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August 13, 2020

Volume 26, No. 15

No Friday night lights as fall sports delayed to March

The Oregon School Activities Association (OSAA) shifted its traditional fall sports season contests to begin in March under a new 2020-2021 school activities calendar approved by the association's executive board on Wednesday, Aug. 5. The board also voted to waive current out-of-season coaching policies to allow for student participation during the fall (Season 1). Participation will be at the discretion of the local school district in those activities allowed per directives from the Governor's Office, Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and Oregon Department of Education

(ODE). "Today's decisions by the executive board provide a framework to maximize the potential opportunity for students in Oregon to participate in three seasons during the 2020-21 school year," said Peter Weber, OSAA executive director. "The board recognized that a one size fits all approach isn't what's best for students across the state. By waiving policy to allow regional participation this fall, local school districts will have the discretion for participation in those areas that are able to do so safely per state directives." The executive board took

this action following last week's release of school reopening health metrics by the governor's office and OHA. These metrics will result in nearly all OSAA member high schools starting in a Comprehensive Distance Learning (CDL) format this fall which presents challenges for the resumption of school activities. Shifting the season calendar later in the school year provides additional time for more schools to return to a hybrid or on-site learning format while providing flexibility for local school districts to make decisions this fall that are best for their school communities as health metrics

and state guidance in this area continues to develop.

The OSAA's new calendar provides for three distinct seasons from late December to late June with limited overlap between seasons. Traditional winter activities will take place in January and February (Season 2), followed by fall activities in March and April (Season 3), with spring activities occurring in May and June (Season 4). Each season will feature an equitable 7-week regular season, with adjusted contest limitations, followed by an OSAA Culminating Week. Specific plans for culminating week events will be developed in

conjunction with member schools in the coming months in alignment with large group gathering guidelines issued by the state.

The OSAA Association Year will officially begin on Aug. 31 in Season 1 where policies restricting out-of-season coaching have been removed. This allows member school students and coaches, at the discretion of the local school district, to participate in any OSAA-sanctioned activity permitted by directives from the Governor's Office, OHA and ODE. This participation may include conditioning, practices and interscholastic competitions

in those permitted activities provided schools adhere to OSAA policies.

The OSAA will continue to work with the Governor's Office, OHA, and ODE, along with their Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC) to provide information to member schools. Guidance from these entities continues to evolve, along with the pandemic itself, and will impact future OSAA decisions regarding the 2020-2021 school year.

View the adopted 2020-2021 OSAA School Activities Calendar at <http://www.osaa.org/coronavirus>

NKN GRADUATION

Every Neah Kah Nie (NKN) High School Class of 2020 graduate has his/her portrait proudly displayed on Hwy 101 from NKN High to downtown Rockaway. NKN High School graduation is at 11 a.m. Friday, Aug. 14, at Abrahamson Field. Due to COVID-19 crowd restrictions, this is an invite only celebration. Neah Kah Nie School District and the entire Neah Kah Nie school community are extremely proud of such an exemplary class. Congratulations Class of 2020.



New school year begins with distance learning

Hilary Dorsey
Staff Writer

Schools districts in Tillamook County have made decisions regarding what school will look like in the fall. Neah-Kah-Nie (NKN) School District, Nestucca Valley School District, and Tillamook School District will begin the school year with comprehensive distance learning.

NKN School District made the announcement Thursday, Aug. 6, stating the 2020 school year will begin in a comprehensive distance learning environment beginning Sept. 14.

Superintendent Paul Erlebach wrote in a letter to the community that county-specific metrics released by Gov. Kate Brown, Oregon Health Authority and Oregon Department of Education further warn of the risk in reopening school buildings too soon.

"If we bring our students and staff back together, I believe, we will have COVID-19 outbreaks," Erlebach wrote.

Erlebach said COVID-19 outbreaks would require the quarantine of exposed students and staff for several weeks, leading to the breakdown of in-person learning. The repeated opening and closing of classrooms would be disruptive to the learning process.

"As your superintendent, it is my obligation – and my priority – to safeguard the wellbeing of each of our students and employees," Erlebach wrote. "With that being said, I cannot in good faith put health and safety on the line when infection rates are rising and our communities do not have the resources to quickly and effectively address outbreaks."

The school district will reevaluate the decision to begin in a distance learning environment on a periodic basis based on state and county-level metrics, Erlebach said. He expects the school district to be in a comprehensive distance learning framework through the first nine weeks of the school year, and hope to transition to a hybrid model by Nov. 16.

Nestucca Valley School District announced July 28 they would be implementing distance learning for the first quarter of the school year, until Nov. 5. The school district will be assessing the reopening of its schools to a hybrid model but will not do this before Nov. 5, and may not be able to achieve this until after the second quarter, or longer, depending on the COVID-19 spread.

Superintendent Misty Wharton wrote in a letter that the school district will offer professional development to their staff and schedule one-on-one virtual training sessions for parents and students, will have a rigorous curriculum for Pre-K-12 students, check in daily with students, and reinstate the standard grading system.

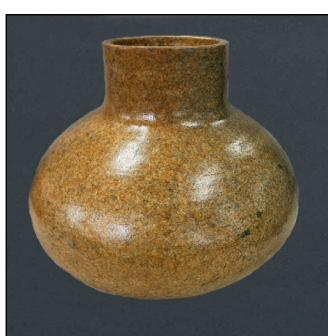
"This summer, I have been working with the county commissioners to increase access and funding for all of our students to access reliable internet," Wharton wrote. "We have developed a plan to provide internet up Blaine, out Hwy 22 and Little Nestucca River Road."

The school district is also working on a scholarship program to bring internet to students' homes. They will also be providing a laptop, Chromebook or tablet to every student who needs one.

Tillamook School District made the announcement Thursday, Aug. 6, to start the school year by utilizing the comprehensive distance learning model for trimester one. In a letter to families, Superintendent Curt Shelley said the comprehensive distance learning would be very different from the virtual program the district implemented in the spring.

Students will receive grades at the conclusion of each trimester, they will be required to check in with teachers on a daily basis for social-emotional check ins and academic support. CANVAS will be used, and Acellus will be utilized as the online curriculum for students grades K-12. Training will be offered for families for the use of both CANVAS and Acellus. Staff will be reporting to

HOFFMAN CENTER GALLERY PRESENTS AUGUST SHOW



Artist Bev Cordova

Join Hoffman Center Gallery for a new summer show, now through Aug. 30. The show this month features the works of three artists: Lloyd Lindley, Dorothy Holmes Mohler and Bev Cordova. And while you're there, don't forget to check out the new "Potter's Nook," featuring the work of several clay associates.

Hoffman Gallery is free and open to the public, Thursday through Sunday, 1-5 p.m. Please be aware they are practicing social distancing inside the gallery

and you are required to wear a face mask before entering.

About featured artists:

Bev Cordova,
clay vessels -

"I am often asked when I first knew I was an artist. The truth is that I have never known another way to live. As a child I made art with materials that I found around me. Scraps of fabric, wood and pinecones become magical sculptures. After exploring multiple artistic disciplines, it was only when I found clay that I was able to speak my truth about who I am as an artist."

Bev was born in North Carolina and came to Oregon as a young adult.

She received her BFA in Fine Art from PSU. Upon retiring from teaching,

Bev moved to the Oregon coast. You can find more examples of Bev's work and learn about upcoming events on her website, CordovaClayWorks.com

Dorothy Holmes Mohler, "Waiting For a New Normal" -

When I first started painting for this show last December the words Pandemic, quarantine and COVID19 were strangers in my world. I was painting daily Women with flowers and/or Sunflowers. Some of these painting are in this show. Then the Virus, the Pandemic, the Quarantine and



Artist Dorothy Holmes Mohler

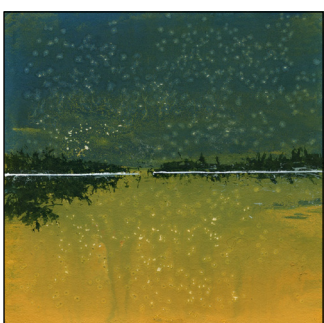
everything that went with it hit. My artwork shifted. My paintings got brighter and bolder and much more difficult for me. I took on perspectives, designs and color challenges that I never had before. I recently moved from Sisters Oregon with my husband and small brood of ill-behaved animals to the Oregon Coast"

Dorothy's original work and reproductions can still be found at Bedouin in Sisters, and many other Central Oregon locations including work in Lincoln City at the Pacific Coast Art Alliance. Please visit her website: www.tallgirlstudio.com and follow her on Facebook and Instagram.

Lloyd Lindley, "The Whole of the Donut" -

Such is my journey as a painter. It begins with Zap Comics and the drug-fueled psychedelic cartooning of R.

Crumb and continues with my own travels through the 70's and myriad doors of perception. At the University of Oregon, I am invited into an academic world of painting and drawing where I learn from Jungians to mine the unconscious for images and ideas. Still, I choose the rational world of urban design as a career, not always a congenial home to abstract and surreal thought. Yet years of irrational thinking help me turn urban problems upside down as I move both my clients and the public



Artist Lloyd Lindley

through changing urban terrains. This show adds another exploration into my imaginings of an alternative reality. Living at the edge of a continent, by the earth's largest body of water, it was perhaps inevitable that I now look to the unknowable sea. I live between Nehalem Bay and the Pacific Ocean on 2,100 acres of public lands at the south edge of Manzanita, Oregon. I can be found at lloydlindley.com



Governor Kate Brown releases school health, safety metrics

Hilary Dorsey
Staff Writer

Gov. Kate Brown released recently, new metrics to guide school district decisions about when it is safe to resume in-person instruction, and when a transition to com-

prehensive distance learning is necessary. Brown said closing schools in the spring was one of the most difficult decisions she made during the pandemic. She uses science and data as her guide. There is clear evidence that

students receiving education in the classroom is better for students. "It fosters our students' social and mental wellbeing, their overall health and often their physical safety," Brown said. "I know that most parents agree."

This is a highly contagious virus, Brown said. American Academy of Pediatrics is clear that only with safeguards in place and low cases, can schools open for in-person instruction.

"The plan each public district adopts for the coming school year is, and remains, a local decision," Brown said. "And yet, in the time since then, the virus has continued to spread and we must follow clear public health metrics to know when and where it is safe for school to convene inside school buildings."

These requirements will give schools and communities the opportunity to make sound decisions, Brown added. Studies show younger students, kids under 10, have lower rates of illness than older children and adults.

"Overall, these requirements align with recommendations from both public health experts and educators," Brown said.

Doctor Dean Sidelinger of Oregon Health Authority said some places have reopened schools safely, such as in Denmark and Germany. There is no simple statewide answer for Oregon. School district may offer limited on-site learning for students with disabilities.

"Oregon public health officials have developed transparent evidence-based metrics to help school boards and school districts make local decisions based on local conditions to determine how they can safely reopen school to in-person instruction," Sidelinger said. The metrics for in-person

instruction or hybrid instruction model for all grade levels states the statewide test positivity rate needs to be at or below 5 percent over seven days for three weeks in a row. In the county, there needs to be 10 or fewer cases per 100,000 people over seven days and a 5 percent or less test positivity rate. There needs to be a trend of three weeks of decreasing cases.

"Schools will provide in-person education for students in Kindergarten through third grade," Sidelinger said. "It's expected that these in-class options will be offered to the extent possible under the reopening plans."

The metrics for K-3 include fewer than 30 cases per 100,000 over seven days and test positivity of 5 percent or less over seven days.

Sidelinger said younger students get the virus at lower rates.

"We know that opening schools to in-person instruction is not a one way journey," Sidelinger said. "If we see increasing cases in the community, it may be time for schools to consider moving back to comprehensive distance learning."

In-Person Instruction or Hybrid Instruction Model: All Grade Levels and School Districts

In order to resume in-person instruction in any form, including hybrid instruction models when students are only sometimes in the classroom, the following conditions must be met:

County Metrics (Must be Met Three Weeks in a Row)

- 10 or fewer cases per 100,000 people over 7 days
- Test positivity of 5% or less over 7 days

Statewide Metrics (Must be Met Three Weeks in a Row)

- Test positivity of 5% or less over 7 days

In-Person Instruction or Hybrid Instruction Model: K-3 Students and Remote and Rural School Districts

Under some conditions, in-person instruction can resume only for K-3 students and remote and rural school districts with fewer than 100 students. The following conditions must be met for in-person instruction for K-3 students or for remote and rural students:

- Fewer than 30 cases per 100,000 over 7 days
- Test positivity of 5% or less over 7 days
- COVID-19 is not actively spreading in the school community

• School districts are in compliance with sections 1-3 of Ready Schools, Safe Learners Guidance

Transition Planning for Comprehensive Distance Learning

For school districts where in-person instruction is occurring during the school year, planning for a switch to comprehensive distance learning should take place, including training for staff and notification of the community, if one or both conditions are met:

- 20 cases or greater per 100,000 over 7 days
- Test positivity of 7.5% or greater over 7 days

Comprehensive Distance Learning

All school districts must implement comprehensive distance learning if the following conditions are met:

- 30 or more cases per 100,000 over 7 days
- Test positivity of 10% or greater over 7 days

Based on these metrics, many, if not most, school districts will begin school in the fall by focusing on online distance learning or will have a hybrid model that combines distance learning and in-person instruction.



TILLAMOOK POLICE DEPARTMENT

is accepting applications for the position of **Police Officer**, with a preference for certified or certifiable candidates.

Salary; \$26.37 to \$35.94 an hour with competitive benefit package. To be considered for this position, applicants must complete a City of Tillamook employment application; including a cover letter and resume; participate in the National Testing Network's written and physical abilities tests. To be considered for employment all applications, cover letters and resumes must be submitted and all test scores must be posted to National Test Network by close of application deadline.

Deadline to submit application packet and scores is September 4, 2020 at 4:00 pm.

Application, job description and current Union Contract are available online at www.tillamookor.gov or available for pick up at Tillamook City Hall, 210 Laurel Avenue, Tillamook, OR 97141

Any questions, please contact Human Resources at (503)374-1828 or jchristensen@tillamookor.gov

Testing online at www.nationaltestingnetwork.com E.O.E.

H49436

South Coast opens for razor clam harvesting

The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) announce the opening of the south coast beaches for recreational razor clamming. Recent razor clam samples indicate the marine biotoxin domoic acid has dropped below the closure limit.

Razor clamming is now open from Tillamook Head (south of Seaside) to the California border.

Razor clam harvesting remains closed on the Clatsop Beaches, between the Columbia River and Tillamook Head, for the ODFW annual razor clam conservation closure. This conservation closure is in effect from July 15 through Sept. 30 of each year to protect newly set young clams. This closure is not because of biotoxins.

The earliest razor clamming on the Clatsop

Beaches could open is Oct. 1. The conservation closure is for the Clatsop Beaches only. It does not include beaches south of Tillamook Head.

Recreational mussel, bay clam and crab harvesting is open along the entire Oregon Coast. Coastal scallops are not affected by biotoxin closures when only the adductor muscle is eaten.

The consumption of whole recreational scallops is not recommended. Commercial shellfish products remain safe for consumers.

Paralytic shellfish toxin and domoic acid are produced by algae and originate in the ocean. ODA will continue to test for shellfish toxins twice per month, as tides and weather permit. Reopening an area closed for biotoxins requires two consecutive tests with results below the limit.

School

Continued from Page 1

buildings daily. Devices can be checked out for all students in need in grades PreK-12.

"We know that, even with these adjustments, it will

not be in same as having students in our seats in our schools," Shelley wrote in the letter. "For now, we must err on the side of caution to protect our kids and our staff."

Shelley said the school district hopes to re-evaluate the situation in late November and plan for in-person education. Decisions will be

made based on Oregon Department of Education and other state level guidance, as well as the most current COVID-19 data for Tillamook County.

Send comments to: headlightreporter@countrymedia.net

Tillamook County Community Health Centers

Wellness Exams

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For children, teens and adults, ages 3 and up, who have not had a wellness exam in the past year, we are offering a wellness exam at **NO COST** to you (insurance will be billed) and a \$25 gift card (mailed after the appointment).

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Tillamook County Democrats Monthly Meeting

Thursday, August 27, 6:00 pm

Virtual meeting to be held on Zoom

All are welcome!

Guest Speaker: Tassi O'Neil, Tillamook County Clerk
"Integrity of the Oregon Vote-By-Mail System"

To attend Zoom meeting, go to tillcodems.org. Click on "Join Us." Click on "Attend Virtual Meeting." Click on "Main Meeting Room."

Tillamook County Democrats support local businesses and nonprofits.

H49432

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H49323

Letters & Columns

Supreme Court decision settles the public's right to restore passage on the Doris Davis Trail

Ralph Bloemers
Manzanita

Last month the Oregon Supreme Court handed down a decision that provides definitive, controlling legal guidance to Manzanita residents and visitors who want to continue to enjoy the Doris Davis Trail, a public trail that connects University Avenue down to Ocean Avenue and the beach below Neahkahnie Mountain. This trail has been used by local residents and visitors for many decades. My family and I know it as a place to enjoy the natural area below, large spruce trees, ferns, whimsy and an evacuation route to safety from a Tsunami.

In its July 2020 decision in Albany & Eastern Railway Company v Martell, the Supreme Court held that the public had established and acquired a public right of way across private railroad property by their open, continuous and adverse use of the crossing for more than 10 years. The residents did not know the owner nor have permission to cross.

In April 2020, the owners of two properties along the Doris Davis Trail in Man-

zanita blocked the trail and all direct beach access and Tsunami evacuation from the Classic Ridge Neighborhood. Their real estate agent David Matthews put up wire fencing on their two properties to block the trail. Mr. Matthews said the Oullette's were having trouble selling their property because of the trail. He stated that the owners had not given permission.

Bingo! The owners themselves admit the facts the Supreme Court has identified as the law of this land. These admissions eliminate any potential defenses they might have asserted. In its opinion, the Oregon Supreme Court confirmed that a person asserting an easement "must establish an open and notorious use of the land adverse to the rights of the owner for a continuous and uninterrupted period of ten years." A use is "adverse" if that use is "inconsistent with the owner's use of the property." The word "prescriptive" is used when people acquire an interest without paying the owner for it.

Thousands of residents and visitors have used the trail for decades. The

owners do not know all these people. I don't know the owners of the adjacent land. My family and many friends of mine have used the trail. They don't know the owners either. Hundreds of other people have acquired the same rights. On a new website that documents the history of trail use Jean and Bob wrote: "When we bought the house 27 years ago, we were told that [the] trail would always be there and accessible because it follows a sewage easement line."

Any member of the public may assert their rights by skirting around the unlawful fences. Any person could also rightfully remove the fences and lay them on the adjacent ground. Doing so may be the act that settles this matter, because if the owners are foolish enough to challenge the public, the Supreme Court's decision would govern. I fully expect a court to find that the owners' effort to disrupt historic use is too little and too late.

Ralph Bloemers has enjoyed this trail for about two decades. While he is a legal expert in land use and environmental law who has won



numerous cases in the Court of Appeals and Supreme Court, to state the obvious, he is not providing any

readers legal advice. That said, he would comfortably follow his own advice. In the accompanying photos

his son Theo exits the lower end of the trail onto Ocean Avenue with cousin Leo.

Letter to the Editor

Pesticides

I have been amazed for years by the perception of the public to the toxic chemicals that are sold as common garden herbicides. What prompted this letter is the letter to the editor that Jacob Hilger, the Coast Reforestation Manager for Stimson Lumber Company, wrote a few weeks ago. His nonchalant attitude about the use of pesticides and herbicides again appalled me. Roundup is probably the main herbicide that the county uses to spray the sides of our roads. The smell is unmistakable. There was a case just ended against Monsanto that claims that Round-up has caused cancer to a number of individuals. The class action suit was just settled for \$10 billion dollars. It is for this purpose that many people put "no spray" signs in front of their property. When we first moved onto our property, the person that took care of the roads in our community would spray Round-up from the back of his pickup with no mask. I quickly informed him of the health hazards of doing this, both to himself and his driver besides having the spray drift over our property.

Now for the spraying of our forests that Jacob also believes is harmless since spraying is so pervasive in our community. I was able to get the list of chemicals used from the FERNS website. FERNS is the agency used by the timber companies to keep track of when and where logging happens, and when spray will be applied and what the chemicals are. These chemicals are used to kill all living plants and animals so that the trees they plant will no competition while they grow. (There are other more sustainable ways to farm a new crop of trees as used in other places in the US.) A part of the M.O.U. that was reached between the forest industry and local community/state environmental non-profits was voted on in our last Oregon State special session. It states that the timber industry must warn local citizens when they will be spraying. I would like to finish this letter by telling you the chemicals used and the side-effects of each of these chemicals (I googled these chemicals to find out their hazardous effects):

Glyphosate: the main cancer causing chemical in Round-up as mentioned above.

Imazapyr: Imazapyr is corrosive to eyes and can cause irreversible damage.

Metsulfuron methyl: Very toxic to aquatic life with long lasting effects.

Sulfometuron methyl: Serious eye damage/eye irritation - Category 2, Respiratory sensitization - Category

2B, Specific target organ toxicity - Single exposure - Category 2, Hazardous to the aquatic environment (Long-term) - Category 1.

Aminopyralid: Aminopyralid (marketed as Milestone™, Chaparral™, and Opensight™), is an auxinic growth regulator herbicide and will cause damage to sensitive broadleaf plants such as tomato, lettuce, beans and peas. Impacted plants will usually not die when exposed to low residue amounts in compost, but will produce few quality fruits or no fruits.

Clopyralid: also causes injury to the eyes. It is still being sold in the U.S. but is banned in the UK.

As a closing thought, I have heard that the people doing the hand spraying near communities have no protection. I hope this is not true.

Craig Mackie
Nehalem, OR

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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.

Commissioners approve grant agreements for TLT funds

Hilary Dorsey
Staff Writer

The Tillamook County Board of Commissioners approved five signed grant agreements for the Transient Lodging Tax (TLT) Community Grants during a board meeting Wednesday, July 22.

In November 2013, Tillamook County voters approved a county-wide TLT, which requires that 70 percent of the tax be used for tourism promotion and tourism-related facilities. With input from the Tillamook County Tourism Advisory Committee (TAC), these organizations have been funded for these projects: NCRD Performing Arts Center ADA Restrooms and Lobby project, the Port of Garibaldi for the Garibaldi Lumber Pier to Public Dock Conversion Project, the Tillamook Estuaries Partnership, Ultimook, and South Tillamook County

Emergency Volunteer Corps.

"On June 24, you first heard these grants presented by Nan Devlin, the executive director of Tillamook County Visitors Association," Tillamook County Executive Assistant Melissa Egan said. "She led the TAC through this grant reviewing process and they made these recommendations to you."

18 grants were awarded from the June 24 meeting. On June 22, the five signed agreements were presented to the commissioners for consideration.

NCRD received \$75,000, which will be used exclusively for the project. The organization has been working on remodels for the Performing Arts Center for a few years.

"I'm excited about this project," Commissioner Mary Faith Bell said. "I go to the Performing Arts Center for events and they have done a beautiful job of res-

toration there in the last 5-7 years and this will continue that project."

Commissioner David Yamamoto said the TAC took the entire stack of applications, went through them with a fine-toothed comb and made recommendations to the commissioners. This is the fourth round of funds they have given out. In the past, pre-COVID-19, grant recipients have been able to participate in the presentation.

"You can see where and how this money is spent," Yamamoto said. "I think it's a great thing."

The Port of Garibaldi received \$22,000 for the Garibaldi Lumber Pier to Public Dock Conversion Project.

"They're spending it on things like fencing, picnic tables, educational signs, which are being donated by the Tillamook Estuaries Partnership, and they will

be supporting the project through labor," Egan said.

The Tillamook Estuaries Partnership received \$75,000 for the Estuary Exploration and Education Center Phase II Feasibility Analysis project. The first phase worked with public policy. The partnership has been in the county for 20 years.

The Tillamook Estuaries Partnership will be contracting with an architecture firm. TLT funds have also supported this in previous phases.

Ultimook received \$75,000 from Tillamook County the Commercial Kitchen and Recreation Events Center on the Hydrangea Ranch project.

"Ultimook is a nonprofit that hosts cross country events of all kinds for young runners," Egan said. "They have an awesome schedule of camps they had to cancel this year."

Oregon Coastal Flowers supports this project through construction loans. The total cost of the project is \$446,000.

"This [project] is going to support not only the county, but the youth of our county, which I feel is extremely important," Yamamoto said.

South Tillamook County Emergency Volunteer Corps received \$10,000, which will be used for general operating support. Yamamoto said emergency preparedness is extremely important. When visitors come to the county, they need to understand the risks and should bring extra food and anything they can to be prepared for an emergency.

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H49375

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H49376

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Tillamook Anglers Annual Garage Sale

9 A.M. Saturday, August 15

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H49419



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H49350

County at 30 COVID-19 cases, 4 presumptive cases

Leadership discusses updates related to COVID-19

Hilary Dorsey
Staff Writer

Tillamook County Leadership discussed at a community update meeting Friday, Aug. 7, updates related to COVID-19. As of Monday, Aug. 10, there are 30 positive cases in the county, and four presumptive cases.

Adventist Health Tillamook President Eric Swanson said the hospital has adequate personal protective equip-

ment and they continue to do virtual visits.

“Across Oregon, there’s 153 people hospitalized with COVID,” Swanson said.

The hospital is implementing a thermal imaging scanner in the lobby. Multiple people can be scanned at the same time.

“This will be much more accurate than the handheld thermometers that we’re using currently,” Swanson said. “We are considering

using the same technology in the emergency room and in the plaza but there’s some logistical issues we’ve got to get through first.”

The scanner will be implemented in the lobby sometime this week. The scanners are being put into effect across Adventist Health.

Tillamook County Community Health Centers Administrator Marlene Putman said there were four new cases of COVID-19

on Sunday, Aug. 2, from a multi-family household. As of Aug. 7, the county had a total of 30 positive cases and four presumptive cases. A presumptive case is someone who is assumed to be positive but has not been tested yet.

The health center is continuing to conduct testing, Putman said. You do not have to be ill to call the COVID-19 information line at 503-842-3940. The center continues to see patients virtually and in

person.

The Rinehart Clinic is also available to the community. You can reach them at 1-800-368-5812.

Tillamook Family Counseling Center continues to provide mobile crisis response and provides some services in person for those who have challenges with technology. You can reach the center at 503-842-8201.

“We continue to provide behavioral health services,

both by phone and virtually,” Tillamook Family Counseling Center Executive Director Frank Hanna-Williams said. “In addition to that, we continue to provide mobile crisis response 24-7.”

The center is providing some services in person for those who are challenged with technology.

Send comments to: headlightreporter@countrymedia.net

Governor Brown reviewing possible travel restrictions

Oregon Gov. Kate Brown is in active conversations about the potential of travel restrictions to slow the spread of COVID-19 between states.

Brown’s Press Secretary Liz Merah responded in a statement to sister publication Curry Coast Pilot on Wednesday, Aug. 5, stating in recent weeks, doctors, health

experts and case investigators have reported seeing cases linked to interstate travel.

“The issue of travel restrictions was raised by members of the Governor’s Medical Advisory Panel based on COVID-19 cases linked to travel in southern Oregon, which is troubling based on the spikes in case counts California

is currently experiencing,” Merah said. “County-level COVID-19 data from across the country likewise shows increasing case counts between linked communities across state borders.”

Merah said Brown is asking health experts at the Oregon Health Authority and the Medical Advisory Panel for more

data on travel-related spread of COVID-19, as well as recommendations for health and safety measures to address such cases. In conversations with legislators Aug. 5, the office also discussed the reality that many Oregonians in communities on the state’s borders often cross those borders for work, and that any restrictions must take

economic and supply chain implications into account.

“As the governor has stated previously, our focus is on restrictions related to tourist travel from hotspot states and communities,” Merah said. “Conversations are ongoing about how those restrictions could work.”

Taskforce presents details regarding child care in Tillamook County

Hilary Dorsey
Staff Writer

An Early Child Care and Education Tillamook County Taskforce presented and provided recommendations concerning child care in Tillamook County in a Tillamook County Board of Commissioners meeting Wednesday, July 29.

North Coast Region Coordinator Jennifer Purcell said Tillamook County is a child care desert, which is a county with more than three children for each regulated child care spot. Counties across the state have been identified as child care deserts.

“In August 2019, Commissioner Baertlein and I convened the first group of individuals to explore the issue in Tillamook County,” Purcell said.

Commissioner Bill Baertlein took on this work as a priority for Tillamook County. A lack

of child care creates stress for communities. Purcell said the task force had a vision of increased access to quality child care.

“This was really a significant body of work,” Purcell said. “The group was incredibly thoughtful and collaborative.”

Emily Fanjoy, who co-chaired the task force with Megan Dean McKenna, said the task force’s recommendation is for the board of commissioners to form a permanent commission for early child care. They compared six regional programs with three local programs in Tillamook County.

“We picked these programs because they were similar to the county of Tillamook,” McKenna said. “We picked programs from Astoria, Bandon, Boardman, St. Helens, and others, and compared those to programs in Tillamook County.”

In reviewing these programs, they found that

those with multi-sector investments had higher salaries and offered comprehensive benefits.

The task force distributed a survey in the beginning of March. The leading question asked how limited access to child care impacts employers in Tillamook County. 93 people responded to the survey.

The survey found that 75 percent of workers missed 1-5 days of work a month because of child care-related issues. Sixty percent of the people surveyed agreed this limited professional advancement. Seventy-four percent agree that it is difficult to find child care in Tillamook County.

Cost was the number one barrier preventing families from accessing child care. Fifty percent of those surveyed use more than one type of care. This results in high levels of stress.

McKenna said in the future, they would like to hear from single family households. The taskforce spent a year on the project.

The recommendation to the commissioners was to establish a Tillamook County Early Child Care and Education Commission.

Commissioner Mary Faith Bell said it is a significant loss to the workforce when parents have to leave it to care for children because of lack of child care. Baertlein said there is some formalized action they will have to take to set up the commission.

The next step will be drafting language for the Tillamook County Early Child Care and Education Commission. Purcell said as we move into the fall, they may want to look at child care a bit more broadly due to COVID-19. Commissioner David Yamamoto added that they should look at the older child population as well.

“We need to make sure we provide the proper environment for all children,” Yamamoto said.

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