

Tillamook County to stay at Moderate Risk

For the Citizen

Tillamook County Public Health was notified that Tillamook County will stay at the “Moderate Risk” category for the next two weeks effective this Friday, March 26. As calculated by Oregon Health Authority (OHA), Tillamook County had 33 new confirmed positive and presumptive COVID-19 cases from Sunday, March 7, through

Saturday, March 30, which met disease metrics to remain at “Moderate Risk.”

The Risk and Protection framework that the state of Oregon is operating under allows for counties to function safely based on the amount of disease spread measured in a 2-week period for that county. This framework allows for the counties to change to the appropriate risk level every two-weeks using predetermined COVID-19

disease metrics – the following is for a medium sized county (i.e., Tillamook County):

- Lower Risk: > 30 new COVID-19 cases in a 2-week period
- Moderate Risk: 31 - 44 new COVID-19 cases in a 2-week period
- High Risk: 45 – 59 new COVID-19 cases in a 2-week period
- Extreme Risk: 60 + new COVID-19 cases in a 2-week

period

In the “Moderate Risk” category, businesses may still operate but with stricter capacity limits and reduced hours compared to “Low Risk.” Indoor social gathering size will remain limited to eight people, no more than two households. Remote work is recommended if able to. See more on what is allowed in the “Moderate Risk” category here: <https://coronavirus.oregon.gov/>

Pages/guidance.aspx

Be on the lookout for the updated press release from Gov. Kate Brown’s office with the full list of counties and their associated risk levels.

While this is welcome news as after last week’s “warning data” showed Tillamook County with 40 cases, closer to “High Risk” than “Moderate Risk,” we ask you to not let your guard down. Continue to take COVID-19

safety precautions: wear a mask, wash your hands frequently, watch your distance (6ft), stay home if ill, seek COVID-19 testing and answer the call from public health contact tracers.

If cases continue to increase over the next two weeks, Tillamook County would be at risk of moving to a higher risk level April 9. If cases decrease, Tillamook County may move back down in risk level.

NEHALEM WRITER

Nehalem woman writes two children’s books, with a third on its way

Hilary Dorsey
Staff Writer

Nehalem local Shawn Brigl wrote two children’s books in the past few months: “Let’s Go See What Comes from the Sea!” and “Little Red Chair & Big Blue Boat’s Day on the Bay!” Both books are available for purchase on Amazon.

Both of Brigl’s books are themed around the beach. “Let’s Go See What Comes from the Sea!” came out Oct. 14, 2020 and “Little Red Chair & Big Blue Boat’s Day on the Bay!” came out Nov. 21, 2020.

Brigl said her family is on the water a lot on a boat. While crabbing one day, on their blue boat, Brigl sat in a red chair her husband said “Hey Little Red Chair.” He replied, “Hey blue boat.” This inspired her to write “Little Red Chair & Big Blue Boat’s Day on the Bay!” Her book “Let’s Go See What Comes from the Sea” was inspired by seeing kids looking for treasure on the beach.

“These two books – both of these books – came to me right away,” Brigl said. “Because of the experience living here, it just comes to you.”

Brigl wrote her two books and found an illustrator and editor. She has received positive feedback from friends and family about the books.

Brigl’s third book is currently at the illustrators and will soon be available for purchase. The book is called “Little

Dottie’s First the Farm,” by Brigl’s Dottie, who with one Dottie lives farm, which chickens, also horses. The book is dog’s first farm sur-farm animals.

“When to you, they you,” Brigl writing her “You just got down.”

When kids were in started help-kindergarten schools. She



Children’s book author Shawn Brigl (Inset) Covers of two books and her puppy Dottie who is the star of her third book.



Day on inspired new puppy, is white brown ear. on Brigl’s includes 65 There are and cows. about the day on the rounded by

they come come to said of stories. to write it

Brigl’s school, she ing out in and pre-got certified

and had her own small group in grades K-5. Most of the kids she had were troubled with a difficult home environment. She loved helping these students.

“They could start out reading maybe nine words a minute, and then when we got done by the end of the quarter or the semester, they were reading 120 words a minute, like above and beyond they should,” Brigl said. “Of course, that was supported by gummies, stickers and ‘good jobs.’”

Brigl said she loved how the students has no clue about reading and then saw how reading offered a whole new world to them.

Brigl has lived on the North Oregon Coast for the last six years. She owns local business High Tide Home Cleaning & Yard Maintenance.

“Having my own business gave me more time for myself,” Brigl said. “I just thought I would write these books”

Brigl’s books have gotten rave reviews. Friends and family have told her it is nice to take the book along when they take their kids to the coast. The books can be purchased online on Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Abebooks and more. It is also available at Wisteria Chic in Manzanita.

Brigl said it is important to find a good illustrator and editor. Seeing the books come to life is fun, she added.

Send comments to: headlightreporter@countrymedia.net

Neah-Kah-Nie schools return to class in hybrid model

Hilary Dorsey
Staff Writer

Neah-Kah-Nie School District students return to class Monday, March 15, in a hybrid model. The school district provided an update on the model during a board meeting Monday, March 8.

Garibaldi Grade School Principal Janmarie Nugent said the school had K-3 students back for onsite Feb. 16. The school had half of fourth and fifth grades two days a week and the other half the other two days.

“We have 95 kids that will be back onsite on Monday and 20 that will remain in CDL,” Nugent said.

The school has made some tweaks to arrival and dismissal of students, Nugent added. P.E. and music classes will be held in the gym.

Neahalem Elementary School Principal Kristi Woika said the school is planning right along to begin simultaneous learning. Teachers will be instructing students in person and online at the same time, with cameras set up in the classroom.

“It was really important for us as a building to support students and maintain those relationships with kids we’ve built all school year long,” Woika said. “The biggest class is I think 15 onsite and two online.”

The school will have 120 onsite students Monday through Thursday and about 25 online students, Woika said.

Neah-Kah-Nie Middle School Principal Lori Dilbeck said a sixth grade orientation, held throughout the last three weeks, allowed for students to come into the school during what would be their normal hybrid days. Each cohort came two days, Monday and Wednesday or Tuesday and Thursday, Dilbeck added.

“The teachers went over safety protocols, showed them the building, because most of them hadn’t been in the building,” Dilbeck said. “That was a huge success.”

The middle school is now looking forward to starting the hybrid model March 15.

“We surveyed families and out of our 188 students, 125 families chose to be in hybrid,” Dilbeck said.

The other families have chosen to continue comprehensive distance learning at this time. Under Gov. Kate Brown’s executive order regarding returning students to school through in-person learning or a hybrid model, individual students or parents who want to remain in comprehensive distance learning, or who have health needs, may do so.

Dilbeck said all students would have the opportunity to leave the classroom to go to P.E. If a student is taking a band or choir class, they will be able to leave their classroom for that class as well. As for other classes, the kids will stay in one classroom while the teachers move.

“We’ve been planning for a long time, just like everybody else,” Neah-Kah-Nie High School Principal Heidi Buckmaster said. “The most recent changes in our hybrid plan are that we went from 12 safe secure cohorts down to 11.”

Buckmaster said teachers would be rotating classrooms instead of students. Students will transition to the welding lab, gym, and band and choir classes outside of the classrooms. Staff has figured out one-way traffic patterns and staggered exit times. The school has been practicing the entry routine during limited in-person learning.

“We’re going to be eating meals in the classrooms as well,” Buckmaster said. “We’ve got those routines worked out.”

Send comments to: headlightreporter@countrymedia.net

Longtime NKN board member resigns

Hilary Dorsey
Staff Writer

Longtime Neah-Kah-Nie School District board member Terry Kelly will not seek re-election this year, Neah-Kah-Nie School District Superintendent Paul Erlebach announced Tuesday, March 2. Kelly served

from 2003-2009 and from 2013 to present, representing Zone 1 (Manzanita). His term ends June 30.

Kelly has been on the school board for 14 years. Him and his wife have three children. He wanted to be an active participant in the school district and joined the board while his kids were in school.

“When my youngest graduated last year in 2020, I felt that my mission was complete,” Kelly said. “I thought about staying on because of how long I have been on and some things coming up, but I realized that it was selfish of me to stay on the board and not have any children in the district.”

See NKN, Page 5



COVID-19 vaccine online scheduling tool coming, five new positive cases

Hilary Dorsey
Staff Writer

Tillamook County Health Department reported during a community update Friday, March 19, five new confirmed positive and five presumptive cases this week. The health department is monitoring 23 cases.

“We’re seeing an increase in the number of people being tested,” Administrator Marlene Putman said.

Putman said Warning Week data shows Tillamook County may remain in Moderate Risk, although there is

potential of the county moving to High Risk, effective Friday, March 26.

“If we have over 45 cases between March 7 and March 20, then we’d move to the High Risk category, effective the end of March, the 26th,” Putman said. “We’re still at Moderate Risk, we hope to stay at Moderate Risk.”

With spring break approaching, Putman added that people should remember to wear a face covering and stay 6 feet apart in public. People should stay home if ill, unless seek-

ing medical attention.

Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Ed Colson said this week, 737 primary doses have been administered in Tillamook County. He added that 2,424 Phase 1A booster doses have been administered in the county since December. To date, a total of 5,850 first dose vaccines have been administered. As of March 19, 22 percent of Tillamook County residents have been vaccinated. Vaccine partners continue to hold vaccine clinics weekly.

“Our vaccine partners Adventist

Health, Rinehart Clinic, Nehalem Bay Fire and Rescue, and Tillamook County Community Health Centers are excited to announce that we now have an online COVID-19 vaccine scheduling tool,” Colson said. “Those who are currently enrolled in the vaccine registry will be outreached with information on how to access that scheduling tool next week. In order to better serve the upcoming eligible groups that are coming up in Phase 1B, we are working to make that scheduling tool completely live and online by March 29, with appoint-

ments for those newly eligible by the first week of April.”

The health department will still offer phone access for those without Internet access and need to call in to schedule an appointment to receive a vaccine. Call the vaccine information line at 503-842-3914.

Make an appointment for COVID-19 testing by calling 503-842-3900.

Send comments to: headlightreporter@countrymedia.net

COVID-19 vaccine update: 22 percent of county vaccinated

Hilary Dorsey
Staff Writer

Tillamook County Health Department provided a COVID-19 vaccine update during a Tillamook County Board of Commissioners meeting Wednesday, March 17.

Administrator Marlene

Putman said there has been an increase in positive COVID-19 cases over the past couple of weeks, with the majority of them being family connected. There were 11 positive cases over the March 13-14 weekend.

“OHA calculated our 40 new confirmed and presumptive cases from the time pe-

riod of Feb. 28 through March 13,” Putman said.

If cases rise above 45 in the two-week period, the county will move to High Risk, effective Friday, March 26, Putman added. If cases are greater than 60, the county would move to Extreme Risk. Final data count and risk level status will be announced

Tuesday, March 23.

“No-cost COVID-19 testing is available,” Putman. “You can call for an appointment at our clinic at [503] 842-3900.”

As of Friday, March 19, 22 percent of Tillamook County residents have been vaccinated. The health department and vaccine partners are working on Phase 1B, people 65 and older.

“If you’re eligible, sign up online and people will call you back,” Putman said.

Putman said the county receives 700 doses from the state each week. The health department and vaccine partners will make every effort to reach out to everyone who wants to receive a vaccine.

“For the next eligible groups of people, and that’s a long list, it includes a long list of people, and that’s effective on March 29,” Putman said.

“We’re talking adults 45-64, migrant and seasonal farmers, food processing centers, seafood and agricultural, among other things, including people living in low-income housing.”

Rescheduling people for the vaccine imposes a challenge, so people should commit to the earliest available vaccine appointment.

“Arrive at your scheduled appointment time,” Putman said. “Wait in your car, if you have questions, you can talk to a greeter. If you don’t have a vehicle, we’ll make arrangements for seating.”

Putman said she believes the pharmacies at Safeway and Tillamook Pharmacy are receiving 100 doses per week. These pharmacies are administering doses separately. Anyone who is currently eligible for vaccines can sign up for appointments.

Schedule a vaccine with Safeway at <https://www.mhealthappointments.com/covidappt>

Schedule a vaccine with Tillamook Pharmacy via Health Mart at <https://bit.ly/38Y1pBx>

The health department announced during a community meeting Friday, March 19, a new COVID-19 online scheduling tool that will be live online Monday, March 29. Those who have filled out an online eligibility form will be contacted the week of March 22 with information on how to use the online tool.

If you do not have Internet access, call the health department’s vaccine information line at 503-842-3914 to sign up.

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H63120

Under Biden mandate, state speeds vaccine timeline

Zack Demars
Country Media

In a quick about-face from just a week earlier, Oregon health officials announced Friday they would be meeting President Joe Biden’s May 1 deadline to open COVID-19 vaccine eligibility to all adults.

“My team is in touch with the White House for more specifics about when vaccine shipments to states will increase,” said Governor Kate Brown in a press conference. “We have always attempted to align our vaccination timelines with available federal supplies. And so far, it’s been really encouraging to see so many Oregonians eager to get the vaccine when it’s their turn.”

The news came informally earlier in the week, when Oregon Health Authority Director Patrick Allen told Oregon Public Broadcasting the agency had determined the president’s timeline was an order, not just an optimistic suggestion.

Just a week prior, Allen and other state officials were hesitant to embrace the president’s timeline, concerned about whether or not vaccine supply would be available to meet it.

“The answer is yes, if the federal government comes through at the levels of vaccines we’ve projected based on the national numbers the administration has released,” Allen said. “We know it will take a couple of weeks to get through the surge. But we can keep pace.”

The quicker pace — the state had originally been on track to open eligibility to all adults July 1 — means the rest of the state’s vaccination timeline is also moving up.

But Allen said Friday the new timeline will

result in some “traffic jams” when large classes of people become eligible for the vaccine.

“However, I want to be crystal clear. Not every Oregonian will have a vaccination appointment waiting for them,” the director said. “It’ll take a few weeks for supply to catch up to demand.”

Still, health officials laid out a new timeline for making Oregonians eligible to get in line for the vaccine.

Starting March 22, vaccinations will open slightly:

- Counties that attest to largely completing the vaccination of residents 65 and older may begin vaccinating the next eligible groups.
- Vaccinations may also begin for migrant and seasonal farmworkers in counties where they are currently already working.

Starting March 29, the following groups will be eligible:

- 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.

Starting April 19, the state will open eligi-

■ See **MANDATE**, Page 3

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Questions? Contact Marissa Durrer at 503-815-8621.

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WWW.TPUD.ORG

Hoffman Center announces April gallery shows

Hoffman Center April Gallery Show features the works of Sherrie Wolf and Mary Roberts.

Sherrie Wolf

These artworks represent two of Wolf's lesser known bodies of work.

"Histrionics" (Hand-colored etchings)

The colored prints are photogravure etchings, one of which (Zebra with Fava Bean) was initially commissioned by the Cleveland Art Museum Print Club. The print was a limited edition for their membership and the artist's personal inven-

tory. The other 4 etching in the exhibition are a suite of prints titled HISTRIONICS (2015). The prints are hand-colored by the artist and all are limited editions.

"Found Paintings" (Black & White paintings) 2019

Departing from her usual studio still-life settings, Sherrie Wolf's Found series (2019) celebrates random images and observations gleaned from travel. The artist captured the organized chaos of antique malls, garage sales, and thrift stores here and abroad in England and France. All the new work is in black and white acrylic on yupo paper,

focusing on the shapes of light, shadow and rhythmic patterns. Wolf's use of counterpoint and polyphony emphasizes the entire ground equally, rather than one element in particular, resulting in spellbinding compositions. Artwork courtesy of the artist and Russo Lee Gallery.

View more of the artist's work here: <https://hoffmanarts.org/artist-portfolio-sherrie-wolf/>

Mary Roberts - Shape and Surface

This is a collection of functional wheel-thrown vessels in subtle seacoast colors and textures.

In Shape and Surface, my aim is elegant and modern: round, oval, angular, often brought to conclusion by exaggeration: a diminutive or elongated neck, platters impossibly ample, bowls coaxed upward or folded. Each energetically lifting off the base, clean, assertive, and new. The Pacific

Northwest coast inspires each surface - delicately lined shells, sculpted driftwood, fissured bark, over-cast skies and granite rock, incandescent spring growth. Subtle and understated.

All are food and dishwasher safe. View more of artist's work here: <https://hoffmanarts.org/artist-portfolio-mary-roberts/>

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Sherrie Wolf



Mary Roberts

Beaverton man arrested for reported assault, robbery

Tillamook County Sheriff Deputy Ethan Ault responded to a reported assault the morning of Sunday, March 21, in Garibaldi. The suspect was identified as Richard Louis Olivera, of Beaverton.

The sheriff's office reported Olivera had also stolen the victim's vehicle and fled before deputies arrived. Despite an immediate search of the area, Olivera was not

located.

When Deputy Ault returned to his shift later that evening, he searched for, and located the stolen vehicle in Garibaldi and found Olivera sitting in the driver's seat.

When contacted and ordered out of the car, Olivera reversed the vehicle and fled, the sheriff's office reported.

Olivera drove north on

US 101 at a high rate of speed and crashed just south of Harborview Drive. Ault arrested Olivera and took him into custody.

Olivera was lodged at the Tillamook County Jail and booked on charges of robbery in the first degree, assault in the fourth degree, reckless driving, reckless endangering, unauthorized use of a motor vehicle and attempt to elude.



Richard Louis Olivera

Bird monitoring season coming on the north coast

Oregon's north coast is home to a wide array of birds each spring and summer, from seabirds like cormorants, common murrelets, brown pelicans, and tufted puffins to shorebirds like black oystercatchers and snowy plovers. Each spring and summer, volunteers collect data on these birds to help scientists and natural resource managers track the health of the birds' populations and inform management activities on the coast.

Data collected by volunteers has shown that the population of black oystercatchers in Oregon is small but relatively stable at approximately 500-600 birds, cormorant nesting success is highly variable from year to year and by location,



and that the endangered western snowy plover is making a comeback on the north coast. Birds also serve as indicators of environmental health, so track-

ing their wellbeing can alert us to changes in ocean conditions that impact people.

■ See BIRD, Page 5

northcoastcitizen.com

ATTENTION ALL NEAH-KAH-NIE GRADUATES

The Neah-Kah-Nie District #56 Graduate Scholarship Committee will be awarding up to \$20,000 in scholarships this coming May.

Any graduate of Neah-Kah-Nie High School from 1954 forward who wishes to pursue advanced academic, vocational or technical education can apply.

Applications may be obtained at the Neah-Kah-Nie High School Office, by contacting Guidance Counselor Esther Troyer at esthert@nknsd.org, or go to sites.google.com/view/nkngraduatescholarships/home.

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS APRIL 1ST, 2021

Mandate

Continued from Page 2

bility to:

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

And on May 1, the state will open vaccine eligibility to anyone 16 and older, according to OHA.

A complete list of eligibility guidelines will be available on the state's website at covidvaccine.oregon.gov

COVID-19 Vaccine in Oregon

NOTE: If you are 65 or older, registered for a vaccine through the Get Vaccinated Oregon (GVO) tool and you reside in Clackamas, Columbia, Multnomah or Washington county, there is a new way for you to schedule a first COVID-19 appointment

at the Oregon Convention Center (OCC). Here's how it works: If you haven't already, register for a vaccine through the Get Vaccinated Oregon (GVO) tool.

covidvaccine.oregon.gov
The state's Get Vacci-

nated Oregon tool, which assists residents in many areas in finding and registering for vaccination appointments, is also available on the site.

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Laura joined Barbur Law in 2021 as an Associate Attorney at the Tillamook office and is excited to serve the community she calls home. Laura grew up in Portland and completed her undergraduate studies at Portland State University where she studied psychology and political science. She developed an affinity for the coast during her childhood at her family's vacation home in Pacific City and has lived in Tillamook County since graduating from Pepperdine School of Law in 2014.

Laura is thrilled to be working in estate planning. She especially enjoys getting to know her clients, learning about their families, and preparing for the future so that their wishes will be honored. During her time at Pepperdine, Laura also earned a Certificate in Dispute Resolution, which has provided her invaluable skills in effective communication, negotiation, and mediation.

Laura Laskey
Associate Attorney
(Tillamook)

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H63221



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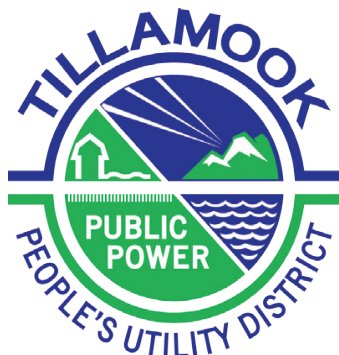
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H63223



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North Coast CITIZEN
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LETTER POLICY
The Citizen welcomes letters that express readers' opinions on current topics. Letters may be submitted by email only, no longer than 300 words, and must be signed and include the writer's full name, address (including city) and telephone number for verification of the writer's identity. We will print the writer's name and town of residence only. Letters without the requisite identifying information will not be published. Letters are published in the order received and may be edited for length, grammar, spelling, punctuation or clarity. We do not publish group emails, open letters, form letters, third-party letters, letters attacking private individuals or businesses, or letters containing advertising.

Deadline for letters is noon Thursdays.
The date of publication will depend on space.

Obituaries
The North Coast Citizen has several options for submitting obituaries.
• **Basic Obituary:** Includes the person's name, age, town of residency, and information about any funeral services. No cost.
• **Custom Obituary:** You choose the length and wording of the announcement. The cost is \$75 for the first 200 words, \$50 for each additional 200 words. Includes a small photo at no additional cost.
• **Premium Obituary:** Often used by families who wish to include multiple photos with a longer announcement, or who wish to run a thank-you. Cost varies based on the length of the announcement.
• Obituaries need to be submitted by Friday at 5 p.m. the week prior to publication.
All obituary announcements are placed on the North Coast Citizen website at no cost.

Bird

Continued from Page 3

Interested in participating? You can find out more about what these volunteer opportunities involve and find the project that best suits your interests and schedule by attending a webinar to be held at 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 30, hosted by Friends of Cape Falcon Marine Reserve and Portland Audubon. Attendees will be entered to win one of several door prizes from the Portland Audubon Nature Store.
"This will be a light and engaging overview of four community science projects focused on birds, plus a bit of information about other community science opportunities in our area. It's a low-pressure way to find out if this kind of volunteer project is for you," said Margaret Treadwell, program coordinator for Friends of Cape Falcon Marine Reserve.

"We'd love to have your participation in this year's bird survey effort! Help contribute to bird protection and have fun at the same time," said Joe Liebezeit, staff scientist and avian conservation manager at Portland Audubon. "The nice thing about these projects is they can be done in a COVID-19 safe way. This year, we are planning for more volunteer involvement while following protocols to keep everyone safe."
You can find out more and register for the March 30 webinar at <https://tinyurl.com/CFBirds2021>

The Friends of Cape Falcon Marine Reserve is composed of volunteer residents and organizations working to increase understanding and appreciation of the marine reserve. The group coordinates education events and promotes scientific research in the area through several community science projects.

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NKN

Continued from Page 1

Kelly said the school board currently has several members who are active parent but with him and Pat Ryan both resigning after their terms ends in June, only one of the board members remaining will have kids in the district.

"I really wanted to step aside and let somebody that was an active parent to have a chance to do what I was able to accomplish for my children," Kelly said.

Kelly's favorite part of being on the board was the sense of accomplishment in what was completed over the years. During his time, a brand new middle school was built. The board campaigned for that and had community open meetings. The board got a bond together and passed it.

Other accomplishments included keeping up with technology by giving access to Chromebooks for every student and redoing the track and field project, Kelly added.

The board also attended conventions in Portland, where they would spend three days and meet with other school district board members across the state.

"I will miss the people I have formed bonds with over the years," Kelly said.

Kelly and his family have



Terry Kelly

lived in the area for over 26 years. Kelly works in the produce department at Manzanita Fresh Foods.

"Being in such a public forum at the produce department, a lot of parents would come to me and express their concerns on which way I should be thinking in regards to this COVID thing," Kelly said.

Kelly said these interactions also pulled him in the direction to resign.

He said after his term ends, he will "fade into the sunset" and continue to support the Neah-Kah-Nie Pirates. He encourages any parent who lives in Zone 1 – Tohl Road north, Manzanita and Bayside Gardens area – who wants to be heard, to run for the school board.

The filing period opened Feb. 6 and ended March 18 for the May 2021 ballot.

Send comments to: headlightreporter@countrymedia.net

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H63138

church services by the Sea
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nehalembayumc@gmail.com
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Adult Sunday School: 9:30 A.M. Sunday

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Noon Tuesday & Thursday
Nursery Available
ADA Accessible

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Manzanita, OR 503-368-5202
calvarymanzanita@gmail.com
Pastor Ryan Holloway
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Sunday School: 10 A.M.
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To feature your spiritual organization on this panel:
Contact Katherine at (503) 842-7535, headlightads@countrymedia.net

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Guest Column

We don't need a bond to upgrade Underhill property, look at similar projects around the state

Randy Kugler

The Manzanita Listens survey results finds that citizens believe that building cost is by far the single most important factor for the City to consider in moving forward with this project. (pg. 14 of the Manzanita Listens Survey results).

Significant numbers of citizens continue to want to be presented with specific building options and their associated costs including a remodel option in order to insure that the Mayor and Council make a decision that reflects the desires of the citizens who will be paying for this facility.

For three years, the City has engaged in a campaign of misinformation about the potential of a remodel option which remains as a practical and economical construction option to complete this project in a timely manner. Perhaps the most egregious example of this flood of misinformation occurred at the March 4, 2020 Council Workshop where Councilor Nuttall gave his report to the City Council on the City of Sweet Home remodel of a former Forest Service Ranger Station for their new City Hall which was occupied in August 2019. Councilor Nuttall: "I talked with the city manager there at length about the project... The Sweet Home example of a school where they didn't even replace the sheet rock on the inside, they didn't replace the plumbing, they had bathrooms... I told the folks I feel it's a false narrative and it's not really appropriate to be using it".

These are the facts: In 2017, Sweet Home purchased the 12,590 sq ft Forest Service Ranger Station built in 1985 for \$750,000 which also includes 5 acres of property. The City spent approximately \$1.2 million to totally remodel the building including a total reconfiguration of the interior floor space for new

City office functions. The new space will meet the City's needs for approximately 50 years.

According to Sweet Home City Manager Ray Towry "The City had considered constructing a new building, but did not believe it could be done as efficient financially".

"I'm ecstatic about finally getting this building opened," Mayor Greg Mahler said. "It has taken a lot of time, effort and hard work to get to this day, but it is worth it. It is a gorgeous building and I think the citizens of Sweet Home are going to be very proud of it".

The Ranger Station structurally is identical to the Underhill School as a single story wood frame building. The only design difference is that the Ranger Station has a 30" crawl space under the floor rather than being constructed on a concrete slab.

The three citizens authorized by Mayor Scott to investigate the structural condition of the school agreed to Councilor Nuttall's request to have an architect of his choosing accompany the group to further examine the structural condition of the school given it is over 30 years older than the Sweet Home building. The concern being that as an older structure, there would be rot, water or insect damage or other structural problems that would not make the school a good candidate for a remodel. The group found none of these conditions and the architect remarked how surprised he was of the good structural condition of the building and that the interior could easily be reconfigured for reuse.

The misleading report delivered by Councilor Nuttall to the Council on March 4 is especially disturbing. "they didn't even replace the sheet rock on the inside" which appears to try and suggest that Sweet Home had to do little remodeling to complete and



Underhill Remodel Concept

convert the building to their City Hall.

The following are the elements of the completed Sweet Home remodel at a cost of \$95 per square foot:

100% replacement of the following: The building heating, ventilation and cooling system. The electrical system including new ceiling light fixtures and an outside port for future connection of an emergency generator. Plumbing systems including remodeling the existing public restroom to be ADA compliant and addition of a single use employee only restroom including a shower.

Flooring (carpet), building insulation, new insulated ceiling and new painting throughout. All new interior windows in the inside office work spaces and construction of all of the case work in the central office for cabinets for storage and stationing office equipment.

Over 75% of the drywall for walls replaced. Over 70% of the building doors replaced. Over 50% of the building windows replaced. Upgraded approximately 30% of the building to a seismic class 3 rating.

Councilor Nuttall and the

rest of the Council apparently feel that the Sweet Home remodel is a "false narrative and not really appropriate" and Manzanita citizens should not even have the opportunity to consider a remodel here even after Mr. Nuttall's architect expressed a positive impression of the school's structural condition. The Council believes that new build options at \$500 - \$600 per sq ft. are the only choices available to the community.

Councilor Nuttall's architect has recently informed me that based on his initial review of the Underhill School and the work that his company has done on similar public projects, he would propose a rough budget of \$120-160 per sq ft. to renovate the Underhill School. This would be in line with the \$95 per sq ft. for the Sweet Home remodel as there are other costs identified in the WRK engineering report that were not necessary in Sweet Home (ie new roofing, siding, foundation repair). O'Brien & Company is an experienced local firm and has completed public construction and remodel projects in Nehalem, Rockaway Beach, Garibaldi, Arch Cape and Tillamook.

A total remodel of an expanded Underhill School of approximately 8,700 sq. ft. to accommodate future space needs for the next 30 years containing all new energy efficient systems, structurally repaired to meet current codes, strengthened to a Class 3 seismic rating and containing a 910 sq. ft. meeting space dedicated for community groups could be achieved for less than half the cost of what the City estimates as the cost for a smaller new building that only meets our immediate space needs. For another approximately \$275,000, a totally remodeled Quonset hut could be had providing the City with an additional 2,500 sq. ft. of community meeting and emergency storage and sheltering space.

After the 127 page WRK report produced by structural engineer Brian Knight was reviewed by the Council, the City retained John Doyle of Stricker Engineering to get a second opinion on the school's structural condition. In a 3 minute presentation to the Council followed up with a 2 page "report" 3 months later, Mr. Doyle who is not a structural engineer concluded that "remodels are always

more expensive" and recommended demolishing the structure. Mr. Doyle's generalizations on remodels in light of Sweet Home's successful remodel demonstrate his lack of qualifications to offer any objective comments on the school, yet the City continues to reference his "report" as justification to not consider a remodel option.

Citizens who will be participating in the upcoming Manzanita Listens zoom meetings should be asking:

Why are we not being given more options to consider including a remodel option?

Why has factual information on a remodel of the Underhill School been selective, withheld and misrepresented?

Inform yourself by viewing photos of the remodel and reading how the City of Sweet Home provided its citizens with a modern and functional, energy efficient City Hall without a Bond, raising taxes or increasing fees on its citizens.

<https://tinyurl.com/r5rcmn26>
<https://tinyurl.com/363z-7vra>



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For more information about recycling or hazardous waste disposal:

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503 Marolf Loop, Tillamook, OR 97141

April Happenings

- 1 Fossil Fools Day
NO HHW collection in April!
- 13 International Plant Appreciation Day
- 13 Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) meeting
- 15 Tax Day
- 21 Administrative Professionals Day
- 22 Earth Day
- 26 Save the Frogs Day
- 30 Arbor Day

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10:00 - 4:00

Thursdays

Fridays

Saturdays

Sundays

Mondays

Tillamook

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Daily

(every day of the week)

Pacific City

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Fridays

Saturdays

Mondays

and

1:00 - 4:00

Sundays

Effective April 1st thru September 30th

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COMPOST FACTS

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WASTED FOOD
FOOD CONSUMED

NEARLY **HALF** OF FOOD IN AMERICA GOES TO WASTE

ONLY ABOUT **5%** OF FOOD WASTE IS DIVERTED FROM LANDFILL



- The U.S. produces approximately **34 million tons** of food waste each year
- Food scraps make up almost **12%** of municipal solid waste generated in the U.S.
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- Only about **5%** of food is diverted from landfill