



**Seagulls suffer first loss of season**

# CANNON BEACH GAZETTE



## Mayor discusses his vision for school rejuvenation project

**Kathleen Stinson**  
For The Gazette

Cannon Beach Mayor Sam Steidel discussed his ideas for the school rejuvenation project at a work session saying he envisions a multi-use facility, which would leave some of the more extensive remodeling for later phases.

The mayor said this was his vision, not the council's and he hopes it will initiate discussion. A copy of his power point is on the city website.

At the work session presentation, the mayor led the councilors through a room-by-room description of his vision starting with the classrooms.

Classroom 4 would be left "pretty much as it is" for an art space, he said. He suggests upgrading classroom 3 into a "basic conference room, nothing fancy" with a sliding door between it and the adjacent classroom 2, allowing the option to combine the rooms.

He said he would have classroom 2 as an environmental exhibit room as well as a place for cultural and historical displays. He thinks classroom 1 could house a kitchen facility where the community could, among other things, bake Christmas cookies and hold pot luck dinners.

He thinks the kitchen could contain mobile cooking stations for the purpose of teaching.

He said he would like to

see the city focus all its restroom facilities for the site in one space so the plumbing could be centralized. Later on in the meeting, councilors discussed whether this was feasible and if both the classrooms and the gym needed their individual restrooms to comply with code standards.

He thinks the breezeway and entryway should be rebuilt and re-roofed and perhaps utilize "artistic downspouts."

"This is one spot where we



**Mayor Sam Steidel**

can make an architectural" statement, he said. "We need to think about what we want the feel to be."

He said he thinks the gym needs floor, lighting and door upgrades and to become ADA compliant.

He thinks the former small stage in the north room should be reinstalled and the west rooms used as a cloak room.

The upper office should be retained as an office, if that would be ADA compliant, he said. The loft could be used for facility operations and

storage and also as a meeting space as it has "a nice view."

The attic space could house heating, ventilation and mechanicals for the building, he said.

"The East Room has huge potential" because of its long narrow configuration making it "perfect" for exhibits. "It could be permanently locked separate from the gym." The windows could be enlarged "so it has more connection to the garden space outside."

Councilor Nancy McCarthy asked if the interpretive center would be just for Haystack Rock. The mayor said this is open for discussion but it could also provide space for cultural, historical and environmental exhibits. It contains about 75 feet of wall space.

The mayor said the gardens

could be used for native and other species of plants and the "interpretive trail could go around the entire property."

The adjacent property is owned by the city and the two areas could be combined as one park.

The grove could become an outdoor classroom and is a natural site for a picnic area, he said. Young people like to gather in that area. He would move the berm over, leaving the field for sports and other functions.

He said an outdoor music venue is "very important" and could contain a movable sound shell or perhaps a gazebo.

He suggested a canoe or

■ See **MAYOR**, Page 4

## FAT BIKE FEST



## CANNON BEACH FAT BIKE FESTIVAL SET FOR APRIL 30 - MAY 2

The Cannon Beach Fat Bike Festival is one of the best events of the year and one of the first to return to the Oregon coast. If you ride a fat tire bike, there is no better place to be than riding your bike around Hug Point on the scenic Oregon coast with fellow fat bike enthusiasts.

With races, beach games with awesome prizes, delicious local beer, and good company, you cannot go wrong. All activities will be under current COVID-19 guidelines and under the Oregon Health Authority Sector Guidance - Outdoor Recreation and Outdoor Fitness Establishment Order

and follow all CDC guidelines.

"Explore the beauty of Cannon Beach by bike. We will have safely distanced group fat bike rides from the heart of Cannon Beach to the waterfall at Hug Point. Beach bike games and sunset activities on the beach will be spread out to enjoy while keeping groups small and distanced. Saturday activities will also include a scavenger hunt that is a fun way to explore the town like a local," said Daniella Crowder, director of Oregon Rides & Events.

Tickets on sale now at: [www.cannonbeach.org/fatbike](http://www.cannonbeach.org/fatbike)

### What Is A Fat Bike Festival?

A fat bike is an off-road bicycle with extra wide tires perfect for soft unstable terrain like snow, mud and sand. What makes Oregon's Cannon Beach Fat Bike Festival so special is that it takes place on one of the most scenic coastlines in the Pacific Northwest. Riders will get to ride their bikes around Hug Point, around the community of Cannon Beach, and to a nearby waterfall. There's nothing quite like a sunset beach ride, or enjoying good

■ See **FESTIVAL**, Page 3



## District election approaches May 18

Staff Report

Clatsop County's regular district election is Tuesday, May 18. The last day to register to vote is Tuesday, April 27.

Ballots will be mailed to all local, active registered voters April 28-May 4. Ballots cannot be forwarded.

Ballots are due in the county clerk's office or in an official ballot drop box by 8 p.m. May 18. Postmarks do not count.

If you wait until the last week before the election to vote, use an Official Ballot Drop Box.

### Candidates on ballot

#### Falcon-Cove Beach Water District

Commissioner, position 1: Beth Radich, David G. Livermore  
Commissioner, position 3: Rick Smith, Colleen Kane  
Commissioner, position 5: Kathie May, David E. Cleland

#### Sunset Empire Park & Recreation District

Director, position 1: Al Hernandez, Susan Coddington  
Director, position 2: John C. Huisman, Celeste Tuhy Bodner  
Director, position 3: Michael A. Hinton, Patrick Duhachek  
Director, position 4: Jackie Evans, Erika Marshall-Hamer  
Director, position 5: Stephen Morrison, Katharine Parker

#### Clatsop Community College

Director, zone 2, position 2: Patrick Preston, Sara Meyer  
Director, zone 2, position 3: Trudy Van Dusen Citovic, Robert Duehmig, and Christina Secord  
Director, zone 3, position 5: Rosemary Baker-Monaghan  
Director, zone 3, position 6: Suzanne Iverson, David Zunkel

#### Seaside School District

Director, zone 2, position 2: Brian Taylor  
Director, zone 3, position 1: AJ Wahl  
Director, zone 6, position 2: Brian J. Owen  
Director, zone 7, position 1: Michelle Wunderlich

Arch Cape Domestic Water Supply, Arch Cape Sanitary District, Cannon Beach Rural Fire Protection District, Gearhart Rural Fire Protection District, Seaside Rural Fire Protection District, Sunset Empire Transportation District, are also having elections but candidates are running unopposed.

## DEQ sets fine amount for sewage spill

**Kathleen Stinson**  
For The Gazette

Last July, a city wastewater pump failed, which resulted in a sewage spill onto the beach and ultimately a state fine.

"On July 17, a city of Cannon Beach wastewater pump station failed resulting in an estimated 26,000 gallons of sewage flowing onto the beach at the end of Nelchena Street," as previously reported by The Gazette.

"The city's Ecola and Matanuska pump stations failed, but since the Ecola was in bypass mode while the city made improvements, only the Matanuska pump overflowed," according to the



**City crews were quick to secure and clean up the area last summer when a wastewater pump station failed spilling an estimated 26,000 gallons of sewage onto the beach.**

■ See **DEQ**, Page 3

# Gazette alumni recount newspaper's history

**Justin Lacche**  
For The Gazette

It doesn't take long reading the latest issue of the Cannon Beach Gazette to see the many examples of how the community has rallied together during challenging times: COVID-19, local economy, health and wellness, just to name a few.

For some of The Gazette reporters from a generation ago, it remains a source of pride to see the importance of community journalism as strong as ever. Equally, reading the stories of the resolve and creativity of the Cannon Beach and supporting communities today reaffirms the power and importance of community journalism.

Some 20 years ago, The Gazette was on the second floor of the U.S. Bank building on North Hemlock Street. Chris Baker and I were part of a small staff that would go on to help The Gazette win three consecutive National Newspaper Association General Excellence awards (category: non-daily - 3,000 average circulation) from 2000-2002. A three-peat (though I hear that term is still trademarked, so no t-shirts for a while).

Ask Chris Baker, myself, or many others part of the Gazette era - those team accomplishments weren't about any individual: The community won those three "national championships". It was through very stories of Cannon Beach that The Gazette became, "America's Best Small Newspaper".

That period was also a time of fast technological evolution on the north coast. One could drive up the road to Seaside and purchase a flip phone for \$80 and send basic text messages, trying to stay underneath, what was at the time, expensive and very strict "minutes per month" cell phone packages.

And smart phones? That meant whoever was talking was an expert in her or his particular field.

The Gazette, like many

North Coast newspapers, began to build a base web presence. It wasn't always intuitive though, knowing how much to publish with readership. Newspapers at the time still generated much of its revenue through paid print subscriptions, individual print sales of papers and print-media advertising. There was no solid playbook for community newspapers to use to confidently build on-line readership. But The Gazette, like most other publications in the area, took its shot at digital media.

While the base paradigm of journalism was beginning the shift in the early 2000s: The concept of static print journalism which remained the source of truth until the next issue, versus stories that could be updated and corrected in real-time - the power and responsibility of community journalism remained. And it remains very much alive this very day.

Community journalism fundamentally is about three principles: First, giving a fair and locally-focused voice to the important issues and stories of the community. Second, empowering key unlocks to local stories that would otherwise not be covered at the state or national level. Third, the personal accountability that in community journalism, you could very-well see the person you are covering at the local market the day after publication. So, one always needs to be accountable, and report the news with honor, compassion and integrity.

It's great to see The Cannon Beach Gazette still in print, still relevant, still giving a voice to many courageous stories on the community. Online media and print media can and do have a happy medium for the community.

In the greater context: Looking at photos from 20 years or even 100 years before of Cannon Beach, we all can learn a value lesson from Haystack Rock. We may only have a finite amount of beach walks in our respective

## Gazette to be honored as top small newspaper in U.S.

~ CB newspaper selected as one of six NNA's 'General Excellence' winners in U.S.

The Cannon Beach Gazette will be one of six U.S. newspapers to be honored as "General Excellence" award winners when the National Newspaper Association holds its 115th annual convention and trade show in October in Louisville, Ky.

Gazette publishers Tom and Cat Mauldin were notified by NNA on Tuesday that the Gazette will be honored as the top non-daily newspaper in the United States with a circulation under 3,000.

"This is quite an honor," said Tom. "We've worked hard to give Cannon Beach the best newspaper we can and to have our peers recognize us this way is absolutely wonderful. NNA's General Excellence is the granddaddy of newspaper awards and to be considered the best in the country is ... well, I'm thrilled, to say the least."

According to Gini Nelson, NNA contest coordinator, General Excellence is judged on "the overall evaluation of the newspaper" with heavy emphasis on news coverage, quality of writing, headline language, use of photos and artwork, mechanical evidence of craftsmanship and skill in composition, reproduction and presswork, editorial pages, front page, family life/living pages, sports pages, advertising design and layout, quality and technique of copywriting, handling of classified and or readers ads and taste and treatment of public notices.

Nelson also noted that The Gazette is the only newspaper in the Northwest to be so honored.

According to the judges, the Gazette has "outstanding news coverage, timely, in-depth writing, wonderful graphics and design making it an easy winner."

The Gazette will also receive two other national awards in Louisville: Cat Mauldin for a 2nd place in "spot news" photography for non-daily newspapers with circulations under 5,000; and an honorable mention for typography in the same category.

Cat Mauldin's award-winning photo was capturing a giant wave crashing into the seawall west of Webb's Scenic Surf during a major storm in February, 1999.

Typography is based upon a newspaper's general makeup, advertising typography, (selection and effective use of faces, illustrations and borders) headlines, readability and presswork.



The Gazette's full-time staff - reporter Justin Lacche and publishers Tom and Cat Mauldin share the "No. 1" news. Photo by Shane Burley.

"I figured we might be getting something from the NNA, but I didn't think we'd be honored as the best non-daily newspaper (in our category) in the U.S.," said Tom. "There's a lot of people to say thanks to - our incredible community, readers and our advertisers, but my biggest thanks go to Cat and Justin (Lacche, reporter) for their efforts and professionalism."

The publisher also praised editorial assistants Kris Ruecker, LeeAnn Neal, Jenni Bradley and Lynn Richardson and columnists Jeff Kilday, Dr. Dave Hepburn, Phil Winberry, Craig Sparks, Andy Dunn, Anne Wierum and M.E. Anderson.

In addition to the NNA honors, the

Gazette will be honored at the Oregon Newspaper Publisher's Association's annual convention this weekend at Eagle Crest in Central Oregon. The 2000 ONPA Better Newspaper Contest was judged by the Delaware/Maryland/Washington D.C. Publisher's Association.

The Gazette received six ONPA awards in 1999, including the Sweepstakes Award as the most honored Associate member. The 1999 ONPA Better Newspaper contest was judged by the New Mexico Publisher's Association.

The Mauldins purchased the Gazette from Don and Joan Holden in June, 1998. Depending on the season, the Gazette's circulation ranges between 2,800 and 4,000.

### NNA General Excellence Award Winners 2000

**Daily Division**  
The Gainesville Sun, Gainesville, FL.

**Non-Daily (10,000 or more)**  
The Taos News, Taos, N.M.

**Non-Daily (6000 & up)**  
Jackson Hole News, Jackson, WY.

**Non-Daily (3000-5,999)**  
Jackson Hole Guide, Jackson, WY

**Non-Daily (3,000)**  
**CANNON BEACH GAZETTE**  
2nd Place - The Tecumseh Countrywide News, Tecumseh, OK.  
3rd place - Winters Express, Winters, CA.  
Honorable Mention - Elkhorn Independent, Elkhorn, WI.; The Journal, Camp Verde, AZ; The Rutherford Courier, Smyrna, TN.

**Monthly Division**  
The Tribeca Trib, New York, NY.

journeys, but together, we all are writing the latest chapter in Cannon Beach's important

history. Justin Lacche and Chris Baker were former staff

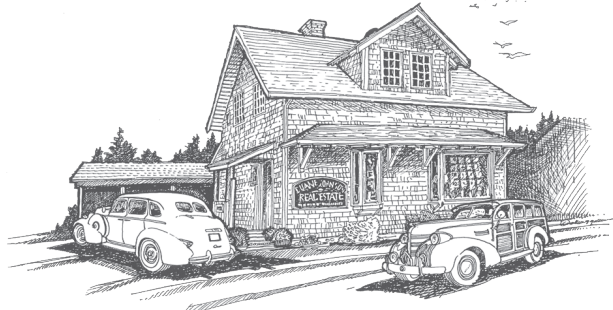
reporters for the Cannon Beach Gazette during parts of its three-consecutive National

Newspaper Association General Excellence award years 2000-2002.



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**Your friends at Duane Johnson Real Estate are excited to announce that we have started a construction project to remodel and improve our office.**

Don't worry - our iconic building will still look the same from the outside and continue to serve as a Cannon Beach landmark. But we will be updating the inside office space, increasing the comfort and usability for our clients and staff. During this process, we will remain open and the office will be staffed and have serviceable space in which to help clients and conduct business. If you happen to stop by and need assistance but can't access the front door, just call (503) 436-0451 and someone will let you in the 'back door' to your left.

We are excited to show off our 'new and improved' office space to all of you when the project is completed! The plan is to have construction finished by March 15th, so stay tuned and make a plan to come see our 'new digs'!

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**At the library**

**Popular crime writer, NCLC director, Cannon Beach Reads offer virtual events in April**

**Joseph Bernt**  
Library Volunteer

The Northwest Authors Series at the Cannon Beach Library will feature a presentation via Facebook LIVE by bestselling mystery author J. A. Jance, Saturday, April 10, at 2 p.m.

Jance will present "J.A. Jance, Her Life and Times, 2021 Edition." She will discuss her current writing projects, highlight her latest Joanna Brady mystery, "Missing and Endangered," and reveal her next Ali Reynolds book, "Unfinished Business," scheduled for bookstores in June. She also intends to discuss the origins of some of her popular characters.

Jance, who was born in South Dakota, grew up and spent her early adult life in Arizona. She now lives near Seattle with her husband and two long-haired miniature dachshunds. Her J. P. Beaumont series is set in the Seattle area, and her Ali Reynolds, Joanna Brady and Walker Family series of novels are set in Arizona, where Jance spends part of the year.

Jance attended the University of Arizona. There she earned her undergraduate degree in English and

Secondary Education in 1966 and a Master of Education in Library Science in 1970.

She taught high school English for two years in Tucson, was a K-12 librarian at Indian Oasis School District for four years in Sells and thereafter sold life insurance in Phoenix, Arizona, before moving to Seattle.

The professor who taught creative writing at Arizona blocked Jance's admission to his program. He advised Jance that women fared better as nurses or teachers than as writers. In 2000, the University of Arizona nevertheless awarded her an honorary doctorate in recognition of her successful writing career.

Author of 63 mystery novels, Jance has published seven novellas, numerous short stories and a volume of poetry. Strand Magazine awarded her its Lifetime Achievement Award in 2018 for her contributions to crime fiction.

Those interested in joining Jance's program from the library's Facebook page should go to <https://www.facebook.com/cannonbeachlibrary/> and scroll to "posts." Or, join the program directly from the library website at [www.cannonbeachlibrary.org](http://www.cannonbeachlibrary.org) and click the banner at the top of the page.

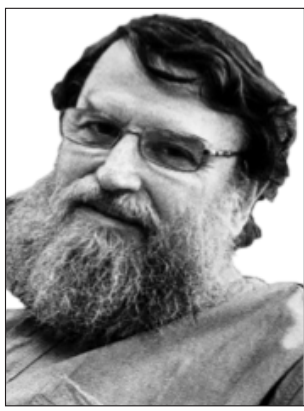
Participants with questions for Jance can ask them by emailing queries to [info@cannonbeachlibrary.org](mailto:info@cannonbeachlibrary.org) by April 7.

Katie Voelke, executive director of the North Coast Land Conservancy, will present "Climate Change and Conservation" in the World of Haystack Rock Lecture Series sponsored by the Friends of Haystack Rock through Facebook LIVE @Friends of Haystack, Wednesday, April 14, at 7 p.m.

Voelke's presentation will focus on climate change in Oregon, particularly on the coast, and how to combat it now through local conservation efforts.

Voelke and her husband settled on Oregon's North Coast in 2003. She began conducting field work with the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Voelke began as NCLC's first stewardship director in 2005, working with Neal Maine, NCLC's founding



**Joseph Bernt**

executive director. In 2008, she succeeded Maine as executive director.

Members of Cannon Beach Reads will discuss "Night" by Elie Wiesel via Zoom, on Wednesday, April 21, at 7 p.m. Les Sinclair will lead the discussion of Wiesel's nonfictional account of his experience in Nazi concentration camps at Auschwitz and Buchenwald toward the end of World War II.

Cannon Beach Reads will continue meeting on the third Wednesday of each month via Zoom until in-person meetings are again possible. Anyone interested in participating in this library reading group should contact Joseph Bernt at [berntj@ohio.edu](mailto:berntj@ohio.edu) for information about accessing these Zoom meetings.

In November, members of Cannon Beach Reads will discuss "How to Educate a Citizen: The Power of Shared Knowledge to Unify a Nation," the most recent book by E. D. Hirsch, Jr. on the alleged failure of American education.

Ever an early bird at the green-dot shelf of new library acquisitions, I spotted a copy of Hirsch's new excoriation of "wrong-headed" college education schools that train the nation's new K-12 teachers by nearly unanimously advocating "project," "discovery" and largely "content-free" approaches to elementary education.

Hirsch, now a retired English and education professor from the University of Virginia was among conservative academics in the late 1980s who criticized the failure of American education to teach the classics of Western culture and great-man portrayals of the nation's founding fathers.

In 1987, Hirsch published "Cultural Literacy: What Americans Need to Know," essentially a list of Western classics in philosophy, literature and history.

"Cultural Literacy" became an instant bestseller, offering red meat to cultural elitists troubled by multiculturalism, fearful of rebellious students and appalled by continuing declines in Scholastic Aptitude Test scores of college applicants and annual achievement test scores of K-12 students.

In "How to Educate a Citizen" Hirsch develops

only a slightly less rigid view of the dangers posed by multiculturalism. He still blasts the failure of elementary classrooms to present a core knowledge base on which today's students can develop and expand appreciation of American exceptionalism.

In the past couple of decades, popular educational views of teaching have been framed by two conflicting metaphors about a teacher's classroom relationship to his or her students. The traditional, perhaps conservative, teaching style favors lecturing with the teacher performing as a Sage on the Stage, the font of knowledge, as opposed to the more contemporary Guide on the Side, the informal advisor to students.

As a retired university professor, I employed both styles, and usually in the same courses. As a student, I personally much preferred a great Sage-on-the-Stage lecturer to a great Guide-on-the-Side advisor.

Clearly in "How to Educate a Citizen" Hirsch adopts a Sage-on-the-Stage style to sell a persuasive but simple message, a message unlikely to gain favor with many contemporary students now addicted to the moving image and instantaneous google access.

**DEQ**

Continued from Page 1

city's report.

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality in February fined the city of Cannon Beach \$1,650 for its wastewater spill, as stated in a DEQ press release. "The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality issued 15 penalties totaling \$1,443,639 in February for various environmental violations. Fines ranged from \$1,650 to \$458,266.

City Public Works Director

Karen La Bonte told The Gazette:

"The fine is for the spill last year. We are paying it and will not challenge it. We've made many improvements to that pump station and have asked for money to continue improvements at other pump stations that are 30 plus years old in the technology that is inside. So we are making positive strides in that respect.

"If DEQ views these things as preventable they usually come with penalties," La Bonte said. "Because this involved human error as well as equipment failure, a fine would be in order. I feel fortunate that it is fairly minimal especially

in times of impacts our budget has felt as a result of COVID, but none the less it's still painful. The good thing is we've been able to secure some funding at a very low interest rate (1% over 30 years) that comes with some principle forgiveness that has allowed us to make some improvements to not only the Matanuska pump station but several others as well. I feel grateful Council has allowed me to pursue those funding opportunities to address some of these infrastructure deficiencies. Some of those improvements have already occurred with larger ones to be forthcoming when the rest of the

funding is received."

As previously reported in The Gazette: "The spill did not get into the ocean water because it 'did not meet the tide level,' the city press release states. The city removed an amount of sand from the spill area and took it to a "secure uninhabited city-owned property site for handling. Barricades and caution tape were placed around the circumference of the affected area, as well as sandwich boards with signs indicating "WARNING: Contaminated Drainage - Do Not Enter".

"The initial cause (of the overflow) was associated with air pressure damage experienced in

a panel that controls the bubbler system, which also controls some of the key elements of the flow levels that act as the indicator and warning that ultimately trigger alert notices to city staff," the release states. "Additional discoveries of malfunctioning floats, as well as malfunctions in the auto dialer system were also discovered and contributed to the ultimate overflow condition."

To read the first story published in the Gazette in August, see [https://www.cannonbeachgazette.com/news/city-reacts-to-sewage-spill-on-beach/article\\_1ae002c-dc33-11ea-b34f-4beacea7bcd3.html](https://www.cannonbeachgazette.com/news/city-reacts-to-sewage-spill-on-beach/article_1ae002c-dc33-11ea-b34f-4beacea7bcd3.html).

**Festival**

Continued from Page 1

brews around a bonfire, and you will not find a better group of people to enjoy riding with.

The Cannon Beach Fat Bike Festival is one of the most scenic Fat Bike Festivals in the world.

**Schedule of Events:**  
**Dates: April 30 - May 2**

**Friday, April 30**  
5-7 p.m. | Packet pick up @ Cannon Beach Chamber ~ Community Hall, 207 N Spruce St, Cannon Beach, OR  
7:30-8:30 p.m. | Fat Bike Meet Up - Meet at the Chamber at 7:30 p.m. for a sunset beach ride along Ecola Creek

**Saturday, May 1**  
9:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m.



1 Fat Bike Beach Ride to Waterfall.

2-6 p.m. | Community Scavenger Hunt - A fun way to explore the town's best views, "locals spots," eats, brews, & shops.

7-9 p.m. | Beach bonfire and Fat Bike games. Meet at Tolovana Beach State Recreation Site (in front of Mo's Restaurant)

**Sunday, May 2**  
Participants are encour-

aged to drive to Klootchey Creek County Park (On HWY 26, approx. 5.5 miles from Cannon Beach) where you can take a self-guided ride of the Klootchey Creek Trails.

Due to limited availability, there will not be Fat Bikes to demo this year. You will need to bring your own Fat Bike to join the event.

If you're looking for more information, such as where parking will be available, look at <http://www.cannonbeach.org/fatbike>

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Photo by Matt Brandt Photography

# Frontline workers to be eligible for vaccine April 5

**Zack Demars**  
For The Gazette

Oregon's COVID-19 vaccination effort is picking up speed once again.

State officials announced on Friday, March 26, plans to open vaccine appointments to more groups sooner than originally planned, making frontline workers and other groups eligible for the vaccine starting April 5.

"In keeping with Oregon's commitment to equity, this change gives frontline workers and other group seven populations more time to get vaccinated," said Oregon Health Authority Director Patrick Allen Friday. "It also ensures that counties that have seen a plateau in demand among older adults can make sure they can continue to keep putting shots in arms at a rapid pace."

The group to become eligible April 5, which was originally set to be eligible two weeks later, includes about 800,000 people, including:

- Frontline workers as defined by the CDC,
- Multigenerational household members and
- Adults 16-44 with underlying health conditions.

That group will join another set of individuals who became eligible last week in 22 counties, and are set to be eligible statewide by March 29 at the latest, including:

- All adults 45-64 with underlying health conditions,
- Migrant and seasonal farm workers,
- Seafood and agricultural workers,
- Food processing workers,
- People living in low-income senior housing, senior congregate and independent

living.

- Individuals experiencing homelessness,
- People currently displaced by wildfires,
- Wildland firefighters and
- Pregnant people 16 and older.

Complete eligibility lists and definitions of "underlying health conditions" and "frontline workers" are available on the state's website at covid-vaccine.oregon.gov/

The newest timeline gives state and local health officials time to vaccinate higher-risk populations before vaccinations open to the general public by May 1.

That timeline could change, too — Allen on Friday announced counties may be able to move ahead in vaccinating the general population on April 26, if approved by OHA based on the county's vaccination rate and appointment availability.

"We'll ask counties to include an attestation that they're ready to move forward, and to document their efforts to vaccinate previously eligible populations that they expect to have appointments

available to expand sooner than May 1," Allen said.

Friday's news came as Oregon still lagged behind other states across the country in its rate of vaccinating seniors. About two thirds of Oregonians 65 and over have received a vaccine, putting the state around 35th in the country, according to OHA data.

"Oregon's recent high rate of vaccinating seniors has put us closer to most other states in the percentage of seniors who've been immunized, but some counties continue to lag," Allen said.

As always, the state's new timeline is only achievable if it receives enough doses of the vaccine to administer shots to those eligible. State officials said they'd anticipated an additional 40,000 doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine they didn't end up receiving last week.

"We still expect to receive sufficient supplies of doses from the federal government to hit the eligibility timelines Governor (Kate) Brown just announced. Despite the disappointing shortfall in

Johnson and Johnson (doses), the numbers continue to show that our total supplies will be adequate to vaccinate all Oregon adults by early June."

Soon, Allen said, the state will begin to hit a plateau in demand for the vaccine, and public health efforts will need to be redirected to encourage residents to get a vaccine, rather than managing limited supply.

"Right now as we get deeper into the senior population, we're seeing demand slow in some counties," Allen said. "Some counties remain below 50% of seniors vaccinated — not because they don't have appointments open. Some of the counties that are the furthest behind in vaccination rates are counties that conversely have our highest COVID-19 infection rates."

Officials said Friday the vaccines already administered are having an impact, as Oregon's trend of new virus cases is still decreasing.

"We continue to see a general trend of declining daily covid-19 cases, virus-related hospitalizations and positive

test results as more Oregonians are getting vaccinated every day," said Dr. Dean Sidelinger, state epidemiologist. "This is also because of the work of all Oregonians in continuing to wear masks, gather more safely and keep your distance."

The state's seven-day case average is down almost three-quarters from where it was at the beginning of the year, Sidelinger said. What's more, Sidelinger said newer, more dangerous variants of the virus have yet to take hold in Oregon as they have in other states.

And while masks, social distancing and other public health measures are still necessary to prevent those variants from spreading, Sidelinger said vaccinations will continue to be a useful tool in the fight against the pandemic.

"Based on our observation, we are confident that the existing vaccines can effectively prevent severe infection resulting in hospitalization or death," Sidelinger said Friday.

## OSP investigates defacing of Peter Iredale shipwreck

Staff report

Oregon State Police (OSP) responded to a call at 2 p.m. Monday, March 8, about vandalism to the Peter Iredale shipwreck, located at Fort Stevens State Park. The shipwreck had been spray painted

with the words "Black Lives Matter."

OSP said the group was reported to be a group of nine 20 year olds.

No further suspect of vehicle descriptions is available at this time.

## High-speed chase from Tillamook to Clatsop County ends in arrest

Staff Report

Oregon State Police (OSP) responded to an attempt to locate a vehicle, a blue Chevy Trailblazer, operated by Brandon Senff of West Linn, around 10:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 24. Senff had been involved in an earlier pursuit with Tillamook County Sheriff's Office. OSP Officer Ian Lamb located the vehicle on Hwy 101, near milepost 69, and measured the vehicle's speed to be over 100 mph and driving recklessly.

OSP reported Lamb began to pursue the vehicle northbound on Hwy 101. Lamb attempted to stop the vehicle using lights and sirens but Senff attempted to elude and continued driving recklessly on Hwy 101 and then northbound on Hwy 53.

"An ATO trooper used spike strips to disable both passen-

ger tires," Lamb stated in his report. "The driver eventually crashed the vehicle into a ditch on Hamlet Road in Clatsop County."

Senff was detained and showed multiple signs of impairment, according to OSP. He was also found to be in possession of suspected methamphetamine.

Senff was transported to the Tillamook County Jail, where he refused a breath test but consented to a drug recognition expert evaluation and provided a urine sample.

Senff was arrested and lodged at the Tillamook County Jail for reckless driving, reckless endangering a person, attempt to elude a police vehicle and driving under the influence of controlled substances. Classic Towing in Clatsop County towed the vehicle from the scene.

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**Kathleen Stinson**  
For The Gazette

Plans for the Fiscal Year 21-22 budget proposes building an outside storage area at the police station in order to move the contents from its garage bay to the new structure for the purpose of freeing up space in the station for operations.

"This project does not eliminate or delay the need for a replacement city hall/police station," as stated in the city budget power point. "It will only place a 'high-quality band aid' on some of the more egregious shortcomings of the Police Department facilities.

"The city hall/police station project has stalled but the need for acceptable facilities still exists. The Police Department facilities are in particularly deplorable condition."

## Mayor

Continued from Page 1

long house with one wall opening to the outside. He said he has had "a lot of discussion with Dick (Basch) about a canoe house."

The mayor has some ideas about parking, which are on

the city website in graphic form.

Councilor Mike Benefield said: "I like what you have put together. It makes a lot of sense."

The council is at the point where it can start making decisions.

The mayor said the chamber of commerce was "quite concerned about (the project) as competition" to other ven-

The economic impact of the pandemic on city revenues is the reason plans for a possible new station have been put on hold.

Police Chief Jason Schermerhorn told The Gazette in an email: "The tentative plan is to expand room for storage, specifically our cramped evidence room as well as records storage. We are also trying to find more room for the officers, lifeguards, and parking information aides to change in privacy (male locker bathroom area and female locker bathroom area) our current situation is very cramped and shared by all, which can be a bit much especially when we have our seasonal help on board as well. Another area of concern is the briefing/squad room is shared by all the officers and they only have their desks to work on their reports, process evidence, including field testing narcotics, and eat

their lunch.

"The plan is to expand into the Public works, HRAP, Farmers Market storage area to the north of the Police Department and move the storage area to a separate building.

"Although the PD is in dire need, all of city hall and the police department have outlived the useful life of the building that we occupy. We are in a conundrum in which we are continuing to have to make band aid fixes to repair problems and then another one pops up. It's a balance of remaining fiscally responsible to the tax payers, but also not wasting their money on continual repairs and fixes."

The Gazette could not find the cost of building a new storage area in the city budget materials. The Gazette asked the city for this information but was not able to get an answer as of press time.

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# Summer travel and vaccine booster shots: OSU panel discusses post-COVID future

**Zack Demars**  
For The Gazette

As vaccines spread across the globe and cities around the country thaw from under virus restrictions, one topic has been top of mind: What does a post-pandemic future look like?

A panel of experts from Oregon State University took up pieces of that question Tuesday in a forum addressing questions about the next steps for getting the population vaccinated, what it might take to travel internationally this summer and what lessons we can all take away from the COVID-19 crisis.

### Summer fun?

International travel might be a possibility this summer — but it'll be important for travelers to be vaccinated and aware of their surroundings, according to Chunhui Chi, the director of OSU's Center for Global Health.

"Even before vaccination, there's a component of travel that's safe, and there's a component of travel is not so safe," Chi said Tuesday.

According to Chi, airplane flights are actually safer than some might expect: With planes constantly filtering the air, that regular scrubbing can make them cleaner than other indoor spaces.

But areas outside the plane can be more challenging: Security check areas and other common spaces in airports can promote higher risks if they're not adequately spaced apart or cleaned regularly, Chi said.

And since each country has had a different virus response, every corner of the globe faces a slightly different state of the virus.

Chi said some regions are still experiencing significant virus spread and mutation,

while others are living life close to normal after strong lockdowns all but kept out the virus.

"I would suggest, look at the destination," Chi advises travelers. "You want to see the country you're traveling to be relatively safe, and there's no new variants ...."

### An annual vaccine?

The first round of COVID-19 shots might not be the last, according to Gaurav Sahay, an associate professor of pharmacy who's an expert in vaccine development.

Since the virus won't be going away even when many more people are vaccinated, continued mutations could reduce the effectiveness of already existing vaccines, Sahay said. That could make it necessary to get a new shot every year, just like for the flu.

"There is an assumption that perhaps this might be an annual event, because the virus will still be around," Sahay said. "But having said that, new technologies are being built and the hope is that this would really go down. So they are working on basically doing a booster shot."

And according to Brett Tyler, who directs the university's project to sequence and catalogue variants of the virus in Oregon, making sure populations across the globe are vaccinated could help reduce variants in the future.

That's because the more the virus spreads, the more it mutates — meaning there's a higher likelihood it'll mutate in a way that makes it less susceptible to the vaccine.

"It's going to be very important to help countries all around the world control the virus," Tyler said. "If we vaccinate all Americans but the virus is running unchecked



The Seaside Seagulls suffered their first loss of the season when they met the Tillamook Cheesemakers on the road last Friday night, March 26, bringing their season record to 2-1 overall and 2-1 in the Cowapa League standings. The Gulls meet Astoria on Friday night, April 2, in a league rival contest as the Gulls host the Fishermen at Broadway Field in Seaside at 7 p.m.. Pictured is running back Andrew Teubner as he takes a hand off in the first quarter. The Gulls lost to the Mooks 14-18. Photo by Joe Warren

elsewhere in the world, that creates the possibility of more and more variants appearing and returning back onto our shores, and this is one of the challenges that China is facing right now."

### Public health failures?

Tuesday's experts agreed: The response to COVID-19 has exposed plenty of cracks in public health systems across the country and state that can be improved before future crises.

"It's also laid bare the systemic inequities in our healthcare system — the lack of access particularly for persons with disabilities, the lack of access for vulnerable and minority communities and special populations," said Courtney Campbell, who's

researching the prioritization of vaccine distribution.

Since some groups already have more difficulties getting access to health care — like those with lower incomes, those who aren't as mobile or those without internet — the stress the pandemic has put on the system has made it even harder.

Campbell points to vaccine distribution as an example, and how the state's Latino population has made up a larger share of Oregon's virus cases but a smaller share of its vaccinations.

The distribution's also shown how struggles in public health staffing can stymie vaccination efforts, said Joseph Agor, who studies vaccine supply chains.

"I can have millions or tril-

ions of pounds of supplies, but if I don't have the people to distribute it, then really it's just going to create longer lines, waits and inefficiencies that really weren't planned to be there to begin with," Agor said.

And the hesitancy among some groups to get vaccinated has shown the impact systemic healthcare challenges, according to Daniel López-Cevallos, an associate professor of ethnic studies.

"It takes a consistent, thoughtful, conscious effort to reach out to those communities, so if those systems haven't been there in the past, it makes it that much harder," López-Cevallos said.

### Or reasons to cheer?

But an analysis of the

public health response to the virus shouldn't be all doom and gloom, according to Marion Ceraso, an associate professor who studies public health communication.

The fact that experts have gotten effective vaccines onto the market in less than a year is something to celebrate, Ceraso said — and something that celebrating might actually encourage more people to get vaccinated.

"I think as that community experience grows, the resistance to accepting the vaccine will get lower," Ceraso said. "These vaccines are an incredible, amazing public health success story, and I think we need to share that information with the public to really fully inform them of this picture."

# County moved to next vaccine priority groups March 29

Clatsop County Public Health and its local partners will begin offering COVID-19 vaccines this week to members of the next priority groups identified by the state, including adults

age 45 to 64 with underlying health conditions.

The county is also hosting a vaccination clinic for east-county residents on Wednesday, March 31, at Jewell School. And a special

weekend clinic will be held Saturday, April 3, at the Seaside Convention Center.

### NEW PRIORITY GROUPS

Under the State of Oregon's phased vaccine priority schedule, several groups are due to be eligible for shots beginning Monday, March 29, including adults 45-64 with underlying conditions, seafood workers, homeless people and others.

Adults with underlying health conditions are being scheduled for the Task Force's regular vaccination clinics held Mondays through Thursdays in Astoria and Seaside. Appointments will be made based on age — 64-year-olds first, then 63-year-olds, and so on. To get an appointment, sign up with the county's Vaccine Survey/Interest Form

found at [www.co.clatsop.or.us](http://www.co.clatsop.or.us).

The Task Force is arranging outreach vaccine clinics for other populations that are eligible under the state guidelines beginning March 29.

### JEWELL, SEASIDE CLINICS

The March 31 vaccination clinic for Jewell, Elsie and other east-county residents will be held from 10 a.m. to noon at Jewell School, 83874 Highway 103. The event is open by appointment only — to register for a spot, call the county Public Information Call Center at (503) 325-8500. The clinic is a joint project of Clatsop County and the Elsie-Vinemaple and Mist-Birkenfeld fire districts.

The April 3 Seaside vaccine clinic will be held from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Seaside

Convention Center, 415 1st Ave. It is also by appointment only — eligible individuals who have signed up with the county's Vaccine Survey/Interest Form will be contacted by the county for instructions on registering for the event.

### JOHNSON & JOHNSON VACCINE

Currently the county is receiving only limited deliveries of this one-dose vaccine, and as a result is reserving it for individuals and groups with mobility challenges or other barriers to accessing vaccines through the regular vaccination clinics.

"We urge people to take the first available vaccine, and not put off getting vaccinated in the hope of getting the Johnson & Johnson vaccine," said Margo Lalich, Clatsop

County Public Health director.

If you need help getting to a vaccination event, there are multiple providers:

- NW Rides (503) 861-0657 or 1-888-793-0439 (no charge)
- Dial-A-Ride (Sunset Empire Transportation District) (503) 861-7437 (no charge)
- Medix Non-Emergency Medical Transport (503) 861-1990
- K&M Medivan (503) 791-4347

As of March 24, a total of nearly 13,000 vaccine doses have been administered locally, either through the county's Vaccine Task Force or by pharmacies or other providers, and approximately 4,500 residents are fully vaccinated.

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