

# The OREGON OBSERVER

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Photos by Eddie Brognano

OCA Media social media coordinator Frank Caruso films a piece honoring local firefighters and EMS members.

## Keeping the lens focused on community

**Oregon Community Access Media produces lots of content with little yet loyal staff**

NEAL PATTEN  
Staff reporter

Whether it's an uncle living in northern Wisconsin who is too far away to travel to see his niece or nephew playing basketball, or an immunocompromised parent who doesn't feel comfortable sitting in an audience to see their child in the performing arts on stage because of COVID-19 – if community media went away, it would be a loss, OCA Media executive director Paul Zwicker told the Observer.



Zwicker

OCA – or Oregon Community Access – Media has been around since the 1980s – though not always by that name, and for the last five years has been located out of Oregon High School at 456 Perry Parkway. When the school heard OCA was looking for a new home, it offered up some space “nearly rent-free,”



Caruso filming the Oregon kids triathlon by bike last year.

Zwicker said, which has saved the nonprofit media group “considerable money.”

But apart from being a cost-saving move, it was also extremely convenient, he said, considering how much school sports and performing arts OCA records – so they don't have to travel far.

They also record village meetings including Village Board, Library Board and Park Board.

In December alone, OCA facilitated 29 live streams, and there were one or two nights that they had two or three live streams going on at the same time, Zwicker said.

In addition to dozens of sporting events, Zwicker said he also tallied OCA recording across 2021 a total of 65 village meetings, 22 board of education meetings, 20 community

Turn to **Focus/Page 2**

### Oregon School District

## Masks policy will remain through March

**Revised phased plan to allow for more stability in staffing**

KIMBERLY WETHAL  
Staff reporter

Oregon School District administrators are recommending the district keep its mask mandate until transmission drops back to moderate transmission, as cases diagnosed in students and staff increased over winter break.

During the Oregon School Board's Monday, Jan. 10, meeting, district superintendent Leslie Bergstrom proposed waiting to peel back mitigation strategies such as universal masking until local data from around the district's attendance area and the

county reaches “medium” transmission for a minimum of seven days. Doing so will allow the district to remove measures while still focusing on keeping students attending in-person school and creating more stability with teacher and staff availability, she said.

The board ultimately approved a plan that would extend the district's mask mandate into March, with a stipulation that it would only move to mask-optional if cases were in the moderate category, by a vote of 4-3, with board members Kevin Mehring, Tim LeBrun and Heather Garrison voting against. The board took action to extend the district's mask mandate until March 7 for middle and high school students

Turn to **Masks/Page 10**

### Spring election

## Handful of contested races this April

**Town of Oregon voters will have most choices**

KIMBERLY WETHAL  
Staff reporter

If you're a Town of Oregon resident, there'll be a decent number of choices for you to vote on this spring.

Living anywhere else in the greater Oregon area, though, you'll see fewer contested races, or none at all.

There will be four contested races throughout Oregon: two for the Town of Oregon board, and another two for the Dane County

Board of Supervisors districts that cover the village and town of Oregon and the Town of Rutland. Other governing bodies, such as Village of Oregon Board of Trustees and the Oregon School Board, will have the exact number of people running for them as there are seats up for re-election.

Only one municipality, the Town of Dunn, won't have an election for its town board this year. Dunn voters will be able to vote for both the school board and their county supervisor, but neither of those races will be contested.

The spring election will Turn to **Elections/Page 10**



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