

History

On November 9th 1970, a 45 foot ~8ton sperm whale washed ashore on the South Jetty in Florence, Oregon.



Source: ohs.org

The beach location was under the jurisdiction of Oregon Department of Transportation, née Oregon Highway Division. Ideas to assist decomposition lead to the idea to blow up the whale. A charge of one-half short ton (lots) of dynamite was selected to break the carcass down and distribute pieces for nature to continue the decomposition process.

Detonation was at 3:45pm on November 12th, 1970. The explosion threw whale flesh around 800 feet in a hemisphere of directions. Needless to say, the idea didn't really work as desired, BUT most importantly, we celebrate this historical event for many reasons.

Unfortunately, in 1979, 41 sperm whales beached nearby on the same beach, state parks officials burned and buried them.

Purpose

You may wonder why celebrate something that seems disgusting or not something to celebrate?

Over the past few years, more & more people and businesses have wanted to participate in a celebration. This celebration covers many things:

- Cultural event that has lived on for more than 50 years!
- Lesson on learning from our mistakes
- Celebrate nature, our environment and it's processes
- A debacle that has turned into a local legend AND known world wide
- Honoring history, even the absurd
- Channels morbid curiosity into a positive channels that support local flavor
- Promotes economic prosperity
- A community pride event
- Helps fund local arts & cultural activities
- etcetera

Learn more about the Exploding Whale at the Siuslaw News location on the Whale Trail, our facebook/instagram page (@ILoveFlorence97439) or at ILoveFlorence97439.com.

Points of Interest

- **Driftwood Shores Beach** Walkable Access (88416 1st Ave) and near the location of privately owned Xploding Whale Beach Camp
- **Exploding Whale Memorial Park** (612 Rhododendron Dr)
- **Exploding Whale BONES** at the Siuslaw Pioneer Museum (278 Maple St - across from Homegrown)
- **iSpy Whale Weather** vane in Gazebo Park (end of Laurel Street on Bay Street) - Be sure to look up!
- **South Jetty** - the location of the Explosion! Be sure to park and walk up the sandy hills for a spectacular view!
- **Whale Memorial** day use in Lot 6. Memorial location for 44 whales what washed ashore in 1977.
- **Beyond Your Front Door** KXCR Radio Interview about Exploding Whale Trail (kxcr.net)

53rd Anniversary

Exploding Whale



Trail & Memorial Celebration

Whale Trail of Activities, Promotions & Local Whale Information

At Participating Locations all week with Celebration on the 53rd Anniversary of the Explosion on November 12th from Noon to 6pm at Homegrown Public House - Commemorative Toast at 3:45pm -

Sponsored By

homegrown
PUBLIC HOUSE BREWERY



BeauxArts
Fine Art Materials

Activities & Promotions See inside for details!

- The Market at Driftwood Shores
- Driftwood Shores Resort & Conference Center
- Exploding Whale Beach Camp
- US Bead Warehouse
- BeauxArts Fine Art Materials
- Boba Flo BubbleTea & Coffee
- Coffee Stained Creations
- Homegrown Public House
- Siuslaw News
- Siuslaw Pioneer Museum

Special Guests



Paul Linnman



Merman Dan



Eugene Emeralds Baseball Club

- The Marine Mammal Institute from OSU
- Trailkeepers of Oregon
- Surfrider Foundation



Learn More: ILoveFlorence97439.com
Facebook & Instagram @ILoveFlorence97439

Promotions & Activities

All Week*Even Month

The Market at Driftwood Shores*

All month long! The Market at Driftwood Shores is honoring The Whale by offering a special Exploding Whale Burger - between two 1/4 beef patties & bun, you will experience cheddar cheese, bacon, sausage, jalapeno popper, lettuce, tomato, red onion, dill pickle with spicy mayo and choice of side (\$18).

88416 1st Avenue
541.902.6447
DriftwoodShores.com/the-market
Daily, 7am - 7pm

Driftwood Shores Resort & Conference Center

10% off guest room rates during the week of Sun, Nov 5th thru Sun, Nov 12th. Not applicable with other discounts. Mention "The Exploding Whale Rate" and must call hotel direct to make reservation.

88416 1st Avenue
541.997.8263
DriftwoodShores.com
Nov. 5 thru Sun, Nov 12

US Bead Warehouse

Stop in for incredible selection of beads and jewelry making supplies! Perfect place to find treasures!

3015 Highway 101, Suite H
541.997.0109
Tuesday to Saturday, 10am to 4pm

BeauxArts Fine Art Materials

Exploding Whale Swag (T-Shirts, Sweatshirts, Stickers, Pins, etc..) which supports local arts activities. Art up your own whale with themed art project kits all week long!

Stop by this week to add on the Whale Painting. We are doing an exquisite corpse painting to be displayed on Sunday at Homegrown.

2285 Highway 101, Suite H
541.991.8213
Tuesday to Friday, Noon to 5pm & Saturday, Noon to 4pm

Boba Flo BubbleTea & Coffee*

All Month & Longer - Enjoy the "Exploding Whale" Soda!!! Blue Raspberry flavored (to represent the ocean) and BURSTING Strawberry Boba (to represent the exploding guts). Try it as an energy drink too!

2175 Highway 101
541.997.8841
Daily, 6am- 6pm

Siuslaw News

Window display of local exploding whale history and information. We also will have Florence-Opoly as a special drawing at the Sunday Homegrown Event!

148 Maple Street
TheSiuslawNews.com

Virtual Promotions

Coffee Stained Creations

Don't miss this exclusive opportunity to savor the essence of the 53rd Exploding Whale Anniversary with "Whale of a Coffee Time." These limited-time blends are a toast to history and the love of coffee, perfectly balanced and roasted to perfection.

Available for a short time only, so make sure to savor the moment with "Whale of a Coffee Time" before it swims away! Visit website for details at CoffeeStainedCreations.com

Exploding Whale Beach Camp

Exploding Whale Beach Camp offers Vintage Airstream camping in a private "camp-like" setting. Great for adventurous couples, singles and small families. Learn more about local adventures at facebook.com/ExplodingWhaleBeachCamp

November 6th

City of Florence Proclamation
Council Chambers City Hall
250 Highway 101 at 5:30pm

November 9th

Date of the Exploding Whale
arriving in Florence 53 years ago

Promotions on November 12th

Homegrown Public House & Brewery

Community Memorial Location (art altar) featuring Exploding Whale Pale Ale, Amazing Food & Beverage Menu, Exploding Whale Swag Supporting Local Arts & More!

294 Laurel Street
541.997.4886
homegrownpublichouse.com &
[@HomegrownPub](https://twitter.com/HomegrownPub)
Noon to 6pm

Noon to 3pm

Surfrider Foundation

The Surfrider Foundation is a community of everyday people who passionately protect our playground - the ocean, waves, and beaches that provide us so much enjoyment. SurfFider.org

The Marine Mammal Institute from OSU

The Marine Mammal Institute at Oregon State University integrates research, graduate education, and public outreach to advance knowledge of marine mammals, train the next generation of professionals, and engage with stakeholders to ensure that these animals and their ecosystems are always healthy. MMI.OregonState.edu

Trailkeepers of Oregon

Their work takes the form of trail maintenance projects and advocacy work to restore proper funding to a resource so beneficial and beloved by Oregonians. TrailKeepersOfOregon.org

Eugene Emeralds Baseball Club

High-A West Affiliate, San Francisco Giants

The Eugene Emeralds have the Exploding Whales as Alternate Identity! #RootedHere milb.com/eugene

3:45pm - Toast to Whale

Actual Explosion 53 years ago

Siuslaw Pioneer Museum

Exploding Whale Exhibit, a must see across the street from Homegrown!

278 Maple Street
Wednesday to Sunday, Noon - 4 pm
SiuslawPioneerMuseum.com