

20th Annual Charleston Seafood Festival Slated For August 15 & 16

Charleston definitely is Oregon's bay area playground and it's also a vital part of the unique region called "The Adventure Coast." During the weekend of August 15-16, 2009, the community will celebrate its fishing village heritage and the bounty of Pacific seafood as it hosts the 20th annual Charleston Seafood Festival at the Charleston Marina.

For longer than 30 years this friendly coastal fishing village has set aside the third weekend in August to enjoy seafood and fun with a two-day party. Twenty years ago the Charleston Seafood Festival was formally established and the 2009 event runs 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Festivities kick-off each morning at the Fishermen's Pancake Breakfast from 7 to 11 a.m., served by the Charleston Fire Department volunteers, and those same volunteers will host an opening ceremony at 10:00 a.m. Saturday at the festival entertainment area near the inner boat basin.

Visitors will find lots to see and do all weekend. There will be boat tours of the lower bay and ocean bar on Saturday, an open house at the U.S. Coast Guard Lifeboat Station, outdoor recreation and wildlife displays by South Slough Estuarine Research Reserve and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and kids of all ages can hook a "big

one" at the Coos River S.T.E.P. fish pond.

In recent years the festival has attracted many Oregon vendors and artisans who feature hand-made arts and crafts. Other vendors come from throughout the Northwest. Offerings include woodwork, glass art and ceramics, photography, hand-made clothing, and much more. Additionally, the festival stage will feature an interesting array of entertainment throughout the weekend.

When hunger strikes, there will be lots of ways to please the palate. In addition to seafood of every type at vendor booths and lots of dessert selections, fire department volunteers will serve an Albacore tuna lunch 12 noon to 3:00 p.m. both days.

If visitors want fresh seafood to take home, local seafood markets will be well-stocked with tuna, salmon, crab, oysters and other selections, and commercial fishing boats will have fresh Albacore available at the marina docks.

The Charleston Seafood Festival is sponsored by the Charleston Fire Department Volunteer Association and the Oregon International part of Coos Bay (owner/operator of the Charleston Marina). Community volunteers from the Charleston Merchants Association, the Charleston Community Enhancement Corporation and the Charleston Visitor Information Center also help promote the event and coordinate the festivities.

YOUTH CONSERVATION CORPS FINAL PROJECTS

On August 17th, 18th and 19th the Coos Bay Oregon Youth Conservation Corps (OYCC) will wrap up a busy summer of stewardship-related projects at the South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR). Projects completed by the OYCC crew this summer have ranged from native oyster restoration work to reforestation efforts. The final project for the crew will be the removal of trash and invasive plants from Charleston area beaches. On Monday the 17th, the crew, guided by Tom Younker of the Coquille Indian Tribe, will paddle a replica native-style canoe into South Slough to remove non-native invasive plants. Throughout the following day (Tuesday the 18th) the crew will comb Bastendorf Beach for terrestrial trash and marine debris, while promoting OYCC and the beneficial work their crews accomplish state-wide. At 11 AM on Wednesday the 19th the crew will present a final report and slideshow of their summers' work in the auditorium of South Slough NERR's Interpretive Center on Seven Devils Road in Charleston. The public is welcomed to attend.

For more information please contact: Hans Klausner, 888-2581 x: 306

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NEW BUSINESS CHALLENGE GRANT

Coos Bay, Oregon- Business start-up success depends on many factors. The Bay Area Chamber of Commerce Economic Development Committee is launching a New Business Challenge Grant, a program designed to encourage entrepreneurial spirit in the Bay Area. A positive, pro-growth attitude will encourage small, growing businesses to thrive on the South Coast. The New Business Challenge Grant will help by taking the best and making it better through the infusion of award capital. The winner will receive \$2,500 in television advertising from KCBY; \$2,500 towards rent at Pony Village Mall; \$2,500 in accounting services from Hough, Macadam and Wartnick CPA's; \$2,500 in print advertising from The World Newspaper; \$1,500 in employment services from the South Coast Business Employment Corporation; \$1,000 in banking services from Sterling Savings Bank; \$1,000 in banking services from Umpqua Bank; \$1,000 in cash from NW Natural; \$500 in cash from Yellow Cab; \$500 in office administration services from HOLM Services; \$500 in electrical services from Reese Electric and a one year chamber membership from the Bay Area Chamber of Commerce. The winner will participate in confidential mentoring each month of the award year offered by the Southwestern Oregon Community College Business Development Center.

The purpose of this grant is to help position new business for success and ensure they know this is a good place to start and grow one. The winner will be chosen through a business plan competition. Applications are available through the Bay Area Chamber of Commerce or any sponsor of the New Business Challenge grant. Completed business plans and applications are due in the chamber office by September 18, 2009. The winner will be announced at the October 28, 2009 Chamber IBO luncheon. The contest is open to new startup businesses, aspiring businesses and businesses which did not generate customer revenue prior to June 1, 2008.



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