Merry Christmas

CANNON BEACH TAZETE

VOL. 44, ISSUE 26 FREE

CANNONBEACHGAZETTE.COM

December 25, 2020

Cannon Beach to be point of distribution for vaccine

Kathleen Stinson

For The Gazette

₹annon Beach has volunteered to be one of the points of distribution for the COVID 19 vaccine.

City emergency manager Rick Hudson said Friday that the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) along with the Red Cross will help build a mobile site or "use one of

our fixed sites, such as the community church or community center" to make into a point of distribution for the vaccine.

These groups will staff the distribution site, Hudson said. "We haven't got word to start building it yet."

"It's such a moving target – the information about the vaccine," he said. "Right now we're in Phase 1 of the

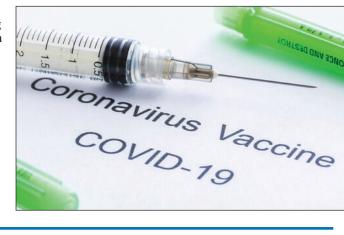
"There's a lot of unanswered questions," he said. "I think it's a good vaccine. I'm excited about getting it. I'm hoping we get above 70 percent of the population participating."

"Even if it is a good vaccine, we need people to embrace this to gain that herd immunity as a community," he said. "Even if you get the vaccine, you still have to wear a mask until

we reach the point of having herd immunity. We are going to have to have confidence in the process. We are going to have to have 70 percent participate to make this work."

Rudy Owens, public affairs specialist for the Oregon Health Authority, told The Gazette on Monday that Oregon is "scheduled to receive fewer doses this

See **VACCINE**, Page 4





DECKING THE HALLS













When it comes to Christmas, nobody decks the halls like the Cannon Beach Businesses. Katherine Mace captured these images of just some of the decorated shops and squares in town last week. (Top to bottom, left to right) Bruce's Candy Kitchen, Hallmark Resort, Fultano's Pizza, the Christmas lamp in Sandpiper Square, Geppetto's Toy Shoppe and a beautiful vintage holiday wreath displayed at The Butler Did It.

School district to continue distance learning through the week of Feb. 1

Kathleen Stinson For The Gazette

The Seaside School District will continue with distance learning at least through the week of February

Seaside School District Superintendent Susan Penrod said that at the school board meeting on Thursday, she recommended students "continue with distance learning through the week of February 1st -halfway through the second trimester."

"That week we'll evaluate to see if (there is) a declining trend of case counts," Penrod

She emphasized that a one week trend would not be sufficient to reinstate in-person learning, because she does not want to send students back to school and then a short time later have to return them to distance learning.

If the case counts are favorable on Feb. 1, the district would begin "a two-week period to prepare for the transition to hybrid instruction," she said. Hybrid instruction means

half the students, divided by the alphabet, would attend school two days a week, while the other half continued learning from home, she said. The other two days, the other half would attend school. The

remaining day, all students

would learn from home.

"Now no one is talking about vaccines for students," she said. "We are now talking about adults' vaccines. Educators are considered first responders."

She said she didn't know when educators would be offered the vaccine.

Since trials have yet to be conducted on children aged 12 and younger, the school board hasn't been talking about vaccines for children, she said.

Reminder: Fireworks still illegal in Cannon Beach

Hilary Dorsey

For The Gazette

annon Beach Police Department reminded the public Dec. 14 via social media that all fireworks are illegal in Cannon Beach. The police department that during the upcoming holidays, officers will be enforcing the new city ordinances prohibiting

Cannon Beach City Council had prohibited in September all fireworks within the city limits of Cannon Beach and increased fines. According to the ordinance, July 3-5 of this year was the busiest Fourth of July weekend in eight years, requiring the police department to take a total of 90 case files in three days, including 41 calls about fireworks.

"Fireworks disturb the peace generally and particularly impact wildlife, people experiencing post-traumatic stress disorder and pets," the ordinance states.

Cannon Beach is now a "safe zone" for wildlife and birds. Haystack Rock is part of the Oregon Islands National Wildlife Refuge and is a state-protected marine environment that houses Tufted Puffins, Pelagic Cormorants, Western Gulls and more. Even legal fireworks can distress these birds and other wildlife.

Cannon Beach code had previously banned all fireworks on the ocean shore, but many people still used them. The city's hope with the new ordinance banning all fireworks in city limits and increasing the fines is that it will limit the use of fireworks in the city.

"Fireworks' means any combustible or explosive composition or substance, or any combination of such compositions or substances, or any article which was prepared for the purpose of providing a visible or audible effect by combustion, explosion, deflagration or detonation," the ordinance states.

Fireworks banned within city limits include, but are not limited to, ground and hand-held sparkling devices such as sparklers, aerial devices such as Roman candles, audible ground devices such as firecrackers, novelties, and trick noisemakers such as snake/glow worm and party poppers.

Fines have an escalating scale. A level one violation involves discharging and novelties or trick noisemaker and is punishable by a fine of \$100. A level two violation involves discharging any ground or handheld sparkling device, audible ground device or similar fireworks, with a fine of \$1,000 per violation. A level three violation involves discharging any aerial device or similar fireworks, with a fine of \$5,000. The fine is also enhanced where the fire threat level is determined to be high.

Send comments to: headlightreporter@countryme-



Q&A with Greg Swedenborg, owner of The Waves

Kathleen Stinson For The Gazette

The Gazette: With Cannon Beach now in the Extreme Risk Category for the COVID 19 pandemic, what do you think the effects of limiting retail traffic and prohibiting indoor dining will be? Does it affect the hotel industry?

Greg Swedenborg: "Hard to say. This is the time of year when hotels probably average 50% occupancy or less with the exception of holidays or super sunny weekends. The Extreme Risk Category rules do not directly affect the lodging sector in lodging/ short term rentals have not been mandated to close or alter operations like what occurred in March – May last spring. The retailers I have talked to are a mixed bag...some say slow but okay, some are slammed and one just relocated to a recently vacated location

because she needs more

room. We have lost about 5 or 6 business due to this but we have also seen a similar amount open. I feel for the restaurants because they have been stop, go, stop, go and it is obvious that they lose business when the customers are still there they just can't be open to serve them except in a limited capacity. I really wish the Oregon Legislation would do something and allow 'togo' cocktails like California did to assist the restaurant industry...but that is wishful thinking.

"The chamber has been doing a great job of promoting shop small, shop local and some of the business owners I have talked to say they feel the local support, but unfortunately a town of 1800 full time residents that can only go so far. The city had a couple meeting to see 'what they could do' to assist the business sector but nothing came of it.

"At my hotel, we have been about average for December, November was



going great then the 'freeze' was announced and we had about 30% cancellations and really quiet. It's picking up again and think that is people realizing they can travel locally and do it safely. We have guests that come for 3 days, get their keys though our 'touchless check in process' and we don't see them at all. They call us 3 days later to say they are checking out and they had a

good time. When we clean their rooms we find take-out boxes from local restaurants and shopping bags from local retailers...so I like to think people safely visiting is helping to keep our community afloat, might be a little slower, but afloat."

The Gazette contacted the following local businesses for comment on the change to extreme risk category: the Cannon Beach Soap Company, the Cannon Beach Makers, Seasons Café and MacGregor's Whiskey Bar. By press time, no one responded to requests for comment.

Rick Hudson, Cannon Beach's emergency manager, said Clatsop County entered the Extreme Risk Category for the pandemic on Friday. We will not be able to go back to the "high" until at least January 1.

"Two weeks from now ... (we will) analyze everybody's positive case rate" to determine if any categories change.

For more information on sector risk level guidance, visit https://www.co.clatsop or.us/sites/default/files/fileattachments/county_govern ment/page/32681/risk_guidance.pdf, an Oregon Health Authority press release.



This Holiday Season Give a Gift That Lasts All Year with a membership to the Clatsop County Historical Society

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County moved to Extreme Risk level

Clatsop County moved into the state's Extreme Risk category of COVID-19 business and social restrictions on Friday, Dec. 18.

The change will impose further restrictions on bars and restaurants and indoor recreation and entertainment establishments.

The move was announced Tuesday, Dec. 15, by Oregon Gov. Kate Brown, as a result of the county's COVID-19 case rate rising above 200 per 100,000 population for the two-week period between Nov. 29 and Dec. 12. During that period the state recorded 94 new cases for the county.

The state introduced the risk level metric last month to impose business and social restrictions based on each county's infection rates. Twenty-nine of Oregon's 36 counties will come under the Extreme Risk category beginning Friday at 12:01 a.m.

Clatsop County's and other counties' risk-level status will be re-evaluated after two weeks.

New restrictions under the Extreme Risk category include:

EATING/DRINKING

ESTABLISHMENTS: No indoor dining, 50 people maximum outdoor

INDOOR RECRE-ATION ESTABLISH-MENTS: Closed

INDOOR ENTERTAIN-MENT ESTABLISH-MENTS: Closed LONG-TERM CARE

FACILITIES: No indoor visitation. More than \$900,000 is

available in grants to local small businesses impacted by COVID-19 closures and restrictions. Go to this link for more information.

As of Dec. 15, the county has recorded a total of 473

positive COVID-19 cases since the beginning of the pandemic in March, but almost half of those cases have come since the beginning of November. According to the Clatsop County Public Health Department, the primary source of most new infections continues to be parties and social gatherings with little or no mask-wearing.

Clatsop County encourages members of the public to conduct business with county offices by phone or online. Appointments are required for in-person services.



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H62877

At the library

Lighten up: Winter soltice is behind us

Joseph Bernt

Joseph Bernt Library Volunteer

Here it comes. The last "At the Library" column of what seems the worst year in memory, when citizens are promised a designer vaccine within a few months to suppress the runaway spread of Covid-19.

This, as members of a do-nothing congress and their staffs receive the vaccine at the earliest possible date before the essential workers who have literally been dying to save patients from joining 325,000 fellow Americans who have passed prematurely, most unnecessarily during the past eleven months.

Dr. Brian Monahan, the congressional physician, urges members of Congress to inoculate immediately.

Chris Sununu, governor of New Hampshire, disagrees angrily, however, to representatives and senators jumping ahead of medical workers and residents of nursing facilities. He explained why.

"Because every single one of those vials that's being used for a congressman or a senator who has been doing nothing, that hasn't been on the front lines, is another vial of vaccine that isn't going to a nurse or a resident in a long-term care facility," Sununu explained, adding, "Since when is doing nothing an essential function.

Volunteers at the Cannon Beach Library cannot be accused of losing sight of the needs and safety of library patrons and Cannon Beach and Arch Cape residents in response to the increased spread of Covid in Clatsop County.

With their help and city advice, the Library Board has reinstituted limited browsing on Saturdays from noon to 4 p.m., allowing no more than two people in the library for no more than 10 minutes to browse. Any books removed from shelves must be placed in a box so they can be quarantined before being restocked.

Limited browsing was suspended briefly when Gov. Kate Brown issued a new emergency order restricting indoor activities.

Residents of Cannon Beach and Arch Cape may still call or email the library to reserve books and make an appointment to pick them up on Mondays and Wednesdays from noon to 4 p.m. Volunteers will bag and place patrons' names on their orders for easy identi-

The library board took note at its December meeting of the dedicated group

of talented desk volunteers who have made it possible to keep library services available in Cannon Beach and Arch Cape during the changes and experimentation brought by the pandemic:

"They are our essen-

tial workers, and without them we couldn't provide our door-side pickup and limited browsing services to the community" the board agreed.

When encountering these desk volunteers, indicate your appreciation for their contribution to the community. They include Theresa Dice, Karen French, Linda Gephart, Mary Kerwin, Claire Landrum, Nancy McCarthy, Marjorie Mac-Queen, Jeremy Randolph, Jane Swynenburg, Doug Sugano and Linda Sugano.

There are also several deadlines and virtual events at the library in January to keep in mind.

Monday, January 11, is the deadline for submitting no more than three literary entries of less than 600 words each for inclusion in the 2021 Writers Read



January 13, Elaine Truckee, director of the Cannon Beach History Center and Museum, will

present a unique history of Cannon Beach Rock at 7 p.m. via FacebookLive@ friendsofhaystackrock. Trucke will explore the crazier stories associated with our iconic sea stack. Her presentation is sponsored by the World of Haystack Rock Library Lecture Series.

Wednesday, January 20, Cannon Beach Reads breaks from its usual boundaries at 7 p.m. Members will each read a favorite poem via Zoom, followed by a group discussion of the innermost, deep, hidden meanings members find in their poems. Cannon Beach Reads invites anyone interested in probing literature in a friendly group discussion to participate.

Saturday, January 23, Northwest Authors Series will sponsor local author Jennifer Greer via Zoom.

Greer will read from and discuss "A Desperate Place," her recently published first novel. This debut crime thriller--set in Greer's hometown of Medford, Oregon-features two female detectives, one a medical examiner and the other a journalist, who collaborate on an investigation of a series of deaths in Medford.

After graduating from Fresno State University with a degree in English and journalism, she worked as a crime reporter at the Fresno

During her final year at Fresno State, Greer had traveled through Europe where she enrolled in a foreign correspondence course in Germany and produced award-winning coverage of the war in Croatia. After returning to the United States, she settled again in Medford near her family where she raised her own children.

This column concludes with a quick pitch for "The Library Book" by Susan Orlean, a skilled practitioner of detail-rich new journalism.

Published in 2018, "The Library Book" examines the 1986 fire at the Central Library in Los Angeles, the largest library fire in the history of the United States. Even after more than thirty years and an extensive investigation, forensic experts were unable to determine

the origin of the fire.

Describing the fire is the baseline of "The Library Book," but more interesting is Orlean's treatment of the history of the library's directors and their unique personalities, the changing mission of the library as well as the relationship between the library and the community and the use of the library as a refuge during an era of homelessness.

And then there's Orlean's memories of her own experience with libraries from childhood and her rediscovery of them as an adult. And then there's the rich, in-depth information Orlean incorporates from her extensive interviews about the science of fire and the history of libraries.

Rarely do all those participating in a meeting of Cannon Beach Reads share the same reaction to a book being discussed. Reaction at this month's discussion of "The Library Book" didn't necessarily surprise me, but it was surprisingly unani-

Every participant told stories of the lasting impact the local library had on their childhoods and early educations. "The Library Book" blew everyone away, last Wednesday. I'd lay money on Orlean's masterpiece doing the same for you.



Continued from Page 1

week than originally allocated, but that lower allot-

ment has not yet been sent to Oregon. We did receive the full amount of what we were originally allocated for last week (35,100).

"CDC provided states with allocation numbers in

advance of the actual doses being made available to them by manufacturers. These numbers were for planning purposes and were subject to change as supply and logistics considerations needed

to be accounted for. CDC explained to states that Pfizer vaccine allocation numbers had been adjusted to ensure consistent availability of vaccine.

These numbers are subject

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to change at any time. For this week, we provided information in the press release shared on Friday, Dec. 18: "... the allocation of 25,350 doses of Pfizer-BioNTech now scheduled to arrive in

Oregon the week of Dec. 20 is a reduction from the original amount of 40,950 Oregon (that) was previously scheduled to have allocated during that week.

MUNICIPAL MEMO

DECEMBER 2020



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MEETINGS JANUARY 2021

(subject to change depending on COVID-19 concerns)

21 Design Review Board Meeting

5 7:00 p.m. City Council Regular Meeting

28

Planning Commission Meeting

6:00 p.m.

6:00 p.m.

City Council Work Session

5:30 p.m.

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING, December 1, 2020 Council held a Public Hearing on APP 20-01 Alterman appeal of Planning

- Street. This item was continued to the December 8th Special meeting. Council held a Public Hearing on APP 20-02, Hofseth appeal of Planning Commission denial of SR 20-05, to allow a setback reduction to permit a +/- 5'0" reduction of the east setback to build a new single-family residence. Council granted the Hofseth Appeal APP 20-02 of Planning
- Commission decision to deny a setback reduction • Council approved Resolution 20-28 for the purpose of amending the Employee Handbook
- Council held a scope of review determination for Roberts Appeal APP • Council Appointed Amber Fowler to the Public Works Committee and
- renewed Phyllis Bernt to the Budget Committee • HRAP Director Kelli Ennis presented the 2020 Haystack Rock Awareness
- Program End of the Year Report
- Council approved the Memorandum of Understanding with the Sunset **Empire Amateur Radio** Club
- Council approved the results of the City Managers Performance Evaluation
- CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING AND WORK SESSION, December 8, 2020 Council held a Public Hearing on APP 20-03, Roberts and APP 20-04, Haystack Rock LLC appeals of Planning Commission denial of AA 20-02, 3, & 4, of the City's administrative decision to approve, with conditions, a development permit DP#20-04 of tax lot 51031AA00600.Council gave direction to support the Planning Commission's decision and review the Findings of Fact at a December 14th special meeting.
- Continuation of Public Hearing on APP 20-01 Alterman appeal of Planning Commission approval of AA 20-01. Council moved to uphold the Planning Commission's decision and deny the appeal.
- Discussed Chairs making motions or seconding motions.
- Public Works Director gave an update on the Warren Way Intersection project and grant application.
- Discussed the Cannon Beach Elementary School Public Input Meeting Schedule
- Discussion of 20-21 Council Retreat Items

Discussed Planning Priorities

CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING, December 14, 2020 • Council moved to deny the applicants appeal on APP 20-03, Roberts and

- APP 20-04, Haystack Rock LLC CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL WORK SESSION, December 14, 2020
- Cannon Beach Elementary School Status Update
- CITY COUNCIL RETREAT, December 15 & 17, 2020 • Council held their annual retreat/goal setting session
- **DESIGN REVIEW BOARD** The Design Review Board met December 17

to discuss: DRB 20-28, Martin North application to add a new fire-pit area and a privacy wall at Public Coast

Brewery. **Approved** PLANNING COMMISSION - The Planning Commission met November 17

AA20-02, 03 & 04, Appeal by Stanley and Rebecca Roberts of an administrative decision to approve, with conditions, a development permit DP#20-04. Denied

Commission approval of AA 20-01, Jeff and Jennifer Harrison appeal of the City Hall will be closed City's approval to issue a development/building permit for 544 N Laurel Thursday Dec. 31st in observance of New Year's Eve Friday Jan. 1st in observance of New Year's Day Monday Jan. 18th in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Monday, February 15th in observance of President's Day

Cannon Beach Elementary School Project We want to hear from you!!! There will be at least 4 meetings at which interested parties can talk about how they see a renovated CBE being used. Meetings have been scheduled for Thursday, January 7th, 2021 at 5:30 pm Saturday, January 16th, 2021 at 9:00 am Wednesday, January 20th, 2021 at 5:30 pm Saturday, January 23rd, 2021, at 4:00 pm Do you want to speak at one of these meetings? Would you like more information on this project? Go to the City's website at ci.cannon-beach.or.us and click the Cannon Beach Elementary School Project link under the heading Current Topics

Administrative Order 20-02

Requiring all Participation in Public Meetings to be Accomplished Electronically In keeping with the Governor's social distancing direction and to minimize the spread of COVID- 19, the City of Cannon Beach has issued an Administrative Order requiring all public meetings to be closed to in-person attendance and held electronically, until further notice. You are invited to attend telephonically or through the Zoom meeting service. A PDF of the order may be viewed on the City's website.

How to Make Public Comment at a Virtual Meeting? How to Attend a Virtual Meeting?

- 1. Go to the Agenda & Minutes tab on the main page of the City's website https://www.ci.cannon-beach.or.us/ 2. Find the meeting you want to attend
- 3. Click view details 4. Scroll down and you will see the links called
- How to Make Public Comment How to attend a City Meeting through Zoom 5. Click on the link and follow the steps
- Want to join Coffee with a Councilor?

The next session is January 25, 2020 at 10:00 am The Zoom link is available on the City's website. Go to upcoming events on the main webpage Click view calendar, click Coffee with a Councilor. The Haystack Rock Awareness Program

(HRAP) is accepting volunteers! Do you enjoy sharing your love of Haystack Rock? Do you want to gain experience in education, conservation, or environmental

Of Interest... stewardship? HRAP is accepting volunteers for the upcoming 2021 season. No experience

necessary – we train and all ages welcome Have you checked out our website lately? The City website provides updates on current topics such as:

Emergency evacuation lists Go-Bag lists Training Calendar https://www.ci.cannon-

beach.or.us/emergencymgmt



Want to be in the know?

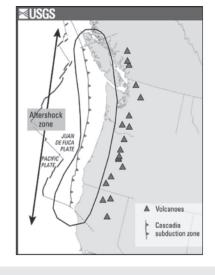
Community members, visitors and businesses can choose up to 3 ways to receive emergency notification and community information from City, County and Public Safety Officials for Clatsop County, Oregon

Sign up for **CLATSOP ALERTS**

Receive notifications via: Home Phone Cell Phone Voice/Text Email Sign up online at: https://bit.ly/32aSffk Questions or other information:

The 321-year anniversary of the Cascadia earthquake is on January 26th, 2021 https://www.portlandoregon.gov/pbem/article/383003

clastopemd@co.clatsop.or.us 503-325-8645



A FEW HOLIDAY REMINDERS FROM THE

FOR YOUR INFORMATION **MAYOR: Sam Steidel**

Ogilvie and Robin Risley

COUNCILORS: Mike Benefield, Nancy McCarthy, Brandon

CITY MANAGER: Bruce St. Denis

- **CANNON BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT** DRINK RESPONSIBLY and please don't drink
- and drive. • Lock your vehicles and keep valuables well hidden (a purse, wallet, or presents in plain sight is an easy
- opportunity). • Keep your doors and windows locked and leave a lamp or two on a timer while you're away.
- If you're going to be gone for a few days, let us know so we can conduct extra
- patrols and keep an eye on your house. • Take a proactive approach, making sure your neighbors are doing well and have what they need to make it through the winter.

CELEBRATE RESPONSIBLY **ALL FIREWORKS ARE PROHIBITED** WITHIN CANNON BEACH CITY LIMITS.

9.16.030 Violation—Penalty levels. In addition to other penalties provided by law, a violation of this chapter is punishable by a fine not to exceed five thousand dollars depending on the type of the firework and the fire threat in the city at the time of the violation.

A. Level One Violation. Discharging or causing to be discharged any novelties or trick noisemaker or similar firework is punishable by a fine not to exceed one hundred dollars unless enhanced.

B. Level Two Violation. Discharging or causing to be discharged any ground or handheld sparkling device, audible ground device, or any similar firework is punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars unless enhanced.

C. Level Three Violation. Discharging or causing to be discharged any aerial device or similar firework is punishable by a fine not to exceed five thousand dollars.

D. Discharging or causing to be discharged any combination item is punishable by a fine not to exceed the maximum fine of the most severe grade of firework in the combination item, unless the fine is enhanced.

E. A violation of this chapter where the size, pyrotechnic composition, or explosive composition of the firework exceeds the maximum size or amount described in the definition enhances the fine one level, not to exceed five thousand dollars.

F. A violation of this chapter during fire season as declared by the Oregon Department of Forestry and/ or Clatsop County Fire Defense Board, during a fire weather warning as declared by the National Weather Service, or during a high fire threat as declared by another agency with special fire authority or knowledge, enhances the fine one level, not to exceed five thousand dollars.

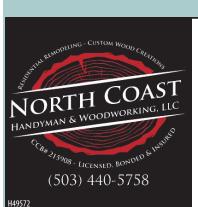
G. A violation may be enhanced no more than two levels.

H. Each firework discharge or causing to be discharged is a separate violation. (Ord. 20-18 § 1)

H62874

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Letters to the Editor

More about the Aya home

Regarding Al Aya and his home on First Street, I rented the home from him for several years in the '80s before he retired and moved to Cannon Beach. It has an original Bartels rock fireplace. The Bartels brothers, Paul and John, were homesteaders who built a home at Silver Point. One of them was a photographer who shot myriad photos of many places that no longer exist in the Cannon Beach area. The other built the fireplaces.

Al became a close friend. For many years he rattled on about something called the Cascadia Subduction Zone, but no one really paid attention to him. Years later, as a member of the Cannon Beach City Council, I saw a flyer from the State of Oregon that was touting a conference in Seatac, WA about Cascadia. I thought of Al and was allowed to attend the conference on behalf of the city. I ran into Al there. In 1999, I reported to the Council about what I had learned and asked the council to form a committee to address the issue. The rest is history. The Cannon Beach Emergency Preparedness Committee was formed and I was appointed the chair of it and firmly told not to spend too much time and no money on it. Twenty years later our city has a robust infrastructure/education program to address the "not if, but when" event that faces our community. Al Aya served his community well.

> Karolyn Adamson Cannon Beach

Put it into perspective

While this pandemic has no doubt been a challenging and tragic time in our history, we have often had tunnel vision when it has come to where we put our consideration and resources. It is not as if our other problems went away while we turned our attention to fight Covid-19 and we must remember this. While much focus has rightly been redirected to containing this devastating virus, this is not our only battle.

Globally the deaths of mothers and children under five years old have been reduced by almost half in the last 25 years, however, 800 women a day still die of preventable causes related to pregnancy and childbirth. Additionally another 17,000 children under 5 years old also die each and every day due to entirely treatable conditions.

The Reach Every Mother and Child Act of 2019 would address these issues and work to develop a comprehensive strategy to prevent these unnecessary deaths. This is the third time that this bill has been proposed and though there has been strong bipartisan support in each Congressional cycle in which it has been proposed it has failed to become law. With only a few weeks left in the calendar year we need Congress to act now.

It is high time that we recall that we have other battles to fight and preventing completely avoidable deaths should absolutely top the list. Now that a vaccine has began to roll out maybe we will start to remember this.

Julian Bryant Portland

Noble fir: More than just a great Christmas tree

This time of year cut fir trees find their way into our plazas, businesses, parking lots, and homes. Here in Oregon, such trees are inevitably locally grown—we're the nation's top Christmas tree producer. The graceful symmetry of the noble fir tree make it a favorite during the holidays but this iconic tree is also an important source of timber for the north coast. Hampton Lumber man-

ages roughly 60,000 acres of forestland in Tillamook, Lincoln, Polk, Washington, and Yamhill counties to help supply our sawmills, including the one in Tillamook. Much of this forestland lies at 1,800-3,700 feet of elevation in the coast range where as much as 120 inches of rain falls each vear. Reforestation forester. Dale Claassen manages these lands. It's wet work. Good rain gear is key. This time of year, much of the forestland he manages is closed due to

I recently took a ride out on these high elevation forests with Dale to learn more about his work. With spectacular vistas around every corner, it's easy to appreciate the immense abundance of coastal forests. Conditions in the coast range can change quickly. Weather apps with reliable radar are among Dale's most precious tools.

Bumping along an intricate

network of gravel logging roads in a heavy rain, Dale proudly points out a new culvert, a recently planted stand of trees, and a trusted logging crew that's finishing up a challenging harvest.

It can be easy to lose one's bearings in these forests but Dale knows these lands like the back of his hand and navigates his Ford truck with fearless precision. "As a forester, you get good at backing up," he says with a sly smile as I clutch my seatbelt and he repositions the truck to make a hair pin turn along the face of a mountain.

Dale holds a degree in Forest Management from Oregon State University. He's an expert in growing native trees and all that comes along with it, including pest and vegetation management. He organizes the planting of nearly one million seedlings each year. Mixtures of Douglas fir, western hemlock, western red cedar, and noble fir are planted by hand based on the elevation and soil conditions. At the higher elevations, noble fir is abundant. They thrive in the rocky soil and sturdy branches help them withstand the wind and snow that occurs in higher elevation coastal areas.

While planting helps speed up the restoration process, natural repopulation is common in the coast range. Like Douglas fir, noble fir thrive in open areas where full sun is available and they regenerate quickly and abundantly after a major disturbance such as a fire, landslide, or timber harvest. On this rainy day, we visited an area harvested just a few years prior and the natural renewal was already underway. Dense bands of volunteer noble fir saplings line the roadside.

Hampton processes noble fir at our sawmills in Tillamook and Warrenton. While perhaps not as popular as the iconic Douglas fir, it produces strong, durable lumber that you're likely to see marketed as "whitewood" at your home building centers and lumber

So the next time you find yourself admiring the holiday tree in your town square, make sure to also take a moment to look to the hills and appreciate all the unadorned trees that surround us every day. Foresters like Dale are likely out among them, tending these forestlands year after year to help provide renewable building materials for communities near and far.

> Kristin Rasmussen, Hampton Lumber, Tillamook Working Lands & Waters Cooperative (TWLWC)

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See position descriptions and our application form at our Employment Openings page. Submit resumes and applications to the City of Rockaway Beach, P.O. Box 5, Rockaway Beach, Oregon 97136, or by email to cityhall@corb.us First review of applications will be held January 15, 2021.

<u>City of Rockaway Beach - Plant</u> Operator I/II

The City of Rockaway Beach is seeking a motivated individual to join the Public Works team as a Treatment Plant Operator I or II, depending on experience and certification.

The Operator I position performs a variety of technical duties involved in the construction, maintenance, and operation of the City's public infrastructure and equipment with an emphasis on the City's water and wastewater systems. This is an entry level position. The applicant must either possess or be reasonably able to obtain an Oregon Water Treatment I Certification and an Oregon Wastewater Treatment 1 certification within 2 years of employment. Starting wage for Operator I ranges from \$18.72- \$21.71 per hour depending upon qualifications and experience.

The Operator II is an intermediate level position, performing inspection, maintenance, and troubleshooting of the City's water and wastewater systems. This position requires basic to intermediate knowledge of water and wastewater treatment plant operation and technical skills to interpret telemetry information and generate compliance reports. The applicant must either possess or be reasonably able to obtain an Oregon Water Treatment 2 Certification and an Oregon Wastewater Treatment 2 certification within 12 months of employment. Starting wage for Operator II ranges from \$23.03- \$26.70 per hour depending upon qualifications and experience

Both positions require a high school diploma or GED, and possession of a valid Oregon Drivers License. Applicants must pass a background/driving check and pre-employment drug/alcohol screening. Both positions are full-time 40-hour per week hourly position with competitive health, dental, vision, and retirement benefits. Employees in each position must to be able to respond to call-outs and/or emergencies within 20 minutes. Position descriptions and employment application are available in person, by appointment, at the front counter of City Hall (276 S. Hwy 101, Rockaway Beach, OR 97136) or online via the City's website at www.corb.us. The City of Rockaway Beach is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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accine doses continue to trickle into O

Max Kirkendall

Country Media

Oregon recently exceeded 100,000 cases of COVID-19 and recorded over 1,300 virus related deaths. Despite the consistent increase, Governor Kate Brown and the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) remain optimistic the coronavirus spread is slowing.

During a Dec. 22 press conference, Gov. Brown was joined by OHA Director Pat Allen to update Oregonians on COVID-19 vaccine distribution, financial relief and

"It's really, really tough to be heading into a time where traditional celebrations are once again hindered by the virus," Gov. Brown said.

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"Every single family that has lost a loved one to this virus and every Oregonian that has suffered emotionally, financially or physically from COVID-19, I want you to know that you are in my thoughts."

Gov. Brown said there is light at the end of the tunnel however, and nearly 4,500 healthcare workers in Oregon have received the COVID-19 vaccine so far. Oregon

received the full 35,100 doses of the Pfizer vaccine allocated by the federal government and distributed doses to 16 hospitals across the state last week.

"I'm grateful for the healthcare workers who have been heroes throughout this pandemic," Allen said. "It's fitting, truly, that they are the ones among the first to be vaccinated who will light the path for all of us to follow out of this dark terrible forest that is the coronavirus pandemic."

In addition to the Pfizer vaccine, Allen said the Western States Scientific Safety

Review Workgroup now recommends the Moderna vaccine after confirming it as safe and effective. An issue with distributing the Pfizer vaccine is the need to store in freezing temperatures. But according to OHA, the Moderna vaccine does not need to be stored at those temperatures. Allen feels this gives the state an advantage to easier distribution, especially to more rural areas.

Over 12,000 doses of the Moderna vaccine arrived in Oregon this week and the state is expecting an additional 25,000 doses of the Pfizer vaccine. Later in the week, Allen said over 72,000 doses of the Moderna vaccine are due to arrive in Oregon.

By the end of the month, OHA expects to have received over 92,000 doses of the Pfizer vaccine and 97,000 doses of the Moderna vaccine. However, Allen said these allocations are often ever-changing due to supply and demand across the United

"That means we have to be prepared for months of limited supplies and the need to prioritize who gets the vaccine and when," Allen said.

Oregon has also begun administering the vaccine to residents and staff of longterm care facilities. OHA reported that 10,000 doses of the Pfizer vaccine have been distributed so far statewide as Gov. Brown noted the care facilities have been among the hardest hit by the pandemic.

"It feels really good to be able to start these vaccinations with the hope that these folks can reunite with their families once again and feel safe from the virus soon," Gov. Brown said.

Gov. Brown also noted that daily case counts have tapered off a bit lately. The state is attributing some the decrease to the two-week freeze and additional safety restrictions that Gov. Brown said 'blunted the virus surge.'

"Thanks to the decisions you, and the majority of Oregonians continue to make, we are slowing the spread of this disease," Gov. Brown said. "While our case counts are still up, we are avoiding many worse case scenarios. This is proof that we determine how the next few months play out while we work to swiftly distribute the COVID vaccine far and wide across the state.

Both Gov. Brown and Allen encouraged Oregonians to continue following safety guidelines and to rethink their Christmas and New Years

"Don't let the memories of this holiday turn into painful regrets because of a careless gathering that led to a tragic outbreak," Allen said. "We can enjoy each other's company without being in each other's presence. We can celebrate the season together in different locations. We can show we care about one another be keeping each other safe and healthy.

Financial Relief

Oregon held a special session this week to address several financial needs that have been caused by the pandemic. The state passed legislature for a \$800 million package that will provide relief for tenets and landlords, keep roofs over people's heads by extending the eviction moratorium and provide support for restaurants and bars. Gov. Brown said they also passed a wildfire relief package.

"I called for a special session because it is absolutely

critical we get the help to Oregonians who have made the necessary sacrifices to prevent the spread of COVID-19," Gov. Brown said.

Gov. Brown also acknowledged the \$900 billion pandemic relief package that passed through the United States Congress this week that includes direct stimulus payments to Americans. The bill includes \$600 to individu als making up to \$75,000 per year and \$1,200 to couples making up to \$150,000, with payments phased out for higher incomes. An additional \$600 payment will be made per dependent child, similar to the last round of relief payments in the spring of 2020. There is also a \$300 per week jobless benefit that will be distributed to individuals on unemployment, which will last until March 2021.

"(Both packages) will help carry us through the coming months as we continue to gain traction with our vaccine campaign," Gov. Brown said.

The next steps on that vaccine campaign includes widening distribution of the vaccine to people over 75 and essential workers. Gov. Brown noted on Tuesday that educators and various school staff members will be at the top of the list in Oregon's next round of vaccines.

"Our kids need to know they are number one, and we are doing everything we can to get them back in our classrooms,' Gov. Brown said. "This pandemic has shown us the hard truth that in person instruction is so much more than what we take for its face value. School is where our kids connect with their community, it's where many kids get meals and much needed support from caring adults."

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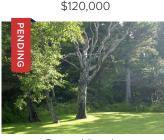
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Sea Star listed as critically endangered following study

The iconic sunflower sea star has been listed as critically endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature following a groundbreaking population study led by Oregon State University and The Nature Conservancy.

These sea stars used to

be easy to find and were a hit with students and divers because they are unforgettable – they can be as big as a trash bin lid with 20 slimy arms covered in suction cups," said OSU's Sarah Gravem, a research associate in the College of Science and the lead author on the study. "Unfortunately,

Darla

Darla is a sweet little 11

month old chihuahua/

dachshund mix full of

After zoomies in the

puppy energy and love.

play yard, she scampers over to you to snuggle in

your lap and offer many

enthusiastic kisses Darla

would be happy to share a

home with another small

dog – she and her brother

shared a kennel and loved

playing together. Darla is considered special needs because she has Iris Hypoplasia,

open - a birth defect. She is not on treatment but does have some sensitivity in the

meaning her left pupil is permanently small and her right pupil is permanently

<mark>sun. Because of her condition, she</mark>'ll need a <mark>fully</mark> fenced yard to keep <mark>her</mark> safe.

Pet meet and greets are by appointment only, so if you'd like to meet Darla, call

the shelter at 503-861-7387 to set up an appointment. The <mark>shelter is open 11:00</mark> to

4:00 Tuesday through Saturday. You can also fill out an application at the shelter's

Adopting a Pet page: https://www.co.clatsop.or.us/animalcontrol/page/adopting-

your chances of finding one now are next to nothing in most of the contiguous United States – this listing is one step above extinction – and I don't think they're coming back without help like captive rearing and reintroduction and reducing direct harvest and accidental harvest." More than 60 institutions

ioined Oregon State and The Nature Conservancy in the population study on the sunflower sea star, known scientifically as Pycnopodia helianthoides, which plays an important role in maintaining kelp forests, and thus sustaining marine life, along the West Coast from Alaska to Baja, California.

Populations of the sunflower sea star suffered dramatic crashes because of a marine wildlife epidemic event, referred to as sea star wasting syndrome, that began in 2013.

Scientists used more than 61,000 population surveys from 31 datasets to calculate a 90.6% decline in the sunflower sea stars and estimated that as many as 5.75 billion animals died from the disease, whose cause has not been determined.

