

COVID-19 cases increase in Tillamook County

Hilary Dorsey
Staff Writer

Tillamook County Health Department reported Friday, April 2, 37 new confirmed COVID-19 cases for March 26 – April 1, with 34 of those being positive and three presumptive. The health department is monitoring over 50 cases.

Administrator Marlene Putman said during a community update April 2 that a person from Tillamook County is currently hospitalized outside of the area.

“We’re keeping an eye on

that Warning Week data,” Putman said. “Earlier this week reported that the county was nearing the High Risk category. Looking at those positive cases for the period of March 21 through April 1, we have 57 cases.”

The county is at risk of moving to High Risk with the 57 cases but data for Friday, April 2, and Saturday, April 3, will determine the risk level, Putman added. The announcement of the risk level will be available Tuesday, April 6, and effective Friday, April 9.

“Please keep using precautions,” Putman said. “Wear a mask and keep 6 feet of

distance when gathering with people outside of your household; limit those gatherings to no more than eight people.”

To schedule a no-cost COVID-19 test, call the health center’s COVID-19 line at 503-842-3900.

Adventist Health Tillamook President Eric Swanson said across Oregon, 155 people are hospitalized with COVID-19. In Region 1 – which includes Tillamook, Clatsop, Clackamas, Columbia, Multnomah and Washington counties – have 64 adult ICU beds available.

“We have plenty of PPE,” Swanson said.

Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Ed Colson said weekly vaccine distribution was 745 primary doses, 425 booster doses. A total of 7,620 Tillamook County residents have received one dose of the vaccine and 3,629 residents are fully vaccinated.

“These data totals are as of March 30 due to an issue on Alert, which is the state’s vaccine reporting site,” Colson said. “The data wasn’t accessible at this time for yesterday.”

Vaccine partners are keeping a close eye on appointments and continue to hold vaccine clinics weekly,

Colson added. Many users of the new online scheduling tool have reported how easy the tool is.

“You must currently be eligible to book an appointment,” Colson said. “A part of the registration does ask this question.”

If you are unable to utilize the online scheduling tool, call the health center’s vaccine line at 503-842-3914. People are able to schedule vaccines up to three weeks out.

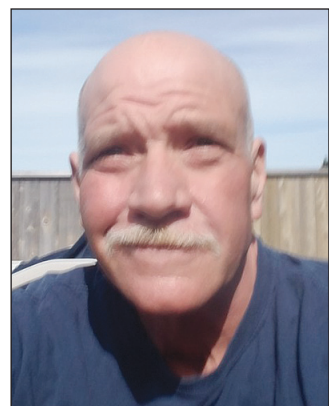
Phase 1B, Group 7 will be eligible for the vaccine Monday, April 5. This includes frontline workers as defined by CDC. Frontline workers include a long list of people, including those who work in food service, grocery stores and retail stores, colleges, U.S. Postal Service, and more.

For a complete list of what is defined as a frontline worker, visit <https://tillamook-chc.org/coronavirus/vaccines/>

The online scheduling tool can be found on the website above by clicking the GetMy-Vaccine button.

Send comments to: headlightreporter@countrymedia.net

Neah-Kah-Nie School District Director, zone 4



Mike Wantland
56 years old

Occupation: I have spent most my working life in, Coaching College and HS Baseball and, or the food, beverage and entertainment

industry.

Education: I graduated Wilson HS 82’ and Portland State University 88’ with a BS Speech Communication.

Family: Born and raised in Portland, Or. By my parents Earl and Edna Wantland. I have 2 older brothers and an older sister. I have 3 adult children. 1 grandchild and another coming in July.

My mom was born in Rockaway Beach in 1934. My moms side of the family had been in Tillamook County well before that. Rockaway Beach was the only beach I ever knew growing up. 5 years ago, I made it my home.

Why are you running for Neah-Kah-Nie School District Director, zone 4?

I’m running, because I was

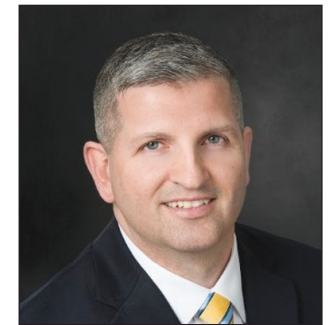
asked to. It was a reasonable request and after considering it I said yes. I consider myself someone that advocates for Kids and providing opportunities for them.

What experience/skills do you have that makes you the best candidate?

I have no idea if I’m the best for this position. That is for others to decide. What I do know is I have no problem advocating for every kid. I believe I’m an effective leader, as well as, a dedicated team player. I will approach each challenge with Kindness, Compassion and Honesty. My words will be matched with action and my actions will have accountability. I will demand accountability, to the kids, from those I will be working with.

What is the district’s biggest challenge and how will you overcome it?

I think if you asked 10 people what the biggest challenge for this school district is, you’d get at least 3or4 answers. There are always challenges, but it’s those obstacles that truly define us. To sit here and pick apart the school district would be futile and not necessary. But introducing new direction is important and cant be looked at as intimidating. If there is one challenge I might foresee, is convincing others, that I dont have an agenda. This is not some ego driven stepping stone. The students voice has to be heard and our actions have to back that up.



Damian Laviolette
age 47

Occupation: Tillamook County, Director, Information Services – Co-Owner/Operator Jetty Fishery Marina

Education: • Northern Virginia Community College, Associate Degree, General Studies

- George Fox, bachelor’s degree, Management & Organizational Leadership,
- Western Governors University Master of Science Information Security and Assurance

Family: • Damian Laviolette

lette (NKN Grad 1991)

- Teah Laviolette (NKN Grad 1992)
- Sabrina Laviolette 8th Grade NKN Middle School
- Robert Laviolette Nehalem Elementary School
- Caleb Laviolette Nehalem Elementary School
- Numerous other relatives to include two brothers, sister, and nephew who also graduated from NKN

Why are you running for Neah-Kah-Nie School District Director, zone 4? Two primary reasons:

- One - an opportunity to explore technology, cyber, and trade educational opportunities within the school district, areas of demand in the workforce of today and the future.
- Two - an opportunity to represent the parents and students within district in particular my zone and make their needs/voice represented within the board team as collaboratively as possible

What experience/skills do you have that makes you the best candidate?

I know what it means to have attended school within this district from Kindergarten through to High School Graduation. Then to have left the local area, state, and country to learn and experience what life is like elsewhere. Finally to return to this district with children of our own and a clearer understanding of the value and opportunities this school district and area represents for them. Throughout my journey to date I have learned valuable life lessons, matured through valuable work experience, sought, and obtained higher education, worked with, and managed diverse teams from all over the world at all levels. Combining history, experience, and education with a strong track record of financial/budgetary management skills as well as Neah-Kah-Nie School District Budget Committee experience, I believe I stand as a very strong candidate, with significant skin in the game.

What is the school district’s biggest challenge and how will you overcome it?

Most would likely say funding or new challenges around cultural shift. I would say it’s risk/time management. Understanding how to quantify the top risks facing parents, students, teaching staff, administrators, and school board members with the limited time available is critical. The ability to then act to manage/mitigate risks, be it new gym floors, medical treatment in the school, or shifting educational programs becomes manageable. If the risks facing our district can’t be quantified against each other, the district might find itself spending its limited time and resources on an area of lesser risk, while greater risk areas/activities are ignored. A functional documented risk management framework including operational and enterprise risk is a must.

Utilizing twenty plus years of professional risk management skills, education, and life lessons. I would work to enhance any existing risk management practices, add quantification, documentation, and present them for transparency sake to the families of the school district.

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International Police Museum reopens in Downtown Wheeler

Hilary Dorsey
Staff Writer

International Police Museum is set to reopen in Wheeler, within the confines of Wheeler Treasures, in early April, around April 5-10. Enter the front door of Wheeler Treasures and go straight to get to the museum. Wheeler Treasures is located at 395 Nehalem Blvd. The museum had been formally located in

Rockaway Beach.

Displays at the new location include police and local history, U.S. and international helmet/badge displays, evidence collection, a polygraph display, handcuffs, and more. Museum displays are constantly evolving.

“We have had something interactive for children,” Executive Director Ed Wortman said. “We will have a fingerprint station for the children.”

Wortman said the kids would also be able to participate in an interactive Bear Facts scavenger hunt. The scavenger hunt usually comes with a prize at the end.

“This last summer, because of COVID, we worked a program with the local ice cream shop,” Wortman said. “They



got a children’s ice cream cone.”

The museum will discuss options of prizes for kids during a board meeting in a couple of weeks, Wortman

Governor Brown announces county risk levels

Tillamook County moves to High Risk

Tillamook County will move from Moderate Risk to High Risk effective Friday, April 9. Tillamook County qualifies for Extreme Risk but moves to High Risk because the statewide trigger for Extreme Risk has not been met, according to a release from the Governor’s office.

Gov. Kate Brown announced Tuesday, April 6, updates to county risk levels under the state’s public health framework to reduce transmission and protect Oregonians from COVID-19. The framework uses four different risk levels for counties based on COVID-19 spread—Extreme Risk, High Risk, Moderate Risk, and Lower Risk—and assigns health and safety measures for each level.

Effective April 9 through April 22, there will be 14 counties in the High Risk level, six at Moderate Risk, and 16 at Lower Risk. As case counts and hospitalizations increase and counties qualify for higher risk levels, restrictions on businesses and activities will resume.

“We are at a critical moment in this pandemic as we face more contagious variants of COVID-19 taking hold in our communities,” said Brown. “Now more than ever it’s imperative that we all continue wearing masks, maintain physical distance, stay home when sick, and get the vaccine when it’s available to you.”

New statewide metric added for determining Extreme Risk level

COVID-19 hospitalizations are a key indicator of severe illness in Oregon communities. As vaccine distribution increases, case counts and percent positivity will not be adequate indicators on their own for measuring the threat COVID-19 poses to public health. This week, Oregon is adding a statewide hospitalization metric for moving to Extreme Risk.

Beginning this week, for counties to move to (or remain in) Extreme Risk, they must meet the county metrics for case rates and percent positivity, plus a new statewide metric: COVID-19 positive patients occupying 300 hospital beds or more, and a 15% increase in the seven-day average over the past week. Counties that meet the criteria for Extreme Risk but for the statewide trigger will be assigned to High Risk.

This week there are three counties that qualify for Extreme Risk based on their county metrics, but are assigned High Risk because the statewide trigger has not been met: Josephine, Klamath, and Tillamook.

Four counties enter two-week caution period

The two-week caution period applies to counties facing backward movement. Counties that reduced their COVID-19 spread enough to move down in risk level in the previous two-week period, but see their numbers go back up in the next two-week period, are given a two-week caution period to re-focus efforts to drive back down creeping case numbers and give local businesses additional certainty on their plans for operating.

This week, the caution period applies to five counties:

Baker County qualifies for Extreme Risk but is given a two-week caution period at Lower Risk because it moved down from Moderate Risk in the



Special district, board elections approaches May 18

Staff Report The Special Election is Tuesday, May 18 in Tillamook County. 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. Oregon is Vote-By-Mail. 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 are concerned with mailing your ballot back through the Postal Service or	if you wait until the last week before the election to vote, use an Official Ballot Drop Box. Candidates on ballot Tillamook County Emergency Communications District 911 Director, position 1: John Eckhardt Director, position 3: Matt Kelly, Christopher Kruebbe Director, position 5: Paula L. Tucker Tillamook County Transportation District Director, position 1: Judy	Riggs Director, position 3: Jackie Edwards, Linda Adler Director, position 5: Mary B. Johnson, Chris Kell Director, position 7: Gary Hanenkrat Neah-Kah-Nie School District Director, Zone 1: Renae Scalabrin Director, Zone 3: Kari Fleisher Director, Zone 4: Mike Wantland, Damian Laviolette Nestucca School District Director, position 1: Annis
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A. Leslie Director, position 2: Evan Carver Director, position 3: Diana A. Boisa Director, position 5: Shane Stuart, Mary Groves Tillamook School District Director, position 1: Andrea Goss, Matthew Petty Director, position 2: Becky Hoan-Heimerl, LaDonna Coon Director, position 3: Jesse Werner, Eva S. Manderson Director, position 5: Nick Troxel, Mike Gardner Port of Garibaldi	Commissioner, position 1: Bob Browning Commissioner, position 2: Joe Watkins, John Luquette, Jaime Perez Commissioner, position 4: Cindy Oswald, Val Folkema Port of Nehalem Commissioner, position 1: Steve Huber Commissioner, position 4: Joe Velkinburg, Damian Laviolette Port of Tillamook Commissioner, position 3: Kevin Stoecker, Christian Sween Commissioner, position 4:	Bill Baertlein, James Potts Commissioner, position 5: Sierra Lauder North County Recreation District Director, position 4: John Coopersmith, Frank Knight III Director, position 5: Jack Bloom, Constance Shimek <i>Tillamook Bay Community College, local fire departments, Nehalem Bay Wastewater Agency, local sanitary districts and local water districts are also having elections but candidates are running uncontested.</i>
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Frontline worker families, those with other conditions eligible as virus ‘rebounding’

Zack Demars
Country Media

As COVID-19 cases begin to rise again in Oregon, state officials are expanding the list of individuals eligible to receive a vaccine, despite a reduction in expected supply.

The update to the state’s vaccination plan came Friday in a press conference where Gov. Kate Brown and state health officials described the state’s next several months of pandemic response as a tug-of-war between vaccines and virus spread.

“Over the past two weeks, Oregon has seen our COVID case rates slowly rise. It’s clear that in Oregon and across the country, the fourth surge of this virus is at our doorstep,” Brown said Friday. “But make no mistake, this is a race between the vaccines and the variants. It’s a critical moment for us all to double down so we can outrun this next wave.”

Brown and officials from the Oregon Health Authority announced expansions to the state’s vaccine eligibility: Starting Monday statewide, the household family members of frontline workers, as well as those with a now-wider set of underlying health conditions, will be eligible to receive a shot.

“We know it’s not easy for everyone to find the time and the transportation to get to a vaccination appointment. If you’re a frontline worker making the effort, bring your family members and do it all together,” Brown said.

The new list of eligible underlying health conditions brings the state’s rules in line with federal recommendations, and now includes the following:

- Cancer
- Chronic kidney disease
- Chronic lung conditions including COPD, asthma, cystic fibrosis and pulmonary hypertension
- Down Syndrome
- Dementia or other neurological conditions
- Diabetes, type 1 or 2
- Heart conditions
- HIV infection
- Weakened immune systems
- Liver disease
- Overweight or obesity
- Pregnancy
- Smoking, current or former
- Sickie cell disease
- Solid organ or blood stem cell transplant
- Stroke or other cerebrovascular disease
- Substance use disorder

A complete list of eligibility def-

initions is available on the state’s website at covidvaccine.oregon.gov/.

Friday’s change comes as the virus “appears to be rebounding,” according to State Health Officer Dr. Dean Sidelinger.

“We continue to see a general trend of increasing daily cases along with virus-related hospitalizations,” Sidelinger said.

The increases mean some counties could return to higher levels of virus restrictions in the coming weeks as case rates continue to rise, Sidelinger said.

The health officials Friday said they had no plans to change the current virus restriction framework, despite objections from some that the risk level model is too restrictive on businesses, and objections from others that the state should be enacting more restrictions in the face of increased virus spread.

Instead, Brown, Sidelinger and OHA Director Patrick Allen repeatedly stressed the actions residents can take to slow the spread of the virus, even if they’ve already been fully vaccinated: Wearing face coverings, washing hands, maintaining social distancing and getting vaccinated when possible.

“The good news is, now when we face a surge, we know how to protect ourselves and others, with powerful safety measures like mask wearing and avoiding large social gatherings. And we have three safe and effective vaccines rapidly rolling out,” Brown said.

Still, meeting the state’s original vaccination targets is looking to be less of a possibility, as vaccine manufacturer Johnson & Johnson announced this week a production error could force it throw out millions of not-yet-distributed doses.

“That shortfall results in about an eight- or nine-day setback in the timeframe when cumulative doses in Oregon would exceed the number of people who are eligible,” Allen said.

In other words, the state’s projection of when it’ll have vaccinated all eligible adults is moving past its previous late-May projection.

“Oregon will not delay our vaccine eligibility timelines despite the disruption in Johnson & Johnson doses,” Allen said. “However, we may need to temper our hopes of having enough doses to vaccinate all Oregonians over 16 by late May, and bump that expectation back a couple of weeks.”

Allen also said some regions of the state have begun to see a concerning trend of seniors choosing to wait to get the vaccine, instead of getting it as they become eligible.



Seven in 10 seniors have already gotten vaccinated, but Allen said several counties report less than five in 10 have been vaccinated due to low demand, including Douglas, Gillam, Grant, Lake, Malheur, Morrow and Umatilla.

“The serious risk the virus poses to older adults far outweighs the temporary discomfort and disruption you might experience from getting a vaccine,” Allen said, encouraging older adults not to wait to get vaccinated.

And Sidelinger announced Friday the state detected more than 200 previously unreported cases of a California variant of the virus, which the CDC says can spread more quickly and is less susceptible to some treatments and vaccines.

Those variants and the state’s recent increases in cases suggest a continued need to stay vigilant, according to Brown.

“I’m obviously very concerned about the increased spread of the virus throughout Oregon. That’s why we are working hard to get more Oregonians to get vaccinated, particularly our most vulnerable populations,” Brown said. “I’m asking Oregonians to continue to rely on safety measures.”



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

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

■ See **TRAVEL**, Page 3

Potfest ’21 slated April 17-20 in Wheeler

Willow Bill a colorful charter, cancer survivor, benevolent sort and resident of Wheeler is hosting the first Potfest on his property in Wheeler April 17-20. According to Bill, the entire festival is a celebration, idea and method sharing experience for those who are fighting or have beat cancer. And anyone who wants to support the effort or learn about the horrible disease.

Slated for the event is a Elvis Presley contest with prizes awarded on April 17. the contest will also be broadcasted out of Carson City’s A to Zen.

On April 18 there will be a Willow Disc Golf Tournament with prizes so sharpen up your throwing skills. On April 19 there will be a Willow’s & Wine event an on 4-20 Bill has a presentation on beating cancer with many nontraditional methods, and one that helped him win the battle. There will be time to share your story, ideas and treatments along with celebrations of success and fellowship. Willow Bill lives across from the post office in Wheeler where the events are scheduled to take place. All events are from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day except on Tuesday April 20 events are from 10 a.m. to 4:20 p.m.

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Tillamook PUD 2021 Community Support Grants awarded

Tillamook PUD is pleased to announce the local organizations that have been selected to receive funding through the 2021 Tillamook PUD Community Support Grant program. This year a total of 27 applications requesting a combined amount of over \$210,000 in funding were received. With so many valuable community projects submitted and limited funds budgeted towards the program, the selection decision was especially challenging for the Board of Directors.

After a comprehensive review process, the Tillamook PUD Board of Directors awarded funds to the following 16 entities for their community projects:

- Anyway Foundation – for electrical work at the HomeGrown Farm Stand.
- Emergency Volunteer Corps of Nehalem Bay – for portable solar-powered ham radio base stations.
- Garibaldi Cultural Heritage Initiative – for electrical and heating improvement work at the Historic Boathouse.
- Hoffman Center for the Arts – for classroom lighting upgrades.
- Lower Nehalem Community Trust – for equipment at the ACF Community Garden.
- Meals for Seniors, Inc. – to replace the program’s freezer.
- Netarts- Oceanside Fire Department – for the Oceanside stairway lighting project.
- Pacific City Farmers Market – for market promotional efforts.
- Sandlake Grange – for electrical upgrades at the Grange.
- South Tillamook County Emergency Volunteer Corps – for the emergency supplies shed project.
- Tillamook County Habitat for Humanity – for electrical and heating work at the Hebo home building site.
- Tillamook County Pioneer Museum – for the

reliable heating project at the museum.

- Tillamook Food Pantry – for the walk-in freezer and refrigeration project.
- Tillamook Swiss Society – for the Swiss Hall roof repair project.
- Vital Vessel Project – for the Wheeler Micro Farm project.
- Wheeler Enhancement Team – for the restoration work at the Wheeler Train Station and restrooms.

The Community Support Grant Program was developed 20 years ago to assist local not-for-profit organizations in funding projects that promote economic growth and enhance community livability in Tillamook County. Each year, the board of directors budget funds towards the program. The amount budgeted for the program in 2021 was \$75,000.

Tillamook PUD is delighted to support the work of these outstanding organizations and looks forward to the diverse positive impacts each project will have within the community.

Area students make honor roll at OSU

Names of students who have made the Scholastic Honor Roll Winter 2021 have been announced by Oregon State University.

A total of 8,150 students earned a B-plus (3.5) or better to make the listing. To be on the Honor Roll, students must carry at least 12 graded hours of course work.

Students on the Honor Roll included:

Bay City
Seth C. Houchins, Senior, Computer Science; Alexis M. Marshall, Junior, Psychology; Celeste A. Stout, Sophomore, Environmental Sciences.

Cloverdale
Scarlet P. Harrison, Sophomore, Art; Makinley C. Johnson, Sophomore, Human Devel and Family Science; Morgan B. Kirkpatrick, Senior, Human Devel and Family Science; Morgan R. North, Sophomore, Human Devel and Family Science; Becca M. Ziegler, Sophomore, Pre-Apparel.

Manzanita
Hannah J. Mott, Junior, Public Health.

Nehalem
Madison J. Chesnut, Junior, Public Policy; Ryan D. Dillard, Junior, Elect & Computer Engineering; Samuel F. Holm, Senior, Political Science; Michael A. Laun, Sophomore, General Engineering; Samantha J. Noregaard, Senior, Kinesiology.

Asa W. Parker, Junior, Biochemistry & Molecular Biolo; Kestrl O. Rayfield-Foote, Senior, Botany.

Rockaway Beach
Danielle D. Finlay, Senior, English; Animesh I. Patel, Sophomore, General Engineering.

Tillamook
Claire J. Bradley, Senior, BioHealth Sciences; Elizabeth A. Brewer, Junior, English; Jennica B. Carlile, Senior, Civil Engineering; James B. Cole, Sophomore, Computer Science; Abigail Coulter, Sophomore, Psychology.

Eulises Cruz-Vieyra, Senior, Civil Engineering;

Logan P. Dorland, Junior, Accountancy; Mackenzie L. Guarcello, Junior, Kinesiology; Trent B. Harp, Senior, Mechanical Engineering; Hannah J. Hovden, Sophomore, English. Charlie V. Jenck, Junior, Industrial Engineering; Haley A. Ou, Junior, Merchandising Management; Ken M. Poblador, Senior, Ecological Engineering; Katie M. Sherer, Senior, Ecological Engineering; Miya A. Stahle, Sophomore, Food Science and Technology.

Silas T. Waxter, Sophomore, General Engineering; Austin A. Weeks, Senior, Biochemistry & Molecular Biolo; Natalie A. Zuercher, Senior, Liberal Studies.

Riverbend Players presents “The Dog Logs”

Riverbend Players presents “The Dog Logs” by JC Johnson. This is a virtual performance/fundraiser live on stage at the Performing Arts Center of North County Recreation District. Broadcast dates are 7 p.m. Friday, April 9, and Saturday, April 10, and 2 p.m. Sunday, April 11.

Show link: <https://www.facebook.com/Nehalemriverbendplayers>

If you are a dog lover, you will relate to these monologues, which express what dogs are possibly thinking and feeling. A refreshing take on canine life that is touching and surprisingly human.

All performances are free to the general public; donations are appreciated. To donate go to <https://www.riverbendplayers.org/> and hit the donate button at the bottom of the home page. Proceeds will go to the support of community food programs the Little Apple Fund, the United Methodist Church in Nehalem and the North County Food Bank.

Vacancies on Tourism Advisory Committee

The Tillamook County Board of Commissioners is accepting applications to fill vacancies on the Tillamook County Tourism Advisory Committee. They are seeking one citizen-at-large member to represent South County, and one citizen-at-large member to represent Central County. The Tourism Advisory Committee is composed of nine members who review tourism-related grant applications, advise the board of commissioners on proposed policies for the use of Tillamook County Transient Lodging Tax (TLT) funds and other matters involving tourism or tourism-related facilities.

There is no financial compensation, but there is ample opportunity for public service.

Membership application forms are available on the county website under the board of commissioners’ page. Applications should be e-mailed to Isabel Gilda in the Commissioners’ Office at igilda@co.tillamook.or.us by 5 p.m. Friday, April 23. For more information on how to submit an electronic application, call Isabel Gilda at 503-842-3403 and for more information about the Tourism Advisory Committee, please call Rachel Hagerty at 503-842-3404.



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Travel

Continued from Page 1

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 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 trillions 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.”



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H63316

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H63300

Vacancies on short-term rental committee

The Tillamook County Board of Commissioners is accepting applications to fill vacancies and new positions on the Short-Term Rental Committee. This committee is composed of 18 members and is tasked with examining potential solutions to community concerns and providing the Board of Commissioners with recommendations of actions that can be taken to help maintain balance between short-term rentals and full-

time residences in our unincorporated communities. The Board is seeking applications from the following areas:

- 1 community member from South County
- 1 community member each from the unincorporated communities of Neahkahnie, Barview/Twin Rocks/Watseco, Oceanside, Netarts, Pacific City/Woods, and Neskowin
- 2 members representing the vacation rental management community: one representation each from North and Central County

- 1 member representing economic development
- 1 member representing the tourism industry
- 1 member at large

There is no financial compensation, but there is ample opportunity for public service. Membership application forms are available on the county website under the Board of Commissioners' page (<http://www.co.tillamook.or.us/gov/Bocc>).

Applications should be emailed to Isabel Gilda in the commissioners' office at igilda@co.tillamook.or.us by 5 p.m. April 16. For more information on how to submit an electronic application, call Isabel Gilda at 503-842-3403 and for more information about the committee, call Sarah Absher at 503-842-3408, extension 3317.

Risk

Continued from Page 1

last movement period.

Columbia County qualifies for Extreme Risk but is given a two-week caution period at Moderate Risk because it moved down from High Risk in the last movement period.

Lane County qualifies for

Moderate Risk but is given a two-week caution period at Lower Risk because it moved down from Moderate Risk in the last movement period.

Polk County qualifies for High Risk but is given a two-week caution period at Moderate Risk because it moved down from High Risk in the last movement period.

Yamhill County qualifies

for Moderate Risk but is given a two-week caution period at Lower Risk because it moved down from Moderate Risk in the last movement period.

The Oregon Health Authority will examine and publish county data weekly. County risk levels will be reassigned every two weeks. The first week's data will

provide a "warning week" to prepare counties for potential risk level changes. The next assignment of risk levels will be announced April 20 and take effect April 23.

Updates to Warning Week data and county risk levels will be posted to coronavirus.oregon.gov.

North Coast
CITIZEN

Serving North Tillamook County since 1996

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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.



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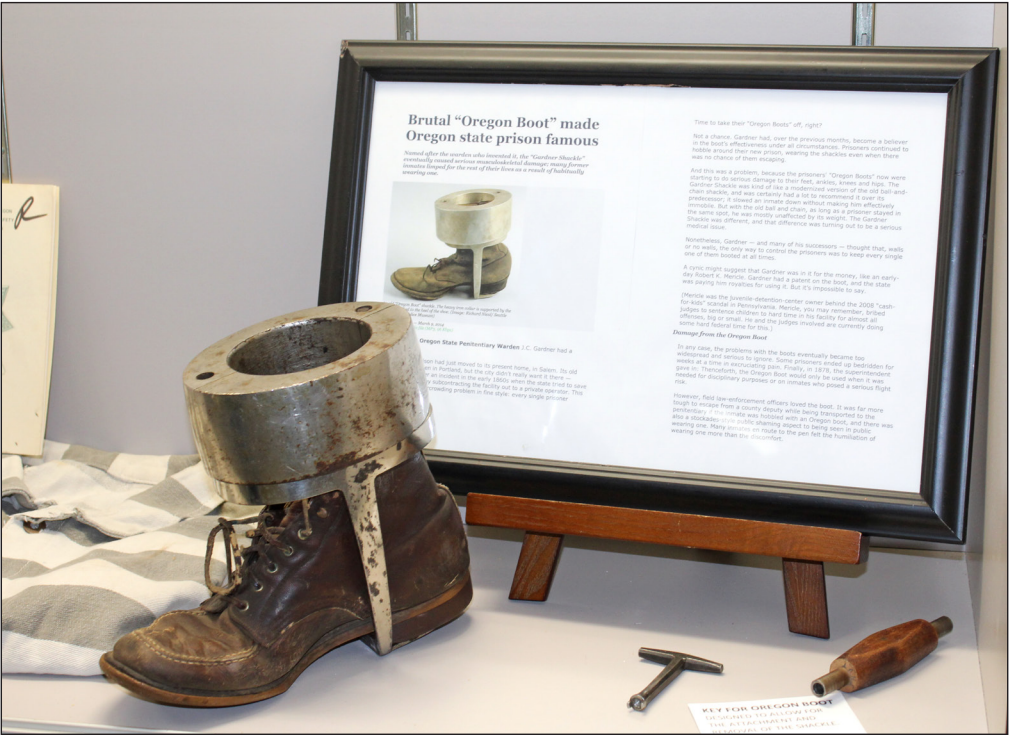
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Museum

Continued from Page 1

added. They used to let the kids dig through a box for a plush toy but cannot do that now due to COVID-19.

Wortman said the museum wants to plan a ribbon cutting with the mayor and refreshments for guests after the pandemic subsides, but will open at least partially in April.

“We’ll be doing a soft opening where you can come in and walk around, see the displays,” Wortman said of the April opening. “Part of it will depend on whether or not I get the identification cards in the display so people know what they’re looking at.”

There are a lot of long term plans to maximize the value of the space, but this will take time, Wortman added. Eventually, the museum would like to set up a communications corner, as well as two telegraph stations.

“We really didn’t have widespread use of radios and police cars until after the second World War,” Wortman said. “We hope to display a little bit of what it was like with the old equipment.”

The museum hopes to show people how law enforcement is done and the history of it. This includes weapons and uniform.

“At one time, swords were preferred because the weapons that they had at the time were subject to moisture and condensation and everything else and they weren’t necessarily reliable,” Wortman said. “The swords were reliable and didn’t care about the weather.”

The original ‘bobbies’ – the British police –wore top hats to be distinguished from

soldiers, Wortman added. Peel’s Bobbies, in reference to Sir Robert Peel, were considered the first police officers as we recognize them today. Formal police work began in 1829.

“As a nonprofit, subsisting on donations and volunteers, we have to move a little slower than we might desire,” Wortman said. “We have been fortunate, we are solvent and are working closely with Wheeler Treasures to provide the best visitor experience possible in the available space.”

Donations allow IPM to bring the law enforcement experience to life for visitors. Donations can be made directly to the museum or at www.internationalpolicemuseum.org

Send comments to: headlightreporter@countrymedia.net

Letters & Columns

Thanks to everyone who took part in the effort

This past month, Oregon Coastal Alliance argued the case for citizens opposed to the granting of a waterfront hotel and fish processing/restaurant facility before the Oregon Land Use Board of Appeals (LUBA). As you may remember, a large number of community members testified on the issue before packed Planning Commission and City Council hearings. An accounting of the testimony – both written and oral – showed that an overwhelming majority of citizens felt that our Wheeler Vision, as adopted into ordinance, should guide development in Wheeler, and that the stipulations in the Vision were not properly taken into account in developer Ulbricht’s proposal, and were not properly adhered to by our Planning Commission and City Council in their decision-making.

In remanding the decision back to the City, LUBA agreed with citizens that the City had not properly shown how the development conformed to the Vision:

“Accordingly, we agree with petitioners that the city council’s findings are inadequate to explain why it concluded that the applications conform to the Vision Plan. The first assignment of error is sustained.” The complete LUBA Decision is attached to this message.

After months (for some, years) of testifying before the City that our Vision was indeed law, and all land use

decisions must conform to it, Oregon’s land use court rejected the City’s findings, stating that they did not properly show that the development conformed to the Wheeler Vision.

We didn’t win on every point raised, but on the issue of whether the development would increase traffic congestion, LUBA also agreed with the citizen’s concerns:

“WZO 15.090(5) requires the city to find that the proposed development will not “create traffic congestion” at the intersection. The city council’s decision does not address that issue. The fourth subassignment of error is sustained.”

So, what does a “remand” mean for Wheeler? Because LUBA remanded the decision (denied it as written and sent it back to the City), the permit for Ulbricht’s development is currently invalid. The city can hold a remand hearing to deal with the findings LUBA rejected (regarding the Vision and traffic congestion), but the Wheeler City Council is not obligated to try to hammer out new findings that attempt to somehow squeeze the development into the Vision and reinstate the permits. The city can instead find that, with LUBA’s guidance on the issue, the project does not meet the Vision Plan and transportation requirements stipulated, and then creative and inclusive thinking about the future of the Ulbricht properties can proceed from there.

This does not imply that community members who spoke in opposition are opposed to any form of development. It simply means that we as a community were asked what ‘vision’ we had for our little town, and—over a two year formalized process—we answered, and this document became law. When it was ignored or demoted, many of us testified on its important legal standing. The State has now agreed with us. Meanwhile, elections are a good gauge of community will, and all city council/mayoral candidates whose campaign signs read “supporting community voices and our Wheeler Vision” were indeed elected to office. Yes, Wheeler will need to pay its bills, and to guide multiple opportunities to fill existing vacant lots or redevelop underused buildings inside city limits. Newly elected Mayor Doug Honeycutt and the new makeup of the City Council can work with community on HOW that infill happens, and how it changes the town’s character.

At this point in the process, we’d like to say thank you to the many community members who have taken an active part in this effort to support our community vision, whether through testifying, voting, donating to Oregon Coastal Alliance, or simply keeping the conversation going in as inclusive and positive a manner as possible.

Carl Whiting,
Wheeler Citizens

I support Jack Boom for NCRD board

We need incumbent Jack Boom on the North County Recreation District Board of Directors. He is our go to member on the new pool construction project that includes

bond and funding. This is not the time to change board members. Jack has been on the point on all the improvements we have made. The parking lot and the enter way remodel, the renovation of the theater, and the new theater lobby with ADA restroom, are just some to mention.

I can understand that some

of you want to change the board members, and that is what democracy is all about, but please not this year.

So please join me and vote for Jack Bloom for North County Recreation District Board Position #5

Wally Burton
Nehalem

Income tax filing, payment deadlines extended to May 17

The Department of Revenue is joining the IRS and automatically extending the income tax filing due date for individuals for the 2020 tax year from April 15 to May 17. Both the IRS and the Oregon Department of Revenue will be providing formal guidance in

the coming days.

Individual taxpayers can also postpone state income tax payments for the 2020 tax year due on April 15, 2021 to May 17, 2021 without penalties and interest, regardless of the amount owed. This postponement applies to individual tax-

payers, including individuals who pay self-employment tax. Penalties and interest will begin to accrue on any remaining unpaid balances as of May 18, 2021. Individual taxpayers will automatically avoid interest and penalties on the taxes paid by May 17.

Department of Revenue provides more details about tax deadlines

The Department of Revenue announced Thursday, April 1, more details about tax filing information and postponements for individual tax filers.

The department issued a Director’s Order that provides similar relief to the IRS. The following is a list of what is and what is not affected:

- Tax filing and payment due dates for individuals have been postponed from April 15, 2021 to May 17, 2021.
- Tax returns for which filing deadlines have been postponed include:

- Form OR-40, OR-40-N, and OR-40-P (Oregon Personal Income Tax Returns)
- Form OR-STI (Oregon Statewide Transit Individual Tax Return)
- Form OR-LTD and OR-TM (Transit Self-Employment Tax Returns)
- Taxpayers who haven’t filed their 2020 income tax returns, but expect to file by the May 17, 2021 deadline, only need to file and pay any tax due with their return by May 17. There’s no need for taxpayers to file any additional forms or contact DOR for this postponement.
- Taxpayers have until

May 17, 2021 to contribute to an Individual Retirement Account, Health Savings Account, Archer Medical Savings Account, 529 College Savings Plan account, Achieving a Better Life Experience account, and/or a Coverdell education savings account for tax year 2020.

- Taxpayers unable to file their 2020 Oregon income tax return by May 17, 2021 can request an automatic extension to file their federal income tax return by May 17, 2021. Oregon will honor the federal automatic extension to October 15, 2021. However,

an extension to file is not an extension to pay.

- Taxpayers who have filed their 2020 Oregon tax returns and owe unpaid taxes should pay the tax due by May 17, 2021. Otherwise, penalty and interest will begin to be charged after May 17, 2021 for any amount remaining unpaid.
- Oregon has not postponed the first-quarter income tax estimated tax payment due date for 2021. Estimated tax payments are still due April 15, 2021.
- The Director’s Order does postpone to May 17, 2021 the

expiration to file a claim for credit or refund of Oregon personal tax, if the period would have expired on April 15, 2021 (for example, filing a claim for refund for tax year 2017).

- The due date for the first-quarter 2021 Oregon Quarterly Statewide Transit Tax Withholding return, Form OR-STT, and payments is not postponed and is still due April 30, 2021.

Most e-file software providers have indicated to DOR that they have the necessary software updates in place. Taxpayers who have not

yet filed should check with their tax preparer or software provider if they have questions about the updates. More information about e-filing can be found on the agency’s website.

To get tax forms, check the status of your refund, or make tax payments, visit www.oregon.gov/dor or email questions.dor@oregon.gov. You also can call 800-356-4222 toll-free from an Oregon prefix (English or Spanish) or 503-378-4988 in Salem and outside Oregon. For TTY (hearing- or speech-impaired), they accept all relay calls.

Tillamook County

VOTER

★★★★★ GUIDE

2021★★★★★

Tillamook

Headlight Herald

For more information, contact Katherine at 503-842-7535 • headlightads@countrymedia.net

North Coast

CITIZEN

Since the State is not putting out a Voters Pamphlet we are publishing one for Tillamook County. Learn about each candidate in our special voters guide section highlighting contested races in the Special Districts and Boards election taking place May 18 in Tillamook County.

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This edition will be a valuable tool with great readership. Advertise your message and reach the family decision makers in Tillamook County.

This will be inserted in the Headlight Herald on May 4 and in the North Coast Citizen on May 6.

Reserve your ad by April 28

ELECTION

ELECTION

VOTE ELECTION