March 2020 Release

To our friends in the media, including publishers, editors, writers and photographers– Thank you for your interest in Bandon and the Southern Oregon Coast!

The timing of this media release packet coincides with protective measures to slow the spread of COVID-19. Many of our area businesses have temporarily adjusted services or changed business hours, events have been cancelled or postponed, and many public venues are closed or have delayed seasonal opening.

When you’re ready to visit or follow up on a story, please contact us. We’re here to help with your travel and research. Contact information for the Bandon Chamber of Commerce is included on page six of this packet.
Memorial Day Weekend
May 22, 23 and 24, 2020

Join the Port of Bandon summer season kick-off, Memorial Day Weekend, on the waterfront in Old Town Bandon. The farmers, seafood and artisan market is open Friday through Sunday at the Old Town Marketplace. The 18th annual Boardwalk Art Show makes its debut. And, anglers celebrate the opening of halibut season.

Members of Bandon’s Ministerial Association lead an interdenominational blessing of the fleet to honor those lost at sea, those who make their living on the sea, and military veterans. Following the ceremony, Bandon VFW officiates a gun salute at South Jetty beach as ministers scatter flowers at the mouth of the river.

The annual Port of Bandon Boardwalk Art Show is an outdoor public art installation with works by amateur and professional artists. The 2020 show theme is Gardens Under the Sea. Tour the exhibit and nominate your favorites for People’s Choice awards. Art show ballots are available at Bandon Bait and Tackle, 110 First St. SE.

For more information about events, moorage and launch facilities, contact the Port of Bandon, 541-347-3206, portofbandon.com.

Independence Day
July 4, 2020

Bring the family and enjoy a festive 4th of July on the Coquille River waterfront in Old Town Bandon.

Events begin at 10 a.m. with the Celebration Parade. Wander up to City Park for the Lion’s Club BBQ lunch, then back to the Port of Bandon for an afternoon at the farmers market and a bird’s eye view of the Port of Bandon Cardboard Boat Races.

Evening activities include a wine and art walk, live music, and the Grand Fireworks Display.

Community events are sponsored by the City of Bandon and local organizations, including the Bandon Chamber of Commerce, Bandon Lions Club, Greater Bandon Association, Port of Bandon, and VFW Medal of Honor Post #3440.

Find event details at bandon.com/4th-of-july.
Bandon Cranberry Festival
September 11, 12, and 13, 2020

The longest running festival on the Oregon Coast boasts more than seven decades of family fun with a parade, festival market, street dance– and our annual cranberry eating contest.

The Bandon Cranberry Festival is a lively introduction to the community as well as a time-honored tradition for residents. The festival celebrates local cranberry farming, with entertainment for youth and adults. Enjoy live music and performing arts, classic cars and farm equipment, sports, shopping and dining.

Organized by the Bandon Chamber of Commerce, events are staged in Old Town, the Port of Bandon waterfront, Sprague Community Theater, city park, and Bandon High School.

Get the full list of festival events at bandon.com/cranberry-festival. Or, contact the Bandon Chamber & Visitors Center, open daily at 300 2nd St. SE, in Old Town Bandon.
Holiday Highlights
November through December, 2020

Old Town Bandon lights up Thanksgiving weekend, as merchants welcome guests with festive displays, and the Port of Bandon boardwalk sparkles with lighted sculptures.

Join the tree-lighting ceremony at the Night of 10,000 Lights. Enjoy refreshments, music, photos with Santa and a nog walk through Old Town. This free community event is presented by the Greater Bandon Association with the Bandon Chamber of Commerce.

The fun continues through December as residents and visitors "shop small" with locally owned businesses for Small Business Saturday.

Visit our event calendar for community events through the holiday season. Featured performances for the 2020 season include "The Nutcracker" ballet, presented by MarLo Dance Studio at the Sprague Community Theater.

Start planning your holiday visit online at bandon.com/holiday-highlights.

Gorse Blossom Festival
February 12, 13 and 14, 2021

This is not your average beer and wine fest: The Gorse Blossom Festival highlights Bandon's heritage and culture with a quirky angle on local horticulture.

Eco-education highlights the connection between great food and healthy landscapes. Learn about invasive plant species, such as the local gorse plant, and get tips even home gardeners can use to promote healthy local landscapes.

Save the date Presidents Day weekend. Festival vendors showcase Pacific Northwest wine, beer, food, crafts, and live music. Sunday’s Bloody Mary Stroll is a movable cocktail party through Old Town Bandon.

Organized by the Greater Bandon Association, the festival was named winner (in its inaugural year!) for Best Downtown Special Event by the Oregon Main Street program.

Find tickets and event details at gorseblossomfest.com.
Bandon Crab Fest
February 20 and 21, 2021

The annual opening of the Oregon Dungeness Crab fishery starts with a community-wide celebration in Bandon. Get your fill of fresh crab, live music and fun at the Bandon Crab Fest.

Festive feasts are Saturday and Sunday, February 20 and 21, 2021. The menu features fresh cooked crab plus assorted side dishes and beverages. (Diners who avoid shellfish may choose prime rib as their meat entree.) Shake a crab leg to live music, from folk to rock 'n roll.

Held at the Old Town Marketplace, the Crab Fest is a rotating fundraiser benefiting local nonprofits. Past fundraising recipients include the Bandon Historical Society and Bandon High School industrial arts students. The event is presented by the Bandon Chamber of Commerce with the support of local businesses and Port of Bandon.

Event details at bandon.com/crab-fest.
FESTIVALS & HOLIDAY EVENTS | SPRING 2020 - WINTER 2021
MEDIA RELEASE | BANDON OREGON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Enclosed text copy approved for release and publication. Media queries welcome. Print resolution photos available on request– please contact us!

Contact: Bandon Chamber of Commerce

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In this packet, photo credits go to

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Geneva Miller, Gorse Blossom Festival and crab, pages 4 and 5
Eric Wyatt, MarLo Dance Studio Nutcracker, page 4
Margaret Pounder, Crab Fest, page 5


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