, provides another excellent venue for trout fishing, particularly during the spring months when the lake is stocked with rainbow trout.

Beyond the thrill of the catch, Curry County offers



After reaching their daily limit, fishermen head into the harbor.

an immersive outdoor experience. The rugged coastline, with its towering cliffs and crashing waves, provides a dramatic backdrop for any fishing adventure. The lush forests that cloak the hillsides offer respite from the sun and a sense of tranquility. And the small, charming towns that dot the landscape provide a welcoming atmosphere for anglers to gather, share stories and plan their next adventure.

Fishing regulations in Oregon can be complex and vary depending on the species, season and location. Always consult the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) for the most up-to-date information before heading out.

If you're new to the area or seeking to target specific species, consider hiring a local fishing guide. Their intimate knowledge of the

local waters and their expertise in navigating the ever-changing conditions can significantly enhance your fishing success.

Practice responsible angling practices. Release wild fish whenever pos-

sible and minimize your impact on the environment. Dispose of all trash properly and adhere to all fishing regulations to ensure the sustainability of these valuable fisheries for generations to come.

With a little planning and a healthy dose of respect for the environment, a fishing trip to Curry County promises an unforgettable experience. Whether you're seeking the adrenaline rush of battling a trophy salmon or the peaceful serenity of a quiet afternoon on a tranquil lake, this corner of Oregon offers a unique blend of adventure and natural beauty that will leave a lasting impression.

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A CELEBRATION OF SEAFOOD AND WINE

STEVE CARD

Lincoln County Leader

The 48th annual Newport Seafood & Wine Festival returns Feb. 20-23 at the south end of Newport's Yaquina Bay Bridge.

The Newport Seafood & Wine Festival began in 1977 with the intention of boosting the local economy during the slowest time of the year. The chamber president at the time, Bob Spangler, and former Sen. John Brenneman came up with the idea to simultaneously promote Newport's seafood industry while bringing visitor dollars to the central Oregon coast.

By 1980, attendance was up to 8,000, and the location was moved to the dry moorage building in South Beach. The event continued to grow and expanded to a three-day



J. Scott Cellars is one of the wineries that attended last year's Newport Seafood and Wine Festival. This year's festival will take place Feb. 20-23. Learn more online at www.newportchamber.org/newport-seafood-wine-festival (File photos)

event. By 1987, a Commercial Wine Competition was added.

Today, the event runs for four days and draws thousands of visitors to Newport during the last

full weekend in February, with more than 125 vendors — seafood vendors, craftspeople, and Northwest wineries — all under a tented venue adjacent to the Rogue Brewery in South Beach. More than 300 volunteers, a dedicated volunteer committee, and local support from city and county agencies make this annual event possible. Presenting Sponsor Chinook Winds Casino Resort has generously supported the event for the past 15 years.

The Seafood Chowder Competition, which was first held at last year's festival, will be back. A panel of professional chefs will judge the chowder entries on opening night, and then people will have the

opportunity to try those chowders throughout the festival. Visitors can pick their favorite, and a People's Choice Award will be given out on the final day.

Another focus of the Newport Seafood & Wine Festival recently has been to bring a higher level of entertainment. Live music will be performed on each day of the festival, and a complete schedule of this year's musical lineup can be found online at www.newportchamber.org/newport-seafood-wine-festival

Providing an economic boost to the community as a whole remains an important part of the Newport Seafood & Wine Festival. One of the ways this is accomplished is by



Thousands of visitors enjoy the cheery atmosphere each year at the annual Newport Seafood & Wine Festival.

FESTIVAL

From Page 10

creating an environment that encourages festival goers to venture out and visit local restaurants, businesses and attractions. "We tweaked hours a bit because we wanted people to be able to spend money elsewhere in Newport, so it's not like an all-night thing where they're just staying there at the festival," said Lauren Pahl, marketing manager for the Newport Chamber of Commerce, which puts on the yearly event. Hours are Thursday, Feb. 20, from 5 to 9 p.m.; Friday, Feb. 21, from noon to 8 p.m.; Saturday, Feb. 22, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Sunday, Feb. 23, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. "So make your dinner reservations before they all fill up," Pahl said. Hotels and restaurants in the area see some of their busiest times of the year during festival week-end.



Visitors inspect the selection of wines submitted in the both the commercial and amateur wine competitions during the 2024 Newport Seafood & Wine Festival.

There will also be a free shuttle bus again this year, providing transportation between local hotels and the festival.

For complete information about this year's event, and to purchase tickets, go online at www.newportchamber.org/newport-seafood-wine-festival



Hundreds of volunteers help make each year's Newport Seafood & Wine Festival a success.



A variety of craft vendors display their creations during the annual Newport Seafood and Wine Festival.


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CHARMING 3BD/1BA IN HEART OF SILETZ



has been updated w/new flooring, fresh paint, & modern appliances. Major upgrades include a new furnace/2018 & most windows replaced in 2020. While the property is being sold as-is and offering great potential. Sellers offering \$9000 towards buyer closing costs and open to additional concessions.



24-543.....249,000

WEST SIDE: SOUTH BEACH



3BR/3BA w/modern updates & new roof w/leaf guard gutters. Spacious & functional layout plus landscape & fire pit in fenced yard. Enjoy easy access to beach just a short way away, and only 10 minutes from shops and restaurants of Newport. This gem won't last long!

24-2190\$574,000



BREATHTAKING OCEAN VIEWS



3,820sf custom-built home in Yachats. 3BD/3BA, hardwood floors, fireplace, & 2 ocean view decks. Gourmet kitchen. Lower level expands living areas w/family room, its own kitchenette, & 2 add'l BR's w/en-suite baths. Close to downtown, on 2 lots, in one of Yachats' most sought-after locations.



24-1977\$1,229,000

DISCOVER THIS COZY



2-bedroom, 1-bathroom home brimming with character and opportunity! This home is ready to add equity with some TLC. Perfect for someone looking for a rental, starter home or investment opportunity. Included with the sale is the neighboring lot bringing an additional third of an acre.



24-2062 \$315,000

SINGLE-LEVEL GEM



offers coastal living at its finest. 3BR/2BA, additional family room or potential fourth bedroom w/step-in closet. Updated kitchen features SS appliances, granite counters & hickory cabinets. French doors lead to natural lit covered patio. Property includes RV pad w/full hookups, many updates & is move in ready!

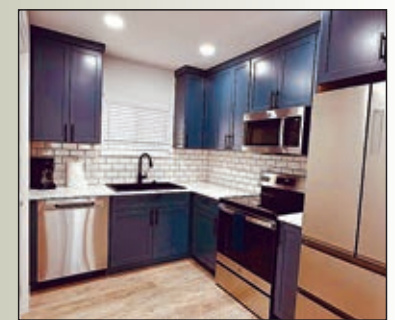


24-2226 \$500,000

REMODELED DUPLEX



Investment opportunity w/strong minimum 30-day rental history. Both units sold fully furnished: Spacious living w/sofas, TVs, refrigerator, stove, oven, microwave, dishwasher! Two BRs in each unit, plus walk in shower & in-unit laundry. 1-BR in each unit also includes a flat-screen TV. Private fenced yard.



24-2218 \$549,500

IMMACULATE 2BR/2BA HOME



in desirable Southshore. Single level living w/upscale amenities including custom cabinetry, granite counters, solid hardwood flooring, vaulted ceilings & more. Great location affords lots of privacy w/close proximity to community amenities including pool, indoor tennis, clubhouse, & community beach access.



24-2281 \$655,000

Home and Garden show is a coast staple

TONY REED

Country Media

Every gardener and homeowner knows how quickly spring will sneak up when you have a project or a garden to get started. Rather than putting it off until the last minute, you can take advantage of an opportunity to visit Florence and start checking things off that garden or project list.

The 27th annual Home and Garden Show at the Florence Event Center will happen the last day of February and the first day of March and is already lining up to be a worthwhile event.

Organizers say this years show will feature about 45 vendor booths, with a good mix of returning vendors and new exhibits. The centerpiece booth will be Laurel Bay Gardens, a longtime coast supplier of garden and nursery supplies.

You'll find contractors that build homes and others that specialize in remodels, along with flooring, countertops, bathrooms, heating and air, windows, exterior, roofing, home furnishings, patio furniture, propane, painting, pressure washing.

Shopping for home and garden supplies is only part of the fun. Some exhibitors will offer demonstrations, samples and freebies. The show will



host its own grand prize giveaway as well. Local

lodging is usually available in the late winter

months, but it's best to make reservations.

COASTAL CURRY COUNTY



A couple of the local favorite restaurants in Brookings.

BY LINDA LEE

Fortunate. That's the conveying attitude toward living in Coastal Curry County.

Our days are spent starting into the mighty Pacific on our way to work, basking in the sun and surf, exploring the Redwoods and surrounding forests and getting to know honest, peaceful people during our off time in one of our coastal outings.

In our modern world, there seems to be little room for peace and kindness; yet, it exists here, so as we look around at the people and places that walk before us every day, take a minute to breathe in all that nature's has given us here, in our coastal Curry home.

The Beaches: One can never go wrong stopping at any beach in Curry County. There's something unique about each one, offering different ranges of beauty and atmosphere. From wind swept dunes to ancient lava rock beaches, the

clear, clean water beckons the traveler to jump in and taste the salty waters of the Pacific Ocean.

The Food: It's a bit of gourmet heaven up and down HWY 101 from Brookings to Langlois. There is no shortage of places to choose from to stop and eat at or pack a picnic lunch and take advantage of one of the many rest areas along the way.

Indulge in fresh, locally caught seafood prepared with innovative flair. Think pan-seared halibut, Dungeness crab cakes, and cioppino. Enjoy classic coastal fare with stunning ocean views at one of the many restaurants that dot the coast. One can always find a good bowl of clam chowder or fish and chips, which are local favorites.

The Art: With more than several dozen art galleries within Curry County, there's such a variety of talented artists that live in our region, one is sure to find a beautiful treasure to take home. From tradi-



(Photos by Linda Lee)

One of the many beautiful beaches in Curry County.

tional oil and watercolor paintings to wood working to pottery to bead work. The list is endless of the many talented artists that live in the area.

The People: Helpful and kind would be the best way to describe them. They have a quiet way of looking out for each other and are full of creative goodness. There's always a local around who's happy to stop and chat. If you're from out of town, take a minute and talk to a local, you'll go home with a good story.

Like they say—There's No Hurry in Curry.

There are also several farmers' markets where good, home-grown local produce can be had as well as locally sourced honey beef, eggs, fish, pork, and chicken and not to mention the variety of hand-crafted artisan goods and homemade pickles.

A little-known secret for this region is the wine tasting and local breweries. There are several wineries and local brewer-

ies in the region that offer tastings and tours, showcasing the unique flavors of the Southern Oregon Coast.

There are far too many good places to see, eat at or lounge around at to list, so below are a few places that might pique your interest if you're out traveling for the day.

Gold Beach Books & Art Gallery; Semi Aquatic Gallery in Brookings; Tree Wizard Gallery in Port Orford; Manely Art Center in Brookings; Catalyst Sea Food in Brookings; The Crazy Norwegian's Fish & Chips in Port Orford; New Spinner's Seafood, Steak & Chophouse in Gold Beach; Harris Beach in Brookings; Kissing Rock near Gold Beach; Humbug Mountain State Park near Port Orford.

Share what you did in Curry County on your coastal va/day-cation.

I'd love to hear from you: pilotnews@country-media.net. Please put attention to Linda Lee, Editor. I look forward to hearing from you.

COOS BAY ON DISPLAY AT THE COOS HISTORY MUSEUM

BY NATE SCHWARTZ

Coos Bay World

The first stop for learning the cultural and industrial history that made Coos Bay what it is, the Coos History Museum, is gearing up for a big 2025. After a year that saw the museum smashing their fundraising goal, updates are abound in programming, exhibits, and infrastructure.

"All from community donations, we were able to hit our fund goal. That'll help go toward programs, exhibits, and operations... We had a really successful annual fundraiser, our Oktoberfest, which will be every year now as our legit annual fundraiser," said Sire Pro, the museum's Educator.

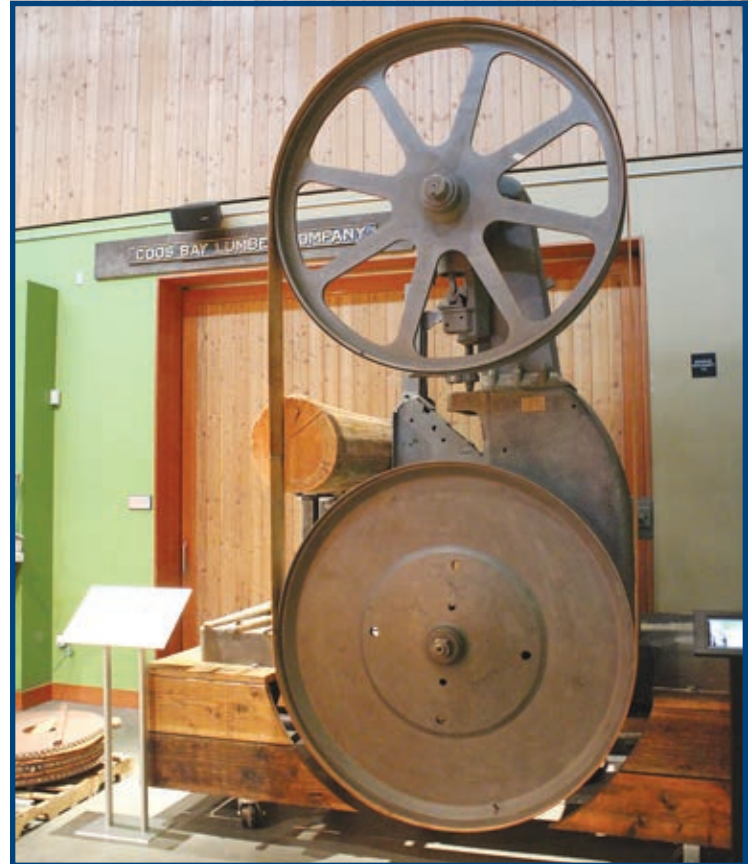
The Coos County Historical Society was founded in 1891 and is a 501(c)(3) organization with the mission of fostering a deep understanding of Coos County's people and the way their environment shaped the culture of the town. The museum is the crown jewel of that with exhibits showcasing the County's industrial history, its ties to indigenous tribes, and the importance of our waterways. Those exhibits will be expanding, with new installations fostering interactivity already

being added, and lots of refreshed cases and displays.

"We have lots of new interactives that we're able to complete recently thanks to our grantors. We have new videos and things you can actually touch. There's a brand-new sailing yacht in the gallery that I actually restored myself," said Pro. "We have a new boardwalk out back, so now Front Street and Coos Bay village are officially connected, which is pretty neat."

Last year was the 150th anniversary of the City of Coos Bay, which kept the museum and historical society very busy working with the city on the celebration. This year the museum is really able to home in on the programming they want to see, and the guests they want to bring in.

Tuesday Talks are the main lecture series for the museum. The first Tuesday of every month guest scholars and historians give presentations on a wide variety of themes. Explorer's Club, the main programming for kids ties those themes into fun, interactive events to help engage Coos County kiddos in their area's history. Explorer's Club activities



(Photo by Nate Schwartz):

Phoenix Band Saw: A full-size 6 foot phoenix band saw spins on display at the museum, similar to the ones used in lumber mills throughout Coos County.

are free for families every second Saturday of the month.

"It's a big year... We have our full calendar of Tuesday Talk's prepped and ready to go. Same thing with Explorers Club, and we also have a few special programs planned for this year. We're having a couple local authors come visit, some professors from universities all over the Pacific Northwest," said Pro.

Which is only the half of it. Local organizations

get a chance to shine and programming for Black History Month and Women's History Month are all on the docket, showing just how wide the breadth of the County's history is.

"The people who stop here will come out of the galleries and say 'I had no idea there was so much shipbuilding history', or logging, or so much industry, or so many immigrants from so many places," said

See **MUSEUM**, page 17

The Mighty Klamath Coming Back to Life

BY ROGER GITLIN

Country Media, Inc.

Like a cat with nine lives, the Klamath River is coming back to life.

The four dams have been removed and fish are returning to their ancestral home in Southern Oregon, Siskiyou and Del Norte counties.

The California Dept of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) reports volitional Fish passage has been restored with the removal of Iron Gate, Copco 1 and Copco 2 and JC Boyle dams. Monitoring adult salmonoids and juvenile productivity will be ongoing with preliminary adult Chinook basin estimates available by February 15. Initial results are positive with documented spawning in multiple tributaries in California and Oregon upstream from the former dam sites. Results of juvenile monitoring will be available, this summer. Temperatures and flow dynamics to a dams out environment and are already showing signs of improved ecosystems function.

Here's the Fish Hatchery update: CDFW's Fall



Photo credit, California Dept of Fish and Wildlife.

Creek Hatchery will play a significant role in the repopulation of the Klamath. The newly constructed \$35 million hatchery is intended to jump start salmon populations in the upper basin and be a bridge-restored Klamath River. Annual productions consist of 3.25 million fall-run Chinook salmon and 75,000 Coho Salmon.

As of January 10:
317 Chinook have been processed and almost 300,000 eggs are on hand.

45 Coho Salmon have been processed (23 females and 22 males) almost 43,000 eggs are on hand. There are zero Coho broodstock on hand and zero additional Coho have been trapped in in the last few weeks.

Status of fishing both the lower and upper Klamath:

Currently, Steelhead Fishing is the main option for fishing the Klamath. Winter-run Steelhead make up the bulk of fishing opportunity at this time of year.

Fishing success has been reduced somewhat by the dam removal process, heightened sediment loads have impacted water clarity but ongoing rainfall is improving river clarity, according to CDFW.

Salmon fishing will begin in earnest this summer. The Pacific Fishery Management Council will begin data collection in February and the California Fish and Game Commission will analyze the data and pronounce regulation of the Klamath.

MUSEUM

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Pro with pride, "I think there is so much history here that everybody who comes through, whether

you're local, or you're from a different country, or visiting from a different part of the US, everybody can relate to something in our galleries."

The museum is open

Tuesdays through Saturdays, 10 AM to 5 PM, at their breathtaking building at 1210 North Front Street, in Coos Bay. Admission is \$7 for adults, \$6 for seniors, and \$3 for

kids. Admission is free for active-duty military and kids under 5 years-old. Group discounts are available in advance.

For more information visit: CoosHistory.org

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF FINDERS KEEPERS

JEREMY C. RUARK
Lincoln County Leader

Lincoln City's popular signature glass float promotion Finders Keepers is featured in a new exhibit at the North Lincoln County Historical Museum (NLCHM).

NLCHM is hosting 25 Years of Finders Keepers in collaboration with Explore Lincoln City.

"Historically, the Oregon Coast has been one of the best places to find unique glass fishing floats," a release from the

NLHM states. "The ocean currents would bring the most unusual and unique shapes to our beaches, which would bring visitors from all over to treasure hunt. NLCHM is proud to have one of the largest collections of original glass floats, which have inspired collectors and glass artists for over 100 years."

HISTORY

Once the Japanese fishing industry started replacing their hempen rope with plastic, fewer and fewer floats washed up, until it was nearly impossible to find any in the late 1990s. In 2000, a group of artists and community organizations worked together to celebrate the new millennium and renew the joy of finding floats on the beach. The Finders Keepers program has kept that tra-

dition alive for 25 years and has inspired, supported, and brought together phenomenal glass artists from all over the Pacific Northwest, the release states.

25 Years of Finders Keepers will walk visitors through the history and development of the program, show a unique example from each year since 2000, and celebrate the glass art community that has developed around Finders Keepers.

The exhibit is located on the second floor of NLCHM to November 15, 2025. On display are 25 different floats, original posters from each year, glass making tools and instruments, videos showing the glass making process, interviews and photos of artists that have been involved in the program, as well as pho-

tos that have been shared by people who have found these treasures.

The NLCHM is located at 4907 SW Highway 101 in the Taft District of Lincoln City.

For more information, contact: 541-996-6614, or www.nlchm.org.

FLOAT FAIRIES

In January 2016, the former Lincoln City New Guard was allowed to follow two of the so-called Finders Keepers Float Fairies who regularly place the glass floats for beach visitors to find.

Over 3,000 glass treasures are hidden along our seven miles of sandy beach from Roads End on the north to Siletz Bay on the south. The floats are made by local artisans. If you find a float, it's all yours.

Mariweather and Cookie, like the rest of the Float Fairies, use code names to protect their identity.

"Being a float fairy, I cannot reveal even to my family that I am a float fairy," Mariweather said. "There is always someone on the cliff with binoculars searching to find out who the fairies might be so that they can find the



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MUSEUM

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floats. Sometimes I disguise myself and if I see someone watching me, I leave and go to another beach.”

Mariweather’s husband, Cookie, joins her as the lookout during the beach drops.

“I place the artwork under the sand, under logs, and sometimes I cover the globes with beach grass,” she said. “We really strive to never get into a set pattern of how we do it. We keep it fresh.”

Mariweather makes certain the artwork can be spotted.

“It’s never difficult to find, but often I see people walk right by the floats,” she said. “It’s quite shocking. They are paying attention to the ocean and the natural beauty of the area.”

“It’s never difficult to find, but often I see people walk right by the floats,” she said. “It’s quite shocking. They are paying attention to the ocean and the natural beauty of the area.”

Mariweather and Cookie said seeing someone discover the glass floats is a joy.

“One of the greatest rewards is having the opportunity of seeing the expression and joy when someone discovers the glass art on the beach,” she said. “People are just delighted when they find one.”

Each artist is assigned



Jeremy C. Ruark / Lincoln County Leader

The popular Finders Keepers glass floats are a signature of Lincoln City and will be featured in a new exhibit at the North Lincoln County Historical Museum

a specific number of floats and told the numbers they need to etch onto each one. The Visitor Center at Explored Lincoln City receives shipments of floats from the artists and checks in each float individually, tracking the floats by spreadsheet so they know every float has arrived on schedule.

After the floats are checked in, stickers are placed on each one

instructing people what to do when they find a float. The floats are then put into large bins that are labeled by artist and kept under lock and key. The number of every float put into each float fairy’s bag is recorded and tracked to record when each float goes out and which float fairy takes it.

Those finding the signed, numbered, and handcrafted glass floats

are encouraged to bring the treasure to the Lincoln City Visitor Center on the 4th floor of Lincoln City Hall at 801SW Highway 101 to receive a Certificate of Authenticity and information of the artist who created the glass float.

For more information about Finders Keepers, call 541-996-1274, or visit explorelincolncity.com



Headlight Herald

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CANNON BEACH, ROCK 'N ROLL, AND TOMMY THAYER OF KISS

PIERCE BAUGH

"I'm comin' home again/ I've been east and west, but baby I like best the road that leads to you"

"Hotels all look the same/ Just seem to drive me insane"

"It's true, I'm not sure if you knew/ I'm comin' home to you"

In their song "Comin' Home" on the 1974 album "Hotter than Hell," KISS sings about traveling the world, but longing to be home.

The band, formed in New York in the '70s, has a member who's had a lifelong connection to and sense of home in Cannon Beach.

Tommy Thayer was just a teenager when KISS released their first album, "Kiss," in 1974. Born and raised in Oregon and growing up in Beaverton, Thayer was musically inclined from a young age. According to his brother, John, Thayer played saxophone but wanted to play guitar, so his mother made a deal with him: if he stuck with the saxophone throughout high school she'd get him a guitar. He stuck to the deal. But a teenage Thayer had no idea just how far the guitar would take him.

Since 2002, Thayer has been the lead guitarist for



Photos courtesy Tommy Thayer

Growing up, the Thayer family would spend two weeks in Cannon Beach each summer, forming a lifelong attachment in Tommy, who still returns each year.

KISS. When Ace Frehley left the band, Thayer became the new Spaceman.

Thayer's connection to Cannon Beach has been lifelong. Even now, on his Instagram profile, he can be seen spending time at Cannon Beach and wearing a shirt referencing it. His parents, James and Patricia, took him and his siblings to Cannon Beach often during Thayer's early years, usually visiting for two weeks at a time and renting a house at the north end of town. In fact, Cannon Beach was where James and Patricia honeymooned.

Bonfires on the beach, swimming—despite the cold water—playing with

Tonka trucks in the sand and climbing the dunes were fixtures during his childhood visits. Their father would film it all with a Super 8 camera.

Thayer and his siblings would roam the beach, collecting sand dollars and starfish, putting the latter in a bucket filled with water. James Thayer loved Dungeness crab and would go to Warrenton to buy it. He was also a fan of I.W. Harper whisky and would use the bottle to crack open the crab shells. The family would have crab sandwiches and crab chowder.

Cannon Beach had been the setting of some of Thayer's most pristine

memories.

"It's very special. Probably one of the most special places in the world for me, just because of our family history there," says Thayer of Cannon Beach. "It's a place that I can really go to unwind and get away from everything."

Cannon Beach holds a special place in Thayer's past but also his present, as he still spends part of each summer in the town, where he still enjoys roaming the beach and visiting the local businesses. In the Lazy Susan Cafe, signed pictures of KISS hang. "He comes in all the time," says Yazmin Maldonado whose mother, Rosa Alvarez, owns the cafe. Thayer gifted them the signed pictures which hang proudly.

Thayer is also concerned for the well-being of the city. In September, Thayer wrote an op-ed in the Cannon Beach Gazette, voicing his concern about the ever-growing sand dunes and their possible negative impacts on people.

But the boy who grew up making cherished memories at Cannon Beach never would have imagined that he'd become a man playing for one of the greatest bands in rock history.

KISS

From Page 20

"I'm on stage at Madison Square Garden in the Spaceman outfit in eight-inch platforms, it's a pretty cool feeling. And you think, 'God, I don't know how I did this, but I did,'" said Thayer of being in KISS.

Though musically proficient from a young age, he had no childhood dreams of being a rock star. "When I was a kid, I never aspired to be a rock star," he says. "The thing that always drove me was just my passion for rock and roll, guitar and the bands that I grew up on and the music. That's really what inspired and drove me; I think I wanted to emulate that and do it myself."

Thayer's parents were supportive of their son's nontraditional path. "Tommy wanted to go to the school of hard rock," says his brother John. "They never said, 'You need to get back here and get a real job. This is never going to work out. Only one in a million odds are way against you.' They never said anything like that," says John Thayer of his parents. "They were very supportive."

He started in a garage band and eventually formed Black 'n Blue in the '80s. The band was even an opening act for KISS.

Thayer kept in touch with the band and when Frehley left, it was Thayer's

turn to don the face paint and black spandex.

His first show as the official lead guitarist for the band was at a stadium concert in Melbourne, Australia that was being filmed and recorded.

"Those were big shoes to fill," says Thayer. They were big shoes to fill in every sense.

Replacing a beloved member of the band wasn't easy, and while many KISS fans welcomed him, there were the naysayers.

"It's hard sometimes, because you read all this stuff, and you gotta figure 99% of the fans were really supportive, and they're always behind me, but there's always those people, those dissenters out there that try to rip you apart. And I went through all that," says Thayer. "I took a lot of wrath."

Though it was the early aughts, and this was pre-social media, there were still brutal corners of the internet. Some KISS fans would write about their disapproval of Thayer joining the band.

One fan kept sending him critical emails. Thayer emailed him back and invited him to a show and even arranged for him to have a backstage pass. His generosity changed the fan's opinion of him, and they stayed in touch. The fan still loves KISS to this day, something Thayer is proud of.

Having been in the band for over two decades, many of the original dissenters have warmed to him.

"One of the things my dad always told me 'Was make sure people like you. You need to make people want to be around you,'" says Thayer.

Easygoing and laidback, Thayer took his father's advice to heart. Having been in the rock scene, an environment that can inflate egos and prey on insecurities, Thayer has managed to stay true to himself. Despite being the Spaceman on stage, he's always Tommy.

"People get wrapped up and thinking they have to be a certain way or a certain persona, just be yourself and relax,"

he says.

He's accomplished what so many have dreamt of. He credits persistence with helping him get to where he is. "It's just persistence more than anything, you know, not getting discouraged and giving up and quitting," he says. He also set realistic goals for himself. "Those goals became more realistic and achievable because they weren't as lofty," he says.

"Sometimes, if you just stay focused on just doing the things that you're doing this week or this month, it's amazing where that can take you when you add it all up over time," he says. "It's interesting where life takes you sometimes."

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MARINE SCIENCE DAY HAS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

STEVE CARD

Lincoln County Leader

Oregon State University's Hatfield Marine Science Center in Newport will host its annual science fair and open house from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 12.

Marine Science Day is a free, family-friendly event showcasing the diverse marine research on the Hatfield campus. The activities and exhibits will highlight the technology researchers use to better understand and monitor the ocean.

Dozens of hands-on exhibits will feature Hatfield-based scientists who work with state and federal programs. These exhibits showcase research on marine birds and mammals, aquaculture, ocean noise and fisheries. Visitors can learn about ocean engineering, touch crabs and sea stars, look at plankton under microscopes and explore the Hatfield Visitor Center.

There will featured events and speakers, as well as behind-the-scenes tours. All tours are free, and tickets are given on a first-come, first-served basis. Tickets are available in the courtyard area in the Welcome Tent.

Are you looking for an area specializing in activities geared toward Marine



Marine Science Day takes place at the Hatfield Marine Science Center in Newport from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 12.

Science Day's youngest visitors? Then check out the Kid Zone. Hosted by Oregon Sea Grant, the Kid Zone is in the Hatfield Education Wing and is a great place for children and their families to learn about ocean waves, big research ships, amazing marine animals, and more. Parents and educators are also invited to come to the Kid Zone to discover K-12 programs and resources available at Hatfield.

Marine Science Day is the perfect opportunity for people of all ages to explore interactive exhibits to learn about the research that takes place at Hatfield Marine Science Center. You can find activities that are engaging for children throughout the



During Marine Science Day, visitors can go behind the scenes to learn about marine research currently being worked on.

campus on Marine Science Day.

The following partners who have labs on the Hatfield campus are participating in Marine Science Day: Oregon State University, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. Fish and

Wildlife Service, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The Hatfield Visitor Center will also be free and open to visitors all day. Hatfield Marine Science Center is at 2030 SE Marine Science Drive, Newport.



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