

NEW AND TIMELY– Bandon eco art commissioned by SeaWorld

Washed Ashore Art to Save the Sea encourages creative problem-solving and promotes awareness of environmentally harmful ocean pollution.

The nationally recognized project makes its biggest splash yet with 12 sculptures commissioned for SeaWorld marine park 20th anniversary celebrations in California, Florida and Texas. Volunteer artists are busily contributing to the SeaWorld commission. The Old Town workshop and exhibit hosted 300 visitors per day through summer 2013.

From a distance, Washed Ashore displays look like colorfully stylized marine life—up close, sculptures reveal fragments of plastic, rubber, glass and metal. Lead artist Angela Pozzi began recruiting volunteers in 2010 to help collect debris from local beaches and build art.

Washed Ashore is on exhibit at 325 Second St SE; washedashore.org.

Image: The Washed Ashore puffin parade float, sponsored by Wild Rivers Coast Alliance, won first prize in the 2013 Bandon Cranberry Festival parade. Photo by Angela Cardas, Cardas Photography.

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Bandon Oregon Chamber of Commerce
Julie Miller, Executive Director
541-347-9616 bandon.com

NEW AND TIMELY– Bandon's new Irish pub

Friday nights are fine at Foley's, with a rousing mandolin–guitar duo strumming a jig, a hot plate of Bangers and Mash and a Black Velvet for good measure. Foley's Irish Pub delivers international flavor in a contemporary public house.

Owner Noel Foley and partner Heidi Hoss create a welcome meeting spot for every member of the community.

"I've just got a passion for it, and I love it," said Foley. "Come in, have a bite of grub and a pint. It's cozy and comfortable."

Foley moved to the United States from Ireland in 1981. He established destination eateries in Nevada, with the help of chef Mark Cressa, before moving to Oregon. Foley's Irish Pub opened in September 2013.

Cressa's Bandon menu features house ground Oregon Valley beef in traditional dishes such as Homemade Irish Meatloaf and Shepherd's Pie. Sample cured pork loin Irish bacon with Foley's Signature Burger or Dublin Chicken Sandwich.

Foley's Irish flair includes draft Guinness stout served in classic combinations: Black Velvet, Guinness and cider; Black and Tan, Guinness and Bass ale; or Half and Half, Guinness and Harps lager. Regional beer fans will also find Oregon brews on tap.

Foley's Irish Pub, 160 Baltimore Avenue, Bandon; 541-329-2203.

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DESTINATION, LOCAL GEMS— Photogs escape to the wilds of Bandon

Easy access to wild places makes Bandon unique in the 21st century. Public beaches and wildlife reserves offer a wealth of discovery for nature photographers.

"You just set up a tripod, fly a kite and wait for something to happen," said writer and photographer Nick Martin.

Martin produces content for the Bandon Dunes Golf Resort blog and records video documentation of the Oregon coast. He's hiked twelve miles of beach, from the Coquille River in Bandon south to New River, with only wildlife for company.

"You're less than a mile from the nearest farms, but you feel like you're light years away," he said.

Oregon National Wildlife Refuge destinations in Bandon include Coquille Point and Cat and Kittens Oregon Islands and Bandon Marsh and Ni-les'tun unit. New River recreation area is operated by the Bureau of Land Management.

Image: Photographers and birders from around the state flock to the beach near Coquille Point for the annual Christmas Bird Count 2013. Photo by Kelle Herrick.



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DESTINATION, LOCAL GEMS– PGA pros train next gen golfers

Young golfers tee off early in Bandon. Students in youth golf programs play award winning greens with pro instructors at Bandon Crossings Golf Course and Bandon Dunes Golf Resort.

"It's our way of growing the game and sharing our passion for the game," said Crossings PGA Professional Jim Wakeman. "It's a joy and a privilege to work with the kids."

Youth golf programs are near and dear to any golf professional who started learning the game as a youngster, he added.

Programs are designed for novice and experienced players. And students have access to professionals who introduce all the game elements that make for a lifetime of golf enjoyment.

Bandon Crossings Golf Course, 87530 Dew Valley Lane, bandoncrossings.com; Bandon Dunes Golf Resort, 57744 Round Lake Drive, bandondunesgolf.com.

Image: Students warm up on the driving range for Bandon Crossings Youth Golf, summer 2012. Photo by Geneva Miller.



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