

OCEAN

Majestic offshore world revealed on Noyo Center trip

By Chris Calder
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When it comes to enjoying a day on the Pacific, sometimes it's the little things that suffice. A glimpse of harbor seals as we head out from Noyo Harbor, the gentle rise and fall of the boat on slow ocean swells as we venture out onto the ocean, the presence of scattered flocks of seabirds — grebes, auklets, murre and more.

Then, for those of us used to viewing the ocean from the Fort Bragg shoreline, there's the opportunity to flip the image and see something different — the Fort Bragg shoreline from a mile or so out to sea. Waves slipping out from under the boat and crashing against the bluffs, the long view of the greens, browns and golds of the coastal trail, familiar buildings seen in miniature, the long sweep of the Coast Range in the background. It's, well, majestic.

But, let's face it, most folks heading out for a few hours on the Pacific have their view fixed seaward. And while they may be content to see the little things, in their hearts they're hoping for giants — meaning whales. And so it was on a calm, overcast day last week for a group of friends and supporters of the Noyo Center for Marine Science aboard the F/V Telstar.

Partnership

For the past three years,



CARIN BEROLZHEIMER — CONTRIBUTED

Sea lions lounging on the red buoy at the entrance to Noyo Harbor.

as part of its mission to promote marine education, the Noyo Center has been subsidizing occasional trips to sea aboard the Telstar, creating an opportunity for many local kids and adults to experience the Pacific up close and personal. A trained Noyo Center naturalist, in this case local science educator Sue Coulter, accom-

panies each trip. While whales are never guaranteed, there's always something wonderful to experience and every outing is a learning opportunity.

Last week's trip was piloted by Captain Sean Thornton, son of the legendary and much-loved Captain Randy Thornton, who started the Trips to Sea program in collabora-

tion with the Noyo Center and captained all of the early trips before his sadly premature death in May 2017. Captain Randy was a fount of sea lore and so is Captain Sean, who started learning the trade from his father at age eight and earned his captain's papers earlier this year. Although only 25, Captain Sean has seen it all — blues, grays, humpbacks, orcas, even a school of white sided dolphins numbering in the hundreds — and he's happy to share his expertise.

So, as we left the dock in Noyo Harbor last week, we were feeling lucky. And the thrills weren't long in coming. A harbor seal swirled out of the way as we chugged down-harbor, only to be succeeded minutes later by the sight of a group of sea lions resting on Buoy 2. They were California sea lions, to be sure, but on closer inspection we also identified a Steller sea lion, a young male of a threatened species that generally ranges in northern waters and can weigh more than a ton. Wow!

Birds, of course, were everywhere and as we turned north out of the harbor we steamed through a myriad of large pinkish jellyfish that, to me, looked like giant rhododendrons cast upon the water.

Spouts

And then the real thrills began. Just minutes north of the harbor we spotted a whale spout, then another.

NOYO » PAGE 8

COMMUNITY

Volunteers pull nearly a ton of trash from Highway 20 park site

Mendocino Coast Recreation and Park District

A recent cleanup day at the Mendocino Coast Recreation and Park District's Regional Park property on Highway 20 and Summers lane netted more than 1700 pounds of garbage from two homeless camps on the property.

About 30 volunteers worked through a rainy day for the project, which is part of work connected with two state grants focused on cleaning up the property.

Over the course of the day, these volunteers while weathering bouts of down pouring rain and mud, cleaned up two homeless camps which involved the removal of large amounts of garbage, clothing, blankets and other sleeping materials and human waste. One camp involved 168 gallons of garbage and many items that did not

fit in the bags. The second camp was a re-infestation of an area that had been cleaned up previously. Once again, the area was covered with garbage and human waste.

In addition, volunteers gathered 160 tires, including many of which had been partially burned. Using light mechanized equipment, volunteers were able to haul out four illegally abandoned vehicles out to the flat, open area on the property. Two of these vehicles were left intact, while the remaining two had to be cut into pieces for hauling and disposal. By the end of the day, volunteers had managed to collect and dispose of 1,720 pounds of garbage not including scrap metal. Many discarded needles were collected and volunteers found much evidence of drug use.

CLEANUP » PAGE 8



MCCRPD — CONTRIBUTED

A volunteer removes an abandoned vehicle from the MCCRPD Regional Park property.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors at its regular meeting on **Tuesday, November 6, 2018, at 9:00 a.m.**, to be held in the **Board of Supervisors Chambers, 501 Low Gap Road, Ukiah, California**, will conduct a public hearing on the following project at the time listed or as soon thereafter as the item(s) may be heard.

CASE#: OA_2018-0002

DATE FILED: 2/12/2018

APPLICANT: COUNTY OF MENDOCINO

AGENT: DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND BUILDING SERVICES

REQUEST: Adoption of (1) an Ordinance to add Chapter 22.17 (Floodplain Ordinance) of Mendocino County Code to the Local Coastal Program, (2) an Ordinance deleting and modifying portions of Division II of Title 20 of Mendocino County Code (Coastal) resulting from adoption of the Floodplain Ordinance, and (3) a Resolution authorizing Planning and Building Services to submit to the California Coastal Commission an Amendment to the Mendocino County Local Coastal Program.

LOCATION: Within the unincorporated area of Mendocino County. The ordinance will be adopted for those areas within the designated Coastal Zone.

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: Categorically Exempt per CEQA Guidelines Section 15308

STAFF PLANNER: Bill Kinser

PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION: The Planning Commission, at their March 15, 2018 meeting, recommended approval to the Board of Supervisors.

The staff report and notice are available for public review, on or before October 22, 2018, at 860 North Bush Street, Ukiah, California, 120 West Fir Street, Fort Bragg, California and on the Department of Planning and Building Services website at:

<https://www.mendocinocounty.org/government/planning-building-services/public-notice>

Your comments regarding the above project(s) are invited. Written comments should be submitted to the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, at 501 Low Gap Road, Room 1010, Ukiah, California, 95482, no later than Monday, November 5, 2018. Oral comments may be presented to the Board of Supervisors during the public hearing.

The Board of Supervisors action shall be final. If you challenge the project in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors or the Board of Supervisors at, or prior to, the public hearing. All persons are invited to appear and present testimony in this matter.

Additional information regarding the above noted item(s) may be obtained by calling the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors at 463-4441, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m., or the Department of Planning and Building Services at 234-6650, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m. Should you desire notification of the Board's decision you may do so by requesting notification in writing and providing a self-addressed stamped envelope to the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors.

BRENT SCHULTZ, Director of Planning and Building Services

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