



CITIZEN

\$1.50

December 31, 2020

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First COVID-19 vaccines make it to Tillamook County

For the Citizen

Adventist Health Tillamook healthcare associates on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic have received a historic shot of protection against the novel coronavirus after acquiring the first doses of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine.

Adventist Health Tillamook is distributing its allotment of 400 vaccine doses to physicians and associates who are in direct contact with COVID-19 patients, per the CDC guidelines. “As the COVID-19 pandemic has lasted much longer expected, the vaccine will help to ensure our healthcare personnel remain healthy, safe and ready to provide care to all who need it,” said Gina Seufert, physician and clinic services executive.

Vaccines are being rolled out in phases and will be made widely available to the public in 2021. The

COVID-19 vaccine was rigorously tested for safety before being approved for Emergency Use Authorization in the United States.

Dr. John Bohlman, the medical officer for Adventist Health Tillamook says, “I believe the best and likely only real solution to bringing an end to the COVID-19 pandemic is for everyone to get vaccinated as soon as possible. It is our only hope of stopping this virus and returning to our normal lives. I am confident that the vaccine will change the trajectory of the pandemic.”

The Moderna vaccine uses messenger RNA (mRNA) to teach cells in the body how to make a protein that triggers an immune response. The immune response, which produces antibodies, is what protects against COVID-19. Because the mRNA stays within the cell’s cytoplasm, there is no effect on its DNA.

The vaccine does not contain a

live virus and does not carry a risk of causing disease in the vaccinated person.

While vaccinations begin taking place across our region, community members are encouraged to continue practicing safety precautions, including wearing masks, staying at least 6 feet and washing their hands frequently. Additional information about the COVID-19 vaccine may be found online at cdc.gov/coronavirus. Questions about community distribution of the vaccines may be directed to the Tillamook County Community Health Center.

(right) Gina Seufert, physician and clinic services executive at Adventist Health in Tillamook, gives the first immunization to Ann Batchelder, FNP.
Photo courtesy of Cherie Plaisted, Adventist Health.



A DAY AT THE BEACH



Visit Tillamook Coast donates four beach wheelchairs to high-demand areas, part of tourism’s equity to outdoor access program.
Courtesy photo

Beach access much easier thanks to grants from Visit Tillamook Coast

For the Citizen

As part of their strategic commitment to outdoor access, Tillamook Coast Visitors Association (Visit Tillamook Coast) has delivered four beach wheelchairs to three high-demand beach areas in Tillamook County: Manzanita, Rockaway Beach and Pacific City. The chairs will be available to the public, at no cost, through Manzanita Visitors Center, Troxel’s in Rockaway Beach, and Kiwanda Hospitality in Pacific City.

Manzanita, which receives one chair, has offered beach wheelchairs for several years,

but a chair in their stable was beyond repair after more than 10 years in service. Troxel’s, which gets one chair, began offering the service in 2019, but the chair they have now (purchased by Troxel’s) was not enough to meet demand. Pacific City, which has not previously had beach wheelchairs available to the public, receives two chairs.

“When our budget was drastically cut this fiscal year, we thought we might have to put this program on hold,” said Nan Devlin, executive director of Tillamook Coast Visitors Association. “Fortunately, we received \$10,000 in a COVID-relief grant from Travel Oregon to help with our operational costs, so that freed up just enough funds in our budget to go ahead and purchase these beach wheelchairs.”

TCVA’s destination management strategic plan includes helping improve

outdoor access for people of all abilities. This was especially important to Devlin, whose late mother suffered from Parkinson’s Disease.

“Being at the Oregon Coast, being on the beach, was a family ritual. It’s where we had our best times growing up,” said Devlin. “As my mother’s mobility decreased with Parkinson’s, it became harder and harder for her to walk on sand. I saw and felt her disappointment and sadness, and fear of falling. I know firsthand how important it is to individuals with mobility issues to enjoy the coast in meaningful ways.”

In choosing equity partners, TCVA looked for beach accessibility, high visitor counts, ability to respond to requests for the chairs, and partners who could maintain the equipment. The chairs were purchased from Debug Mobility Products, a

company recommended to TCVA by Seaside’s tourism organization for the chairs’ long-lasting quality and the company’s customer service. For more information, visit www.beachwheelchair.com

“With our close proximity to beach access at Cape Kiwanda, and seven days a week staffing, we volunteered to manage the beach wheelchairs, making them available to both locals and visitors,” and Kiwanda Hospitality’s CEO, Jim Prinzing. To reserve a beach wheelchair in Pacific City, email adventures@headlands.com

“Our one chair was sometimes too small for people to sit comfortably, so this new chair gives us a way to accommodate more adults as well as children,” said Victor and Jenn Troxel, co-owners of Troxel’s store, located

Vaccine doses continue to trickle into Oregon

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 more.

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

“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 long-term 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.”



PROGRESS EDITION

2020

A look back at the top 10 stories of 2020 in Tillamook County

We took a look at the top 10 most read and shared stories of 2020 in this Progress section of our last paper of 2020. It's hard to plot out where you are going if you don't take time to see where you've been.

Number One
Sept. 2, 2020

Hunter gored by elk in Tillamook County

Mark David, of Hillsboro, was archery hunting on Saturday, Aug. 29, on private property in the area of Trask Road East in Tillamook. David wounded a bull elk but was unable to locate it before dark.

According to Oregon State Police (OSP), David and the landowner attempted to find the wounded bull the morning of Sunday, Aug. 30. At approximately 9:15 a.m., David located the bull and attempted to kill it with his bow. The elk charged David and gored him in the neck with its antlers.

The landowner attempted to help David but he sustained fatal injuries and died.

Number Two
Sept. 8, 2020

Incident command provides Pike Fire update

The Pike Fire started at approximately 10:50 p.m. Monday, Sept. 7, and at this time, has grown to between 150 and 100 acres in size and is at minimal containment. Crews have been battling high winds and are focusing on structural protection as they prepare for the night.

The sheriff's office said no structures have been lost at this point. Winds are expected to remain steady with gusts up to 30 mph decreasing to 20 mph overnight. Currently Oregon Department of Forestry, Tillamook Fire District, Nestucca Rural Fire District, Bay City Fire, Garibaldi Fire, Nehalem Bay Fire, Netarts Oceanside Fire, the Sheriff's Office, Whitehead Reforestation, South Fork Inmate crews, and private heavy equipment operators are currently battling the fires.

Evacuations were instituted for residents and will

be reevaluated at least 8 a.m., Wednesday, Sept. 9. Initially a shelter was established at the Tillamook County Fairgrounds. Due to lack of use, the shelter has been closed subject to reevaluation. We are requesting people stay clear of the area so as not to impede emergency operations.

In addition, the Port Fire started at approximately 10:29 p.m. on Sept. 7, and had burned approximately 7 acres and is fully contained. No structures lost, but there have been flare ups due to the winds and crews remain battling this fire as well.

Tillamook PUD and other utilities have been working throughout the last 24 hours and power and other utilities are being restored gradually to all customers. Visit tpud.org/outages for additional information.

Again, please remain out of these areas for your safety and that of the firefighters. Please do not call 911 or the nonemergency line for Tillamook 911 for updates on evacuations or fire information. The information will be put out as available.

Number Three
Sept. 9, 2020

Lincoln City ordered to evacuate

Lincoln City, on the Oregon coast, has been ordered to evacuate immediately (Level 3: GO NOW) due to imminent arrival of the Echo Mountain Fire. Citizens of Lincoln City are advised to travel safely and avoid State Highway 18 as they evacuate. Currently, Hwy 101 north and south are open; Hwy 229 (Siletz Hwy) is open.

Surrounding areas currently under Level 2 evacuation (areas south of Barnett Road to Campbell Rd. and Glenwood) will be notified by Lincoln County officials to evacuate as soon as the traffic clears from the Lincoln City evacuation.

A Red Cross Temporary Evacuation Point (TEP) has been set up at Oregon Coast Community College in South Beach at 400 SE College Way, Newport, OR 97366. Buses are staged at Lincoln City Safeway and Lincoln

City Community Center for those with transportation needs. Lincoln County Fairgrounds is accepting livestock and other animals excluding dogs and cats.

Neighboring communities, such as Newport, Depoe Bay, Neskowin and Pacific City, are encouraged to avoid travel at this time to allow evacuees needed access to roadways. Please be aware and as accommodating as possible for those seeking safety.

Number Four
March 26, 2020

First presumptive case of COVID-19 in Tillamook County

Health officials confirmed Thursday, March 26, the first presumptive case of COVID-19 coronavirus in Tillamook County.

The individual is a health care provider between 35 and 54 years of age. As of Thursday, the provider is reportedly convalescing at home under quarantine. She is employed by the county and works at the Tillamook County Community Health Centers.

"Like all health care staff, this provider and other health center staff have been using recommended precautions and personal protective equipment to limit exposure and transmission," said Lisa Steffey, Community Health Centers. "Consequently, we expect to have limited the transmission to other staff or patients."

The Community Health Centers clinic in Tillamook was closed immediately and staff were sent home.

Number Five
Sept. 9, 2020

Sheriff's office provides Pike Fire update

The Pike Fire started at approximately 10:50 p.m. Monday, Sept. 7, in the Pike Road / Doughty Road area and at this time has grown to approximately 175 acres. Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) is reporting minimal containment currently.

The sheriff's office said there are over 100 ODF

personnel in addition to four South Fork Prison Camp Fire Crews and all local resources. The fire's speed has been unpredictable due to changing wind speeds and directions, but it has been moving southeasterly direction and away from the state forest and residences. Crews have been battling winds and rough terrain and are focusing on structural protection as they prepare for the night.

Number Six
April 10, 2020

They're back: Outsiders still coming to Tillamook County

"With this nice weather, we are seeing – unfortunately – more and more people from outside of Tillamook County coming here," Commissioner David Yamamoto said during a teleconference this past week.

Yamamoto said he was bothered by people choosing to ignore the stay at home order put in place by Gov. Kate Brown. He noted the frequency of out-of-state license plates and said local enforcement is limited in what can be done. Yamamoto asked the public to continue reporting activity so that authorities can have a conversation with visitors.

"It's very difficult for us to just close down our borders; it's not something we can do easily," Yamamoto said. "I'm hoping that people will understand, but please, if you see things like that going on in the county, please let us know."

Sheriff Jim Horton confirmed numerous sighting of non-Oregon license plates in the south county area, particularly around Pacific City. He pointed out that law enforcement is not authorized to stop vehicles just for having a license plate from another state.

Horton said Tillamook County Sheriff's Office is taking an educational approach, making contact when possible to advise people of the state order and encourage them to return home.

"That's a very slippery slope just to contact citizens for no reason other than that," Horton said. "Having

an out-of-state license plate, yes we're concerned about them in our area and in our community, but we do have to respect their constitutional rights as well."

Horton said concerned citizens should call his office rather than dispatch, adding that short-term rental concerns should be directed to the Community Development office. He said while Tillamook County Sheriff's Office (TCSO) deputies are busy, they are seeing a lot of compliance from local citizens.

Number Seven
Nov. 3, 2020

Christmas basket program applications available

The Tillamook Ecumenical Committee (TEC) is now accepting applications for the annual Christmas basket program. They will work with providers and sponsors who will adopt families in Tillamook.

Dave Stuck, moderator of the TEC, said those who would like to apply for the program need to fill out an application. The applications can be picked up at CARE in Tillamook, located at 2310 1st St. The TEC encourages families and people who are in need of a Christmas dinner, and a gift for their child, to submit an application.

There is an explanation on the application that states if the program is short on sponsors, those new to the program would receive the program before those who have received it in the past, but this is in rare cases.

"In the last few years, its been around 250 families adopted overall," Stuck said.

The Christmas basket program has been going on for the past 10 years, thanks to the generosity of its sponsors.

Number Eight
Aug. 13, 2020

Garibaldi resident arrested for filming child pornography

A citizen contacted the Tillamook County Sheriff's Office on Sunday, Aug. 9, with some concerns regarding some electronic devices.

The electronic devices reportedly contained child pornography and were turned into the sheriff's office CAMI detectives.

The sheriff's office said an investigation was conducted and through the course of the investigation, detectives were able to identify the suspect that filmed the recordings as Nickolas Edward Olson, 36, of Garibaldi.

On Aug. 11, detectives located Olson after having had returned from a fishing trip and contacted him at his residence. Following an interview with Olson, he was arrested for 16 counts of encouraging child sex abuse in the first degree, 16 counts of possession of child pornography in the first degree, 16 counts of invasion of personal privacy in the first degree. During the arrest, a search of Olson's person produced evidence of drug use. He was consequently also charged with unlawful possession of methamphetamine and lodged in the Tillamook County Jail.

Sheriff Jim Horton said that the sheriff's office maintains two detectives assigned to investigate cases of child abuse/neglect and domestic violence. These positions are funded through state and federal grants and are a key line of defense for the defense of the most vulnerable population – youth and families – which is an utmost priority for Horton and his staff. These are services we cannot do without, Horton added.

Number Nine
April 9, 2020

Oregon closes recreational hunting, fishing to non-residents

The state is closing recreational hunting, fishing, crabbing and clamming to non-residents due to concerns about travel to Oregon to participate in these outdoor activities, according to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW).

Traveling could spread COVID-19 coronavirus and put more of a burden on Oregon's coastal communities. Tillamook County officials had already discussed concerns that clammers from

2020 STATE OF THE BAYS

A report on the habitat restoration, enhancement and conservation projects completed by Tillamook Estuaries Partnership and our partners from 2015 - 2019. View the full report online at www.TBNEP.org.

\$31,539,844

Total amount spent



Tillamook Estuaries Partnership

A National Estuary Project

205

Number of projects

8

Land acquisitions



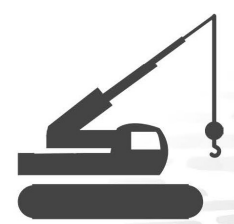
1,100 acres
127 linear miles

Total project areas

ROAD CLOSED

6 Restorations

Road decommissioning and realignment



76 Enhancements

Large woody debris, plantings, culvert modification or replacement, weed control

115 Re-establishments

Projects include tide gate modification or replacement; culvert removal, repair or replacement; fish screen, fishway, dam, and levee removal.



142 Partners

Agencies, organizations, and individuals

out of state had intentions to swarm local areas this coming weekend.

"I hope this will help dissuade out-of-state clammers with the low tides this coming weekend," Tillamook County Commissioner Mary Faith Bell said.

As of Friday 11:59 p.m., non-residents may no longer participate in these activities in Oregon. The ban stands until state coronavirus restrictions are lifted and it is deemed safe to travel into Oregon. This order does not apply to anyone living in Oregon for less than six months who has not yet established residency.

quickly.

The first fire was on Stimson ownership east of the Blimp Base. Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) responded with employees from Stimson and a contract dozer and held the fire to 7 acres. The fire was controlled and is in mop-up phase.

The larger of the two, Pike Road Fire, has grown to over 40 acres in size. ODF personnel responded to this fire along with Tillamook Fire, Nestucca Rural, Bay City, and Garibaldi Fire departments, Tillamook County Sheriff's Office and South Fork Inmate crews and heavy equipment operators. The Pike Road fire resulted in evacuations and extreme fire activity. A shelter has been established at the county fairgrounds, 4-H dorms for evacuees.

The fire continues to be active and plans are being made for day shift with continued dozer work, engines and three hand crews. The cause of the fire remains under investigation.

All emergency responders ask the public to not enter

the area of the fire for your safety and that of the firefighters. The weather pattern of east winds and low humidity will continue through Sept. 8 and into Wednesday, Sept. 9, and then followed by hot and dry conditions, keeping the risk of fire high across the area. ODF is asking for the public's continued efforts to limit risk and follow the county-wide burn ban put in place on Sept. 7.

ODF would like to Thank Fred Meyer for donating all the food for the firefighters this morning.

The Tillamook County Incident Command Team would like to advise everyone that the evacuation order for the Pike Fire has not been lifted. They are working on it and will advise as soon as it is safe to go in. In the meanwhile, they ask that people not call 911 or the nonemergency line for Tillamook 911 to inquire about being able to return to the area. Dispatch is being inundated with these calls while trying to assist with emergency callers.

Number Ten
Sept. 8, 2020

ODF, Tillamook County agencies respond to fires

East winds and smoke moved into the coast range Monday afternoon, Sept. 7, causing extreme fire conditions. Late Monday and into Tuesday morning, Sept. 8, two fires started and grew



TILLAMOOK PUD COMMUNITY SUPPORT GRANT PROGRAM

APPLY TODAY!



Tillamook PUD is now accepting applications for the 2021 Community Support Grant Program! Non-profit organizations with projects that promote community livability and economic development in Tillamook County are encouraged to apply. For more information and application materials, visit www.tpod.org. Applications are due to Tillamook PUD by Thursday, February 25, 2021.

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TBCC progresses in 2020 with an award winning year

The past year presented some interesting challenges for all of us, but it was also not without some great news. Tillamook Bay Community College was ranked #10 for Best Community Colleges in the United States for 2020 according to SmartAsset, a financial technology firm that has conducted the study for the past seven years. The study ranked 821 of the 1,050 community colleges in the U.S. by analyzing student-to-faculty ratio, graduation and transfer rate, and cost of tuition and fees. The college was also ranked #6 in the state on the list of 2020 Best Online Community Colleges in Oregon according to the Guide to Online Schools. The ranking is determined by several factors, including retention rate, graduation rate, percentage of online enrollment data, and the number of online associate degrees offered.

Here are some other highlights from 2020

New Academic Programs
The College thinks carefully about developing degrees, certificates, and educational opportunities that will meet the needs of students and employers in the community. The process includes meeting with business and industry professionals, listening to future workforce needs, and being innovative in how the college addresses these needs within the scope of academic learning and career-technical skill building.

In 2019/2020, TBCC introduced the following

- A new Basic Healthcare Certificate was created that can be completed while a student is still in high school. The first high school student to complete this certificate will finalize their internship this winter term.
- Three new certificates were added in Welding Technology: SMAW, GMAW, and GTAW.
- A new Associate of Applied Science Degree in

Agricultural Technology was developed with input from several local farmers and producers including Zwiefel, Oldenkamp and DaLaval. Courses are taught by local industry experts and students spend a great deal of time in the field doing hands-on learning.

- The college launched an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Healthcare Administration, where students take courses in healthcare business and choose a clinical certificate in Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Phlebotomy or Medical Assisting. Students can also now earn the Phlebotomy certificate for credit in addition to non-credit. The brand new Medical Assisting certificate began in 2020, and all program graduates were not only highly recruited but also able to accept employment locally.

- The Tillamook Works program launched, and placed its first intern at the TCCA Farm Store over the summer. Tillamook Works is a career readiness program that connects high school and college students in Tillamook County to local businesses, organizations, and professionals through internships and career exploration activities. The Tillamook Works program is supported by Tillamook Bay Community College, Neah-Kah-Nie School District, Nestucca Valley School District, Tillamook School District, and the Northwest Regional ESD.

- The college also added transfer degree options in both Biology and English. Students in these degree programs can transfer to every public university in Oregon as a junior in their major.

- In 2020, TBCC began offering three new options to complete a degree online. Students can now complete an Associate of Arts Oregon Transfer (AAOT), Associate of Science (AS), and an Associate of General Studies (AGS) degree completely online. The three degrees

join the Business Administration degree that has been online since 2015. There are also four certificates that can be earned online including certificates in accounting and office supervision.

Equity and Inclusion

In 2020, the TBCC Leadership Team affirmed their support for Black Lives Matter. As an educational institution, the College believes it has an obligation to speak up and take an active part in dismantling systemic racism. To this end, over the summer TBCC screened the movie 'Just Mercy' at the Tillamook Coliseum Theater free to the community to start a community wide discussion on the topic. Seventy people viewed the film.

TBCC will continue to focus on community-wide discussions and efforts to dismantle racist systems and inequities within Tillamook County and the nation.

Expanding Career Technical Education

The College increased Career-Technical education offerings in the academic year 2019-2020. The focus this past year was on healthcare and industrial technology and was to support the needs of local employers seeking to hire qualified, high-skilled employees to fill high-wage jobs. To support the growth in the Manufacturing and Industrial Technology programs, TBCC purchased the former Mechnronics building, which sits on Third Street across from the college's main campus. This building will become the Center for Industrial Technology and house the Manufacturing and Industrial Technology programs, which have been in desperate need of space to grow.

Small Business Development Center

The TBCC Small Business Development Center (SBDC) has been a key resource



for businesses impacted by COVID-19.

The client load increased from the usual 110-120 businesses per year to 230 small businesses served. Training programs were added around managing through challenging times, how to access SBA disaster assistance and using creativity to survive a disaster.

The SBDC partnered with the Tillamook County Economic Development Council to help distribute multiple rounds of grant funding, totaling \$798,000 so far, to the business community. SBDC clients reported raising over \$870,000 in new capital so far in 2020. Additionally, they provided 38 training programs with a total of 297 participants. Many of the workshops were offered at no charge through grant funding provided by The Ford Family Foundation.

High-Tech Classroom Options

The pandemic threw everyone in education a curve ball, and the college did its part to meet the health crisis head on. TBCC was a frontliner in developing a brand new class modality that allows students to take certain classes either in person, via Zoom, or online simultaneously in the same term and same class (or move back and forth in modalities where needed). This hy-flex class option launched winter

term, and gives students a level of flexibility that meets their needs while still delivering high-quality education. It also helps keep students safe as they can work from home when able, and come in for face-to-face instruction as needed.

COVID Response

In mid-March, the world was impacted by the spreading coronavirus pandemic. The College made a series of decisions over the first few weeks of the pandemic to keep both students and staff safe, including taking a step back from offering in-person classes for spring term. However, the College came back strong and through a detailed and evolving Covid Response Plan, was able to safely offer 60% of classes face-to-face in summer and fall terms.

During spring and fall term, TBCC offered free college classes to juniors and seniors enrolled in a Tillamook County high school as a way to support K-12 students with additional learning options. Students who enrolled earned college credits and saved a total of \$134,000 in college tuition and fees.

Facilities Master Plan

The TBCC Board of Education approved the College's Facilities Master Plan in 2020, which calls for a renovation of the current main campus building to

better serve students, and a new two-story building on the south college lot across the driveway from the main campus. The new building will include both office and classroom space and an adjacent community-space with a seating capacity of 500. The plan is current being considered by the legislature for match funding for up to \$8M in state funds. The College has reached a critical state in its ability to continue to meet the needs of the community within the current infrastructure, and an approval of the Facilities Master Plan is the first step toward making these improvements.

Looking toward the future

In 2021, TBCC will celebrate its 40th anniversary, and will plan an appropriate celebration with the community. While it is unclear at this point what that will look like, the college intends to recognize this milestone and share its accomplishments and growth over the last four decades.

The College will also undergo its first 7-year accreditation visit in October 2021. This is an opportunity to showcase to the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities how the college is meeting our strategic goals. Every accredited college is reviewed on a 7-year basis, and this is TBCC's first independently-accredited review.



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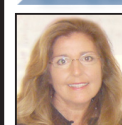
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Treatment Plant Operator CITY OF ROCKAWAY BEACH

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.

City of Rockaway Beach – Plant 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 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.

First Review of Applications: January 15th, 2021

Driver Licenses for All law takes effect January 2021

Starting in January 2021, the new "Driver License for All" law takes effect and you will no longer need to provide proof of legal presence to get a standard Oregon driver license or ID card. The law was passed by the 2019 Legislature as House Bill 2015.

The standard driver license and ID card will remain as acceptable proof of driving privileges and as an identification document. The standard license or ID card, however, is not Real ID compliant, so you will not be able to use it to get on a plane beginning Oct. 1, 2021.

Appointment required

To apply for any type of Oregon driving privileges or ID card, you must make an appointment at DMV2U. Oregon.gov. DMV adds appointment slots regularly to the online scheduling tool, with 15,000 being added today for March 2021. So check regularly until you find a time and DMV location that work for you.

When you go to DMV for your appointment, wear your face mask and follow all other safe-distance practices during your visit.

What you need to qualify

At your DMV appointment:

- Provide proof of identity, current legal name and date of birth, such as your passport (current, or expired less than five years) or consular card
- Provide proof of Oregon address
- Provide your full 9-digit Social Security number (or certify you have not been issued an SSN)
- Pay fees
- Pass all required tests
- Have your picture taken

The card design and fees

will be the same as they are today. Also the same as today: If you do not provide proof that you are a U.S. citizen, you will not be automatically registered to vote under the Oregon Motor Voter Law.

Online services

Many other common DMV services are available online or by mail, such as replacing a lost or damaged driver license or ID card. Find out what's available now at OregonDMV.com or DMV2U.Oregon.gov.

Garibaldi Museum welcomes new executive director

The Garibaldi Museum has welcomed Serena Fanning as their new executive director. Fanning started at the museum in December and her current goal is to allow the museum to be open on a more regular basis during the week from Thursday to Monday, as well as being open during the winter months.

Fanning has come to Tillamook from Colorado where she was a museum manager for the Grand County Historical Society's Pioneer Village Museum. The Garibaldi Museum's Board of Directors selected her in an extensive, nationwide search.

Chris Bacon, board chair, said of Fanning, "We inter-

viewed almost two dozen applicants from as far as Florida and even Malaysia. But when we met Serena, we knew she was a good fit. We are very excited to see how Serena will take our museum into the virtual age."

One of Fanning's favorite quotes is from Walt Disney: "We keep moving forward, opening new doors, and doing new things, because we're curious and curiosity keeps leading us down new paths."

"It was an available opportunity and curiosity that brought me to Oregon. I have loved every minute of being here so far. I have enjoyed the people, the climate and, of course, my job. Sometimes



curiosity leads us to where we were always meant to be all along," said Fanning when

asked what brought her to Garibaldi.

Vaccine

Continued from Page 1

"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 plans.

"Don't let the memories of this holiday turn into painful regrets because of a care-less 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 by 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 tenants 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 individuals 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."

Access

Continued from Page 1

across the street from the Rockaway Beach wayside. To reserve a beach wheelchair in Rockaway Beach, call or text 541-418-2842 or email rockawayrocks@gmail.com

"The demand for beach wheelchairs is quite high in Manzanita, and when one chair could no longer be re-

paired, we weren't sure what we would do. So getting this new chair will help us help others more often," said Dan Haag, manager of Manzanita Visitors Center. To reserve a beach wheelchair in Manzanita, call 503 812-5510.

TCVA's other equity to outdoor projects are in the planning stages and will go forth when more funding becomes available to the organization. For more information, contact Nan Devlin at nan@tillamookcoast.com

North Coast CITIZEN

Serving North Tillamook County since 1996

Publisher Joe Warren

Reporter Hilary Dorsey,
email headlightreporter@countrymedia.net

Sales Katherine Mace, email headlighttads@countrymedia.net

Ad Production Stephania Baumgart

PHONE 503-842-7535 • **FAX** 503-842-8842

EMAIL editor@northcoastcitizen.com

WEBSITE northcoastcitizen.com

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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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Manzanita Polar Plunge held virtually this year

Manzanita Polar Plunge will be held differently this year due to COVID-19. The event usually has about 500 people gather at Manzanita beach. This year, the event will be held virtually, still at 11 a.m. on New Years Day, Jan. 1, 2021.

Because the event is virtual, the location of the plunge is up to you. Make sure whatever you do, take a picture and use the hashtag #manzanitapolarplunge2021 and post it on Facebook or the Spa Manzanita Facebook page. Gather with your COVID-19 safe circle or by yourself and come up with

your own Polar Plunge event.

Suggestion: Plunge into the ocean somewhere; jump in a river, lake, pond or creek; run through a sprinkler or have a friend spray you with a hose; submerge into a cold bath; dump cold water over your head.

Neither Spa Manzanita, nor Janice (the person who thought of the Polar Plunge many years ago) are responsible, liable or accountable for your actions or safety during, before or after the Polar Plunge. Be smart and childlike at the same time. Costumes are encouraged.



Manzanita's Polar Plunge in 2020 drew about 500 plungers, this year the event will be held virtually.
Citizen file photo.



Approx. 11 a.m. on Sat. Dec. 26, Nehalem Bay Fire and Rescue and Tillamook ambulance were paged to a motorcycle accident in front of the Nehalem Post Office. The rider was transported the Adventist Health in Tillamook with serious injuries. Responding along with the Nehalem Bay Fire And Rescue were Manzanita Police, Tillamook ambulance, Tillamook County Sheriff and State Troopers. The Hwy. was closed for about one-and-a-half-hours. Photos Hal McMahan

Sea Star listed as endangered following search

Steve Lundeberg,
steve.lundeberg@oregon-state.edu

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, 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 joined 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.

Photo By Janna Nichols



Photo By Steve Lonhart

Moreover, the research produced no indications of population recovery in any region in the five to seven years since the outbreak.

Sunflower sea stars are now nearly absent in Mexico as well as the contiguous United States, the scientists say. No stars have been seen in Mexico since 2016, none in California since 2018, and only a handful in Oregon and Washington since 2018.

Sunflower sea stars are a key predator of purple sea urchins and the sea star decline has helped fuel an explosion in the urchin population in many regions. An overabundance of urchins is linked to a decline in kelp

forests already facing pressure from marine heat wave events, making the future uncertain for ecosystems that provide habitat for thousands of marine animals and help support coastal economies.

"Because most people aren't out in the ocean every day, we don't realize how much it's being changed and impacted by humans," said study co-author Sara Hamilton, a Ph.D. candidate in the OSU College of Science. "We need to think creatively about how to keep our ocean healthy. While drawing down carbon emissions is the most pressing need, rebuilding key predator populations, like the sunflower

sea star, can be an important piece of the puzzle too."

The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species is an important resource for guiding conservation action and policy decisions, assessing the risk of extinction of a species should no conservation action be taken. Species are assigned to one of eight categories of threat based on criteria linked to population trend, population size and structure and geographic range.

Species listed as critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable are collectively described as threatened.



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• Each week receipts turned in that week will be entered to win a weekly prize sponsored by a local business and entered into the grand prize of \$1,000 sponsored by US Bank.

• Weekly drawings will take place each Tuesday, and the grand prize drawing will take place early in January.

WIN. • Check the Tillamook Chamber of Commerce Facebook page to see if you're a winner!

For more information about the Shop Small Sweepstakes contact the Tillamook Chamber of Commerce.

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Water bill provides relief for Oregon coast

David Rupkalvis
Country Media

While much of the state was paying attention to the COVID-19 relief package that passed Congress on Monday, Congressman Peter DeFazio was celebrating another win.

DeFazio, who serves as the chair of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, said the spending bill that also passed was a big win for the nation's coastal communities. Included in the package was the Water Resources Development Act of 2020, which fully funds harbor maintenance.

"This is a tremendous victory for Oregon's coastal communities," DeFazio said. "For decades, I have fought to unlock the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund and ensure that funds already collected for harbor maintenance are fully utilized to keep our local ports dredged and jetties maintained. Finally, WRDA 2020 fulfils that goal. With this fix, our ports and harbors will have the

resources they so desperately need, all without raising taxes or adding a penny to the deficit. My bipartisan bill, approved by both the House and the Senate, will create and sustain jobs on the coast, make conditions safer for Oregon's commercial fishing and recreation industries and boost our state and national economic competitiveness."

DeFazio explained Congress passed a small tax while Ronald Reagan was president to fund harbor maintenance. But over the last decade, Congress has withheld some of that money, which accumulated to \$10 billion.

When the spending bill passed, the money was unlocked and will be spent over the next decade. DeFazio said beginning in 2021, \$500 million in extra funding will be released every year, with the number climbing to \$1 billion in the sixth year.

"By unlocking the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund, my legislation will ultimately provide up to \$3 billion annually for port maintenance around the country and right

here in Oregon," he said. "I also successfully pushed for a 50 percent increase in funding for small harbors, like the Port of Gold Beach and the Port of Siuslaw, and for a provision that allows harbor maintenance funds to be seamlessly spent on the maintenance of adjacent marinas. This funding will be put to immediate use paying for planned projects such as the Coos Bay North Jetty rehabilitation and maintenance dredging along the coast."

DeFazio said the Water Resources Development Act twice passed the House unanimously, but the Senate refused to take it up for consideration. That left no choice but to attach it to the spending bill that was approved by Congress on Monday.

DeFazio said the additional funding will help offset years of deferred maintenance at ports and harbors across Oregon and the nation.

"This is going to the big," he said. "The North Jetty at Coos Bay has needed repairs for a long time. When jetties start to go, they go quickly. This assistance will help us

go forward with the North Jetty repair."

DeFazio also pointed to a dredging project at the Gold Beach harbor as much needed. He said so much gravel has washed into the harbor that the Coast Guard had to remove its boat from the area. Most boats can only enter and exit at high tides due to the built-up silt. With the funding, not only can the harbor be dredged, but work can be done upriver to keep rocks from flowing in for several years.

At Port Orford, the funding will help reconfigure the jetty or put in a permanent dredging system.

"It's really good for coastal communities," he said. "We've got to dredge these. We lose people on the harbor bars up and down the coast every year."

DeFazio said he also got funding for the Coast Guard attached to the spending bill. The legislation will fully fund the Coast Guard and will keep an air station in Newport that was in danger of closing.

While DeFazio said he

would have preferred to pass the legislation independently, he was forced to attach it to the spending bill when the Senate refused to consider it. The \$10 billion surplus will help make repairs and finish dredging projects at all the harbors across the nation over the next decade, the congressman said.

COVID-19 relief

DeFazio said the package that was approved by Congress was not perfect, but it was nice to see something done.

"It is not as much as I would have liked," he said. "This got restarted by a bipartisan group in the House and I weighed in and said, 'Hey, this may not be what we like, but we have to do something.'"

DeFazio said even the imperfect package will help Oregon residents. He said 100,000 Oregonians who would have lost unemployment this month will continue to receive it. He also said federal money will go to tenants and landlords to stop evictions, and money would

go to small businesses that need it most.

"That should provide particular relief to restaurants, gyms and other small businesses that have been impacted by coronavirus restraints," DeFazio said.

While DeFazio has been spending most of his time in Oregon to limit travel during the pandemic, he said he would return to Washington D.C. early in the new year. He will be sworn in for a new term Jan. 3 and will take part in the Electoral College vote Jan. 6. DeFazio said he expects some Republicans to protest the results but was confident nothing would change.

"They could drag it out for a few days, but the result is preordained," he said. "This craziness has got to stop at some point and we can get back to the business of helping the country."

DeFazio said he anticipates the new Congress will take up more COVID relief discussions, but the end result is uncertain.

"There's a lot of room for improvement," he said.

Tillamook State Forest delivers \$31.4M for county, local services

The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) released a report to state forest trust land counties highlighting economic, environmental and social accomplishments in fiscal year 2020, including distributing \$31.4 million in revenue to Tillamook, Washington and Columbia counties along with local service providers.

At over 357,000 acres, the Tillamook State Forest is Oregon's largest state forest. Tillamook County and local taxing districts with state forestland received \$22.2 million in fiscal year 2020, while Washington County and local districts received \$8.8 million. Additionally, a portion of state forestland in Columbia County managed out of ODF's Forest Grove District generated \$376,759

for the county.

ODF recently released its Council of Forest Trust Land Counties annual report, which highlights the array of economic, environmental and social contributions from approximately 729,000 acres of actively managed state forestland. It includes a recap of timber sales and revenue distribution, conservation and forest health activities, and recreation use, including popularity and number of visitors, among other statistics.

Statewide, counties and local governments received \$69.2 million in fiscal year 2020, collected from timber sales on state-owned forests. Revenues are distributed based on timber sales within a particular jurisdiction. Other highlights include replanting more

than 3 million trees and hosting more than 22,000 campers at ODF campgrounds.

On the Tillamook State Forest, one environmental highlight included continuing to improve fish habitat on Gales Creek. By planting 1,000 western red cedar seedlings on a mile-long stretch of the creek, as trees grow they will provide shade to help maintain cool water – vital to native upper Willamette steelhead listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. This is the latest in a multi-year effort to improve aquatic habitat conditions in this portion of the Tillamook State Forest in an area where natural processes are inhibited by a lack of large, older trees due to wildfire history in the area. This project

highlights collaborative solutions in natural resource management that address continuing challenges faced on the Tillamook State Forest nearly 70 years after the Tillamook Burn.

Counties and local service providers receive approximately 64 percent of net revenues from timber harvests on state forests. The remaining revenues finance virtually all aspects of state forest management, including ODF's recreational offerings, environmental enhancement projects, replanting after timber harvest, and forest road maintenance. The state's share of revenue was approximately \$38.3 million in fiscal year 2020.

"The economic, environmental and social successes detailed in

this annual report highlight the broad scope of benefits healthy working forests provide to Oregonians and communities," State Forester Peter Daugherty said.

Other report highlights statewide include:

- 238 million board feet of timber harvested through management activities
- 4.9 miles of fish access restored
- 20 fish barriers removed
- 389 miles of trail maintained
- 1,015 woodcutting permits issued
- 29,472 visitors to the ODF Tillamook Forest Center. The TFC's physical location was closed for most of the 2020 season to reduce spread of COVID-19.



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January Dates to Watch

- 1 New Year's Day – all transfer stations closed
- 9 E-Waste & Styrofoam Collection at local Transfer Stations (10am-2pm)
- 12 Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) meeting
- 18 Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday – Pacific City transfer station closed



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503 Marolf Loop, Tillamook, OR 97141
Phone: 503-815-3975 • Fax: 503-842-6473
E-mail: recycle@co.tillamook.or.us • www.co.tillamook.or.us/gov/solidwaste



Jan.—none
Feb. 6th
March 6th*
Apr.—none
May 1st
June 5th*
July 10th
Aug. 7th
Sept. 11th
Oct. 2nd*
Nov.—none
Dec. 4th

*CEG/Business event day prior. Registration Required

PLEASE separate Hazardous Waste from other items in your vehicle prior to arriving at the event.



RECYCLE YOUR HOLIDAY TREE

FREE!
At your local Transfer Station
Thru January 15, 2021
With this coupon

BARE TREES ONLY:
Please remove all tinsel lights & decorations, etc.
Limit 2 trees per coupon

Manzanita Transfer Station
34995 Necarney Rd., Manzanita
(503) 368-7764
10am – 4pm / Thur - Sun
Closed Jan. 1st

Tillamook Transfer Station
1315 Ekloff Road, Tillamook
(503) 842-2431
8am – 4pm / Every day
Closed Jan. 1st

Pacific City Transfer Station
38255 Brooten Road, Pacific City
(503) 965-6898
9am – 4pm / Fri - Sat. & Mon.
Closed Jan. 1st

E-WASTE & Styrofoam COLLECTION:
to benefit local Senior S.A.F.E. committees
Saturday, January 9, 2021, 10am — 2pm
Computers, TVs, monitors, printers, scanners, keyboards, mice, etc.
At your local transfer station

Tillamook County Solid Waste, 503 Marolf Loop, Tillamook
www.co.tillamook.or.us/gov/SolidWaste, 503.815.3975



E-WASTE & Styrofoam COLLECTION!



Manzanita Transfer Station
34995 Necarney Rd, Manzanita

Tillamook Transfer Station
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Pacific City Transfer Station
38255 Brooten Rd, Pacific City



Sat., Jan. 9, 2021
10:00 am to 2:00 pm



Accepted E-Waste
CPUs, Keyboards, Laptops/tablets, Computer Mice, Monitors (CRT/LCD), Printers, Scanners, Televisions (Complete)

Other items may be accepted at staff discretion.

Styrofoam must be the white, bulky packaging kind and clean.
NO PEANUTS or FOOD TRAYS.

All proceeds collected from these collections benefit local school S.A.F.E. activities.
Offered by Tillamook County Solid Waste Department in partnership with the Master Recyclers. For Information about a Tillamook County collection event please contact the Tillamook County Solid Waste Department at 503.815.3975 or visit our website at:
www.co.tillamook.or.us/gov/solidwaste

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