

◆ STEEL MAGNOLIAS



Cast pictured left to right: Margo McClellan as Truvy, Linda Makohon as Ouiser, Emma Andrade as Shelby, Sue Neuer as M'Lynn, Sharon Gavin as Clairee, Julee Ward as Annelle.

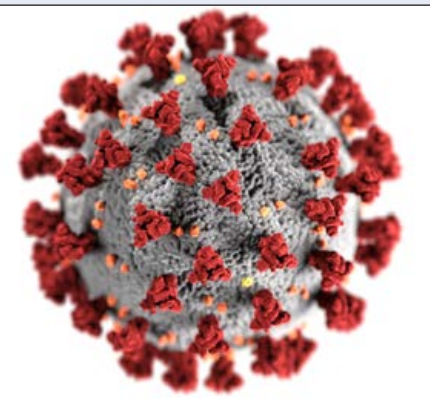
Riverbend Players return to stage this fall in newly renovated performing arts center

Riverbend Players return to the stage at the North County Recreational District this Fall with Robert Harling's comedy-drama "Steel Magnolias" running Nov. 5 -7 and Nov. 12-14. The opening of "Steel Magnolias" will mark nearly two years to the day since Riverbend Players has presented a production on stage in front of a live audience. During the interim, Riverbend produced two virtual plays: "It's a Wonderful Life" and "The Dog Logs," which were very entertaining productions that raised nearly \$10,000 in support of local businesses and to aid the

local organizations that work to alleviate food insecurity. "Steel Magnolias" focuses on the camaraderie of six Southern women who talk, gossip, needle and harangue each other through the best of times - and comfort and repair one another through the worst. The play is alternately hilarious and touching, revealing these southern belles to be as delicate as magnolias, yet as strong as steel. "Steel Magnolias" is directed by Jeff Slamal and stars, in order of appearance, Margo McClellan as Truvy, Julee Ward as Annelle,

Sharon Gavin as Clairee, Emma Andrade as Shelby, Sue Neuer as M'Lynn and Linda Makohon as Ouiser. Robert Harling was inspired to write his first play after his sister Susan died of complications from diabetes. "Steel Magnolias" premiered off-Broadway at the WPA Theater in 1987, then quickly transferred to the Lucille Lortel Theater and became an instant sensation, running for three years and spawning the hit movie. WHAT: Steel Magnolias by Robert Harling WHERE: North County Recreational District, 36155 9th

Street, Nehalem, OR. 97131 PERFORMANCES: Friday, November 5th at 7pm, Saturday, November 6th at 7pm and Sunday November 7th at 1pm (matinee) Friday, November 12th at 7pm, Saturday, November 13th at 7pm and Sunday November 14th at 1pm (matinee) TICKETS: \$17 - General admission (Tickets online through Tickettomato.com will be available soon) WEB ADDRESS: www.riverbendplayers.org



Five new COVID-19 associated deaths in Tillamook County reported

Death toll now at 11

On Tuesday, Aug. 24, Tillamook County Public Health Department is reporting five new COVID-19 related deaths in Tillamook County, which raises the county's death toll to 11. More information may be released on the deaths from Oregon Health Authority (OHA) at a later date. Tillamook County's seventh COVID-19 associated death is a 49-year-old man from Tillamook County who died on Aug. 18. No other information is available at this time. Tillamook County's eighth COVID-19 associated death is an 80-year-old man from Tillamook County who died on Aug. 21. No other information is available at this time. Tillamook County's ninth COVID-19 associated death is a 67-year-old man from Tillamook County who died on Aug. 22. No other information is available at this time. Tillamook County's 10th COVID-19 associated death is a 31-year-old woman from Tillamook County who died on Aug. 22. No other information is available at this time. Tillamook County's 11th COVID-19 associated death is a 93-year-old man from Tillamook County who died on Aug. 23. No other information is available at this time. "We grieve for every life lost and wish to extend our sincerest condolences at this difficult time," said Marlene Putman, administrator, Tillamook County Health Department.

COVID-19 update: Cases, mask mandate, workplace outbreaks

Hilary Dorsey
Staff Writer

Tillamook County Health Department reported during a Tillamook County Board of Commissioners meeting Wednesday, Aug. 18, 66 COVID-19 cases from Friday, Aug 13, through Sunday, Aug. 15. There were 181 cases reported for the seven-day period and 274 cases in the last 14 days. "All of these figures are the highest we've seen since the start of the pandemic," Administrator Marlene Putman said. Putman said through July, breakthrough cases were estimated at 8 percent of COVID-19 cases throughout the state and 10 percent in Tillamook County. "We've had 35 hospitalizations," Putman said during the Aug. 18 meeting. "This was as of Monday morning." The county's test positivity rate is 22.1 percent, the highest it has been since the start of the pandemic,

Putman added. This rate tells the percent of COVID-19 tests that come back positive. Region 1 hospitals - Tillamook, Clatsop, Clackamas, Columbia, Multnomah and Washington counties - have 91 percent of adult ICU beds occupied, as of Sunday, Aug. 15. "Oregon Health Authority reports that the Delta variant is three times more transmissible than earlier strains of the virus and causing a high rate of infection," Putman said. Gov. Kate Brown announced Thursday, Aug. 19, health care workers - along with teachers, educators and staff of K-12 schools - will be required to be fully vaccinated by Oct. 18 or six weeks after full FDA approval, whichever is later, unless an exemption is met. Putman said the health center and the mobile testing site are experiencing an overwhelming request for COVID-19 testing. There may be a wait to get a test. Testing is available at no cost. To schedule an appointment for a COVID-19 test with the health department, call 503-842-3900. As of Aug. 19, 15,232 Tillamook County residents have received one dose of the vaccine and 14,157 are considered fully vaccinated.

Gov. Kate Brown's mask mandate

Regarding Gov. Kate Brown's recent mask mandate, which became effective Aug. 13, Putman said all individuals, regardless of vaccination status, are required to wear a face mask, face covering or face shield when in an indoor space, unless they meet specific exceptions. "Indoors means anywhere indoors that is not a private residence or a private automobile being used for personal use," Putman said. The Tillamook County Fair took place Aug. 11-14. Before the fair opened, Commissioner Erin Skaar and Chair Mary Faith Bell had put up signs at the main gates and entrances to buildings, recommending wearing masks. "We provided masks at all our entrance gates and several other locations around the ground," Fairgrounds Manager Camy VonSeggern told the Headlight Herald. "We provided 17 hand sanitizing stations throughout the grounds, in addition to rented hand washing stations already provided." The recommended mask guidance was changed from recommended to mandatory Aug. 13, halfway through the fair events. VonSeggern said the fair office

received new signage that morning that was put up at the entry to indoor spaces. "Beyond having signage posted, masks and hand sanitizing stations available, the fairgrounds was not in a position to do much more with the personnel it had and very little time to acquire additional staff or volunteers," VonSeggern said regarding enforcement of the mask mandate. "There was also a very real concern about not putting staff or volunteers in an untenable position, as we had no real means of enforcement for wearing masks." Sheriff statement Tillamook County Sheriff Josh Brown made a statement regarding enforcement of the mask mandate Thursday, Aug. 19, via social media. He said the sheriff's office would not be enforcing any mask mandate. "I don't believe it is the role of the sheriff's office to enforce what is essentially an Oregon Health Authority directive, not a criminal one," Brown stated. "TCSO is not the enforcement arm for OHA and my deputies will not be treating people like criminals if they choose to not wear a mask."



Tillamook County local chronicles early family history in new series

Hilary Dorsey
Staff Writer

Tillamook County local James Royal Fox Jr., former owner of Fox Grocery & Firearms in Beaver, has written his first book in a planned series about his family and American history. “The Secrets of Benjamin Fox” is an expansive compilation of genealogical information set against a backdrop of pre-colonial discovery and settlement in the New World, to the birth of Benjamin Fox in 1772. Assumed to be the son of William Fox and his wife Mary, recent DNA discoveries have proven he was not their biological son. The book details the life of Benjamin Fox, his son and grandson.

“When I started this, it was supposed to be one book and it blew up into over 1,000 pages,” Fox said. “I ended up having to cut it into three different books.”

Fox said when he starts a project about genealogy and history, he just starts writing and tells the story. Fox is following his paternal line down to see what impact each ancestor had on each generation.

“I don’t know how many books it will be,” Fox said. “I assume probably be a total of 5-6.”

Since selling Fox Grocery & Firearms, Fox has turned genealogy into a full time job. The store had been in his family since 1974. Fox bought it in 1989. In 1992, he changed the name from Fox Grocery to Fox Grocery & Firearms. He sold the store in 2017.

“Honestly, I couldn’t wait to get out of there so I could concentrate on genealogy,” Fox said. “That was really a hobby I enjoyed.”

In the book, sources and the most recent DNA developments are combined to give a history of the family and the secret life of Benjamin Fox. Fox hopes the book will touch enough people that information and relics will come up.

He created the website to not only promote the series, but create a platform for information to be shared.

Fox said when he was setting up the publishing, it was important to him that it ended up in the Library of Congress because there is no account of the story.

“It’s a very personal, strong reason why these books need to be written before I’m gone,” Fox said.

At this time, Fox is keeping that reason to himself.

Fox continues to look into new information and relics. He hopes to track down a letter with specifics of his family going on the Oregon Trail. He is constantly sending off emails, especially when it is raining, working about 15 hours a day.

“I really enjoy the discovery of things,” Fox said.

Fox said this is a unique book that makes a bold story of the history of his ancestors.

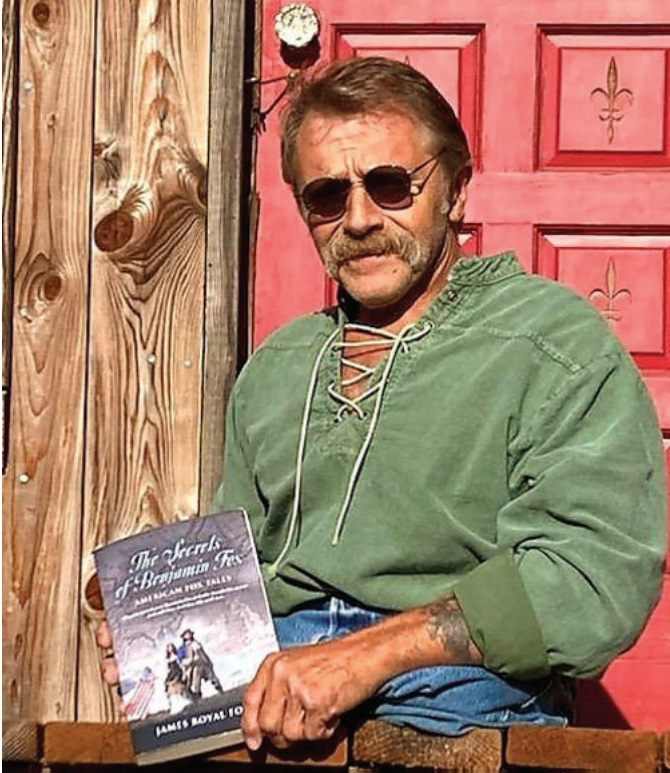
In the book, people see how fathers impact their sons. Fox covers religion and the politics of creating a nation.

“The Secrets of Benjamin Fox” is now available online on Amazon, Wal-Mart, and Barnes & Noble, among other online bookstores. It is also available on booklocker.com and americanfoxtales.com. Fox said he will be receiving copies of the book in the next week or so and will go to local bookstores to see if they are interested.


There will be a book launch at Beaver Firearms & Grocery and a book signing at The Rusty Cow at a later date. Tillamook County Pioneer Museum will also host a book signing in the future.


For more information on the “American Fox Tales” series, visit <http://american-foxtales.com/>

Send comments to: headlightreporter@country-media.net



James Royal Fox Jr. with his book, “The Secret of Benjamin Fox”





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Adventist Health Tillamook pauses elective surgeries to accommodate COVID-19 surge

In order to address the influx of patients needing testing and treatment of COVID-19, Adventist Health Tillamook Medical Center is pausing elective surgeries for the remainder of the week and the week of Aug. 22. The decision to continue pausing elective surgeries will be made on a week-by-week basis until the surge of COVID-19 patients subsides, and does not affect emergent or urgent surgery cases.

Supporting this surge requires additional staff support at the Tillamook medical center, and some coastal clinic schedules may adjust temporarily. This may affect the Manzanita, and Pacific City locations temporarily. Patients who have scheduled appointments with a provider in these clinics will be notified if their appointments need to be rescheduled.

To maintain hospital and clinic capacity for patients in urgent need, it is essential for those who have COVID-19 and are not yet showing symptoms or are only mildly ill should quarantine in their homes. Only those with severe symptoms such as difficulty breathing, becoming confused or especially hard to wake, persistent chest pain/pressure, or developing bluish lips/face should seek care at the emergency department.

It is also important to restate that Adventist Health Tillamook believes the evidence of getting a vaccine to be clear. Even immunized people have been shown to transmit the disease before becoming symptomatic, underscoring that mask use for everyone. All of the COVID-19 vaccines are safe, effective, and are highly recommended. Adventist Health encourages all patients and associates to get the vaccine immediately and follow recently announced statewide mask usage mandates.

Merkley continues fight for affordable housing

David Rupkalvis
Country Media

U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley

continues to work to make housing more affordable, saying the federal government needs to act to end a growing

national problem.

During a meeting with officials from Portland State University, Merkley touted the Affordable Home Act, legislation he presented in the Senate.

“Like all of you, I’ve been passionate about the need to address affordable housing, going back to my days as director of Human Solutions,” Merkley said.

Before he became a senator, Merkley ran Human Solutions and later Habitat for Humanity in the Portland area. Both organizations work to provide housing to those in need.

Merkley said having a home provides benefits for all in the family.

“When you can afford your home, when you have shelter, you feel like you have a stake in the community,” Merkley said. “That sense of stability translates to your children and their success in school. All of it is possible when you have a solid house to call home. But we have, as you know, a huge problem with affordable housing in the country.”

Merkley said a problem in Oregon and other parts of the country is the cost of housing is rising at unbelievable rates.

“Housing has gone up so much faster in cost than have wages,” Merkley said. “When my parents bought a modest ranch home, it cost

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CITIZEN North Coast

Sheriff’s office makes changes in response to COVID-19 surge

For the Citizen

Last week, Tillamook County Sheriff Joshua Brown responded to the surge of COVID-19 cases by implementing some major changes to daily operations.

“Out of concern to protect the public, our staff, inmates and our facilities, the following will be implemented immediately at the Tillamook County Sheriff’s Office,” said Brown.

For the jail, limiting new intakes to serious felonies, domestic violence misdemeanors and other person-to-person type crimes will reduce the number of new people coming into the jail. All new intakes must

undergo a 14-day quarantine regardless of vaccination status.

“I am so proud of our medical staff. They were so far ahead of this,” said Jail Commander Lt. Fernando Silveira. “They had been doing a lot to protect staff and inmates even before this recent surge started hitting counties.”

New intakes into the jail receive a medical screening, are given a mask, offered a vaccination and quarantined. Inmates get temperature checks everyday and jail staff are required to wear masks while in the facility. All staff is offered vaccinations on-site and touch points throughout the jail are getting cleaned and disinfected several times a day.

Any inmate exhibiting signs or symptoms are housed in a quarantined medical cell and monitored by medical staff.

“Our medical staff encourages all inmates and staff to get vaccinated,” said Silveira.

Changes outside of the jail include increased cleaning and disinfecting in the patrol office and community corrections (parole and probation). Additionally, deputies have been asked to reduce the time they spent in the office and to handle calls by phone whenever possible and appropriate. There are digital thermometers at every entrance and hand sanitizers throughout the building.

The lobby is open to the public but all public fingerprinting has been canceled. All

non-essential in-person trainings and meetings have been postponed.

The sheriff’s office has been trying to catch up on the issuing of new and transfer Concealed Handgun Licenses (CHL), but the surge has forced them to stop at this time, because they require fingerprinting in the jail. CHL renewals do not require fingerprinting and are being handled by appointment only.

“These changes are temporary and intended to protect our staff, the public and our facility. We will reassess the situation in a few weeks,” said Brown. “I want everyone to be as safe and healthy as possible. We will make it through this, I have no doubt of that.”

Transit routes cut due to COVID, driver shortages

Staff

The Tillamook County Transportation District (TCTD), has had to cut a few routes due to the pandemic and the inability to find qualified drivers to cover all routes.

“Driver shortages are not unique to TCTD, nationwide trends continue to show that there is a severe lack of qualification and interest in transit driving jobs, especially those that require CDLs,” said Mike

Reed, the district’s superintendent. “These shortages are hitting home here in Oregon, and on the Oregon Coast. Some of our partner transit agencies on the north coast are in the process of significant reduction of services and elimination of routes as a result of staffing concerns and COVID. As it pertains to TCTD, our own driver shortage impacts are two-fold, we have lost folks through attrition and not been able to replace those positions as of yet, and there is the

COVID factor.”

Reed told the board in their regular monthly meeting last week, the mission of TCTD is to connect the community through sustainable transit services. With this in mind, we’ve decided to be proactive and put together a modified service plan to withstand the next season of hiring challenges and potential COVID impacts, while putting the district in a position to continue provide transportation services to all areas.

“In order to accomplish this goal, we are putting forward a service plan that uses 1-2 full time driver shifts less per day by prioritizing our most productive trips on our fixed route buses and boosting the number of DAR services we can perform,” Reed said. “I propose achieving this by reassigning 12-15 DAR (Dial-A-Ride) trips we perform per day out to the Port of Tillamook to a modified Rt 2 by adding bus service 3 times daily to the port, while fulfill-

ing contractual obligations to Helping hands.”

Reed went on to say, additionally, we will provide three fixed routes per day to Lincoln City, three to Cannon Beach, and three to Netarts/Oceanside, and these routes will be designed to work as connectors to one of our two Portland buses as well as to one another, preserving coast wide service to residents and visitors to Tillamook County.

“The implementation of these changes should ensure

that through the ebb and flow that we anticipate will be caused by driver shortages and COVID impacts, TCTD will still be able to deliver on it’s values of accountability, innovation, safety, and excellent service,” Reed said.

According to Reed’s report, these changes are intended to be temporary service modifications and have been designed to allow us to add services onto them when the staffing resources allow.

Health care workers, K-12 school staff now mandated to get vaccinated

Jeremy C. Ruark
jruark@countrymedia.net

Gov. Kate Brown has announced two new vaccination measures to address Oregon’s hospital crisis, caused by the Delta variant surge.

Brown said the measures will help keep Oregon students safe in the upcoming school year and minimize disruptions to in-person instruction.

• Oregon’s vaccination requirement for health care workers will no longer have a testing alternative. Health care workers will be required to be fully vaccinated by October 18 or six weeks after full FDA approval, whichever is later.

• All teachers, educators, support staff, and volunteers in K-12 schools will be required to be fully vaccinated by October 18 or six weeks after full FDA approval, whichever is later.

Brown made the announcement during a Thursday, Aug. 19 media briefing.

“With over 845 Oregonians hospitalized from COVID-19 and 226 Oregonians in our ICU’s (intensive care units), our hospital and ICU beds are over 93% full,” Brown said. “Overwhelmingly, the Oregonians who are being hospitalized or who are dying from COVID-19 are unvaccinated.”

“Our hospital system is on the verge of collapse,” Oregon Health Authority Director Patrick Allen said. “Patients are spending days in emergency rooms because critical care beds aren’t available. Patients are parked in hallways and staffing is critically short.”

Allen said more than a quarter of the adult population remains unvaccinated.

“This triple grip of the Delta variant is tightening,” Oregon State

Epidemiologist Dean Sidelinger said.

St. Charles Medical Center Bend’s Chief Physician Jeff Absalon also joined the Zoom media briefing.

“I can’t overstate this,” Adsalon said. “What we are going through right now is unimaginable. We are overwhelmed and this is really a dire situation.”

Absalon said health care workers are suffering from moral injury because they are not able to care for their patients due to the surge.

Brown said the state doesn’t have enough health care professionals to treat patients.

“We are all at risk right now when our hospitals are full,” Brown said. “There may not be a hospital bed for you if you have an unexpected

people die fro preventable deaths.”

Brown said she is deploying all available resources to help, including deploying the National Guard and nurse strike teams, establishing temporary decompression units to free up bed space and removing barriers to discharging patients who no longer require hospital-level care.

Oregon has made requests to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Biden-Harris administration, Brown said, for additional federal resources and support. Brown has formed a Hospital Care Prevention and Response group consisting of health care stakeholders to problem solve in real time and suggest new measures to aid health care workers and hospitals during the ongoing-hospital crisis.

“We cannot wait for help to come,” Brown said. “We must proactively implement solutions right now.”

Brown said additional health and safety restrictions may be needed.

“All options are on the table,” she said. “The best way to keep businesses open and families working is to get vaccinated,” she said.

Sidelinger said the pandemic isn’t confined to unvaccinated adults.

“Children are getting sick with COVID-19 in Oregon,” he said. “Pediatric cases are highest among 12 to 17 year olds.”

Oregon Education Department

■ See Mandated, Page 5

COVID

Continued from Page 1

Brown said if a customer is not complying with the wishes of a business, a representative from that business could ask the customer to comply or leave. If the customer does not comply, the business should contact law enforcement.

“While we will not be enforcing the mask mandate, we will be enforcing crimes such as harassment and trespass,” Brown said. “If a customer in a business located within the county refuses to leave an establishment after being asked to do so, or there is a physical altercation with another person, deputies will respond and investigate as they for other suspected

criminal activity.”

Workplace outbreaks

Oregon Health Authority reports this week a COVID-19 outbreak at Fred Meyer with 19 cases, Tillamook Youth Correctional Facility with 13 current cases, Tillamook County Creamery Association with 10 cases, and Tillamook Country Smoker with five cases.

Tillamook Youth Correctional Facility wrote in an email Tuesday, Aug. 17, the entire facility is in quarantine. Deputy Communications Manager Sarah Evans said prior to the outbreak, the facility had zero COVID-19 cases among youth and one among workers since the start of the pandemic. The facility has encouraged vaccines for youth in custody.

Fred Meyer spokesper-

son Jeffery Temple said currently, 21 associates out of the store’s 285 associates have tested positive for COVID-19, many of which have fully recovered and returned to work. All of these associates self-quarantine in alignment with the company’s emergency leave guidelines. The store had a professional third party sanitation company provide deep cleaning Aug. 4, 13,19.

“Through regular communication with the health department, we’ve affirmed that our processes continue to live up to our high safety standards in protecting our more than 39,000 associates and the millions of customers that visit our stores each week,” Temple said.

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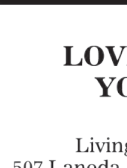
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Opinion Letters and Columns

General interest: Finance Mgr., NCRD

Community, Board & NCRD, I was told by a long term board member ‘you

don’t want to get on the wrong side of the board, we have our own way of doing things’. This statement has caused me to take a closer look at the operations and relationship between the board and NCRD. I found the fol-

lowing concerning and took my questions to Bill, NCRD & the board. I’m told my questions are inappropriate, my numbers are not accurate and my questions/requests need to be in writing, I will then be advised how much it

will cost for me to receive the answers.

The Finance Mgr’s. position is posted on NCRD’s website and shows the position as 30 hrs/wk, hourly wage up to \$25.50/hr. Doing the math it comes to \$765/

wk, \$39,780.00/yr. The last two budgets have budgeted a salary of \$52,500.00. The prior Executive Director hired his friend Bill D, not as Finance Mgr, but contracted him as a Finance Consultant? According to the expense reports, NCRD has paid to B. Devlin consulting \$81,664.00 during the 2020/21 fiscal year, ending June 30, 2021. If you look at the statement from June 2021, Bill Devlin Consulting was paid \$8,887, 2 ½ times what a new Finance Manager’s monthly salary would be today? I have asked and not been told if Bill also received the \$52,500 budgeted salary for Finance Mgr? And, if you look in the July board meeting documents, you will see the line item for Finance Manager was paid out at 104% of budget for the fiscal year. That money went somewhere, to someone... who? AND, if it went for services of Bill D, where is that reflected? I have been unsuccessful in finding anything in the board minutes from 11/2019 referencing any of this?

So here we go, NCRD send me an invoice:

1. Given the job description currently posted, it appears to describe what Bill D. has been doing for NCRD since 10/2019. What is the source of being \$30,000 over the budgeted amount of a Finance Manager for (2020/21), and over twice the salary of what the next person accountable will receive? Where was this over-budgeted money pulled from?

2. NCRD states adamantly Bill is not an ‘employee’, if that is so, why is he listed

as ‘staff attending’ at every board meeting since 12/2019? If not an employee, is Bill renting office space from NCRD as a contractor? If not an employee why is Bill’s email; admin@ncrdnehalem.org?

3. When was this ‘Contract’ put to bid to our community over the past 2 years, as required by a public entity.

4. Please provide a signed/dated copy of the original contract and the renewed contract for 2020/21.

5. Who has inspected, approved and signed the checks for the \$5,000-\$8,000/mo invoices submitted by Bill Devlin Consulting, since this went from an employed position to a contracted position? Please provide copies of detailed invoices from 10/1/2019 - 8/1/2021.

Last question, not related. \$2 million has accumulated over the last 20 years which is not included in the designated new pool account. This new pool account includes the bond sale proceeds(4+m) and loan proceeds(3m) with the additional \$2 million included, there would be over \$9 million in an account, 100% committed to the new pool and nothing else. Doesn’t it make sense to have all funds in the same account? Why is it not?

As a concerned patron who is asking for reasonable public info which we as a community deserves, I am hopeful we will find out if any of these questions are addressed by the NCRD board.

Constance Shimek
North Tillamook County

Merkley

Continued from Page 3

about twice what me dad earned as a mechanic in a year. Today, the typical single-family home costs about four times the home’s income.”

Another problem is even rental prices have skyrocketed.

“It’s not any better when it comes to renting,” Merkley said. “Since 1960, renters average earning have risen 5% while the rents have gone up 61%. That’s a huge, huge differential. An American worker earning the federal minimum wage would have to work over 100 hours a week to afford an average two-bedroom apartment.”

With housing prices rising so much faster than income, Merkley said there is a growing need for the government to intervene. But even when the government tries to help, Merkley admitted it doesn’t always help.

“The waiting list for public housing is long,” Merkley said. “They are 10 months in some places, eight years in another. Only a fraction of the families

that are eligible of getting housing vouchers end up getting one.”

Merkley said the growing housing problem, especially in most of Oregon, means the federal government must intervene.

“All of this is why I introduced the Affordable Home Act,” Merkley said. “It tries to address the shortcomings nationwide in a variety of ways.”

If approved, the bill would invest in the National Housin Trust Fund, lower the price of housing, build a 21st Century housing supply, offer housing support services and more.

Merkley said some elements of the bipartisan infrastructure bill include housing. He is also working with the Biden administration to secure up to \$300 billion in rental assistance and down payment assistance in the budget reconciliation process.

“These are the types of efforts that are going to start making a difference,” Merkley said. “Small changes are not going to overcome the downward spiral we’re in now. While my team and I continue to push the bill forward, we’re trying to win as much of this

vision as possible.”

At Portland State, Lisa Bates works full time on housing issues. She said there are a lot of issues that must be addressed, but one she is concentrating on now is the eviction process.

She said even with eviction moratoriums, the vast majority of people are trying to pay rent. She said a statewide survey revealed two-thirds of renters have kept up on rent, with many taking out loans, collecting cans or missing out on food or medicine to pay rent.

“We haven’t yet in Oregon has the tsunami of evictions, but the wave is definitely growing,” Bates said. “In the eviction space, there’s a lot of confusion among policy makers.”

That confusion leads to most renters who have no idea what their rights are. Bates and Portland State have been working to create a statewide service to offer legal assistance to renters who are in the eviction process. She also said the state has received millions in federal funding for renter assistance, but little of that money has reached the people.

Mandated

Continued from Page 3

Director Colt Gill explained that protocols put into place last year at Oregon’s schools are an effective protection for students.

“Face coverings, social distancing and other practiced

protocols are in place and we are encouraging students who are eligible to get vaccinated.

In responding to reporters questions about mandating vaccinations for eligible students, Brown said,

all options are on the table. “We are exploring every possibility,” she said.

Brown, Slideling, Allen,

Gill and Absalon all urged people who have not been vaccinated to get vaccinated.

Reaction

The Oregon Education Association (OEA) President Reed Scott-Schwalbach released the following statement in part following Brown’s announcement.

“OEA believes that today’s vaccine requirement will help provide stability for our students this fall and will help improve safety in our schools and in our communities. The science on this issue is clear. Vaccines, coupled with other proven public health mitigation strategies, are the best way to ensure our schools stay open and are a safe place for students to learn and for educators to teach.

“We urge districts throughout the state to work collaboratively with educators on how this mandate is implemented at the local level and to continue efforts to maintain additional public health mitigation strategies such as the use of personal protective equipment, frequent testing, social distancing, ensuring proper ventilation and frequent disinfecting in our public schools.”

Oregon Nurses Association

(ONA) President Linda Pond said the new state mandate will likely increase vaccination rates among those workers but will also put additional pressure on an already dangerous nurse staffing crisis in Oregon. Pond said some health care workers opposed to the vaccine mandates will leave the profession before accepting a mandate.

“Governor Brown’s previous rule that required weekly testing with a waiver for health care workers who show proof of vaccination was a reasonable compromise that encouraged vaccination while protecting public health,” Pond said. “We call on hospitals and health systems to focus on nurse retention and recruitment, invest in health care workers serving on the frontlines and open up a space at the decision-making table so they can hear from front-line nurses and caregivers. We must work together to protect our communities during this crisis.

Pond said the ONA believes that the COVID-19 pandemic has shone a light on the deep fractures in the health care system.

Fresh garden produce



Margaret Rowland, with produce she grew here in Rockaway Beach, and delivered to the Oregon Food Bank – Tillamook County Services Friday, Aug. 13. There are three large lawn bags, two smaller bags, and gigantic broccoli and cabbages, estimated to be about 50 pounds total. Rowland and husband Art LaFrance did this last year and were most welcome, since people really like fresh produce from gardens. They also did this last fall during the fires at emergency depots in Estacada. They would encourage other gardeners to do the same. Rowland is a retired family doctor and an avid gardener. “We greatly appreciate the local farmers and gardeners throughout Tillamook County who donate their fresh harvest to Oregon Food Bank Tillamook County Services and the food pantries and meal sites that serve our community,” Oregon Food Bank Tillamook County Manager Mis Carlson-Swanson told the Citizen.

North Coast
CITIZEN

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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.
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2020

Headlight Herald

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2020

Headlight Herald

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Grilled Cheese _____

Happy Hour _____

Ice Cream _____

Italian _____

Lunch _____

Mexican _____

Organic Food & Produce _____

Patio Dining _____

Pizza _____

Sandwiches _____

Seafood _____

Steak _____

Sushi _____

Tasting Room _____

Thai _____

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Best At What They Do

Include first and last names of individuals and place of business

Annual Event _____

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Boss/Manager _____

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2020

Headlight Herald

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2020

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Headlight Herald

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