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1 year in**
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Local tradition returns

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The Columbia County Fair and Rodeo, a rich, long-established local tradition that was canceled last summer due to the COVID-19 pandemic, is scheduled to be held in mid July.

The seven member Columbia County fair board has approved restarting the popular event based on pandemic state and local health and safety requirements at the time of the event, July 12-18.

Columbia County Fair Board President Jamie Carr said this summer's event will be longer than what has been held in the past in an effort to offer the public as much of the events as possible and still closely follow social distancing requirements.

Work in progress

Carr said the current plans for the fair and rodeo are subject to change.

"Right now we planing to have a fair and we are working with vendors, businesses and entertainment," he said. "It's not all 100 percent planned. We have lost a few vendors and the events will be based on COVID restrictions in July."

Carr said he is hopeful fairgoers will see different entertainers, a performing stage, live music, 4H events and the other typical offerings found at the popular summer-time venue.

"It will be much like normal but we will have social distancing protocols," Carr said. "Due to COVID



Columbia County Fair organizers said the annual summer event draws thousands each day to enjoy the rides, 4-H events and other family traditions.

Chronicle photo

restrictions, the more square footage that can be separated into areas means more people can attend. It isn't what we want to do but it is what we have to plan due to the pandemic. We are optimistic that the pandemic restrictions will be a lot looser and more people will be allowed by July, but we are planning a fair with extra social gather-

ing restrictions."

According to Carr, admission prices will be the same as 2020, which will include entrance to the rodeo and the on-stage music entertainment.

Fair renovations

Carr said fairgrounds renova-

tions, such as gutters for the event buildings and a new roof for the fairgrounds office will depend on funding. The fair board is working with the Columbia County Board of Commissioners to see if grants or other money is available to fund the projects.

The fair board faced a \$37,000 debt following efforts to house

victims and livestock at the county facility on Saulser Road following Oregon wildfires in late August and September. During that project, the fair supported 40 wildfire evacuees and cared for more than 400 animals. In late February, the fair board held a community drive-through dinner and virtual auction to help raise money to clear the debt. Carr said that event brought in approximately \$5,000.

Another such drive-through fundraiser with limited in-person dining, a spaghetti feed, is scheduled from 3 to 6 p.m. March 13, at the fair pavilion.

"If we put on a few more of these dinners, we could pay off the debt," Carr said. "That is what we are working toward."

Carr said the popular family egg hunt held each Easter at the fairgrounds, also cancelled last spring due to the pandemic, is planned as a drive through event from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 3.

Looking back

According to Carr, cancelling the traditional fair and rodeo and the numerous rental projects held at the facility cut deep into the fair budget and clearing the wildfire lodging project is still a current challenge.

"Due to COVID, we had no way due to bring in additional money to pay down the debt," he said. "We could have done some of those smaller events and still met the COVID guidelines but we had

See **TRADITION** Page A9

Who We Are: A passion for cooking, surviving

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Usually, a one year anniversary for opening your new business can be cause for celebration, but for business operator Kayleigh Stano, this past year has been one of endurance and patience.

Stano is the chef and owner of the Columbia County Bistro in the Old Town District of St. Helens, which opened its doors February 19, 2020.

"Just a mere three weeks prior to the COVID-19 pandemic that brought us all to our knees," Stano said, but added that the decision to open a restaurant, while daunting was exciting and interesting to her.

"Having grown up in the Pacific Northwest I am a true foodie at heart, and lover of everything the Pacific Northwest has to offer the culinary world," she said.

Stano said because she has several food allergies and the dietary restrictions were was always frustrating for her as she tried to navigate her way around restaurant menus to find something not only allergy-friendly, but tasty and enjoyable.

According to Stano, her true passion lies in creating dishes for

anyone to enjoy that are easily modified depending on the consumers individual dietary restrictions and having trained and studied at the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, New York, Stano said she learned classic French cooking techniques and modify them to not only be allergy-friendly, but fitting for the Pacific Northwest.



We have literally just kind of rolled with the punches.
~ Kayleigh Stano, Chef and Owner Columbia County Bistro



"My passion has been to bring to our local community food that is not only fresh and tasty, but encompasses everything our beautiful area has to offer," she said.

What makes her bistro unique, Santo said, is that it offers an entirely gluten-free kitchen where everything is locally sourced and procured fresh. Visitors will notice that the bistro has a very small kitchen. There is no room to store or freeze



Jeremy C. Ruark / The Chronicle
Columbia County Bistro Chef and Owner Kayleigh Stano prepares the restaurant's signature dish, MacDaddy. See more photos with this story at thechronicleonline.com.

items, so Stano works to source all of the herbs and vegetables used in the bistro from local farms and on her family's property in Warren.

"My goal is to only use fresh and seasonal ingredients, as freshness and quality are a huge priority for me," she said.

Stano said this year she she plans to grow 11 different types of basil and 37 varieties of Heirloom tomatoes to utilize exclusively in the

bistro.

"We also are able to makes a lot of our menu items vegan, specifically our dairy-free version of the MacDaddy," she said. "We are a small boutique style restaurant and able to make changes to our dishes within reason."

Stano said the bistro's menu changes bi-monthly and ranges from \$16 to \$20 per item, allowing her to offer a wide range of options from

soups, stews, sandwiches, burgers, fried chicken, wraps, salads, braised meats, risottos, pastas, pan fried cutlets, and the Mac Daddy, which she said is always around.

"Occasionally, we offer desserts when local fruits are in season," she said. "I love cooking and it's something I'm passionate about, but I'm not a fan of repetition. With the constant rotation I can explore new things and our customers get new foods to try."

The bistro's drink menu also changes depending on the season.

"Some of our biggest sellers and fan favorites are our Manhattan and our house infused Lavender vodka martini," Stano said. "Our Lavender is grown here in Warren and we harvest and dry it at its peak. It truly is a beautiful cocktail. Just like with our food we enjoy experimenting with ingredients and concocting lovely libations."

Working through the past year and the pandemic has definitely challenged Stano as a business operator, but she said, she has endured.

"We were able to keep afloat with take-out orders and the support

See **BISTRO** Page A7

City purchases former church for \$800,000

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The city of St. Helens is expanding its recreation program with the \$800,000 purchase of the former First Missionary Baptist Church at 2625 Gable Road.

City officials said the property allows the city to provide additional recreation opportunities to the community.

History

The City of St. Helens Recreation Program was established in 2018 in partnership with the St. Helens School District to create a centralized program where a wide range of free or low-cost activities could be offered to the community.

The program is the only recreation department in Columbia County and provides activities for all age ranges, emphasizing inclusion of the whole community.

According to city officials, the purchase of the Gable Road property creates unique opportunities for the program. The building is located



Courtesy photo from City of St. Helens
St. Helens city officials said the former First Missionary Baptist Church, at 2625 Gable Road, will now be used to expand the city's recreation program and bring additional recreation opportunities to the community.

close to the St. Helens High School and within easy walking distance of several residential subdivisions and apartment complexes.

Safe, easier access

With new sidewalk and road improvements on Gable Road and additional improvements planned to create connection and safer passage to McBride Elementary School, the

location will offer safer and easier access to recreation opportunities for many community members.

The proximity to the high school also allows the recreation program to better utilize the school's new fields and other facilities to host additional classes, family events, sports tournaments, equipment rental, and more.

"The building's proximity to the St. Helens High School and the

additional resources that brings to the Recreation Program was a key element in our decision making," St. Helens Mayor Rick Scholl said.

Scholl said the city has built a strong partnership with the school district through the recreation program.

"With access to the school's new ball fields, sports facilities, and classrooms, the Gable Road property will greatly increase the recreation program's benefits to the community," he said. "This location will be an essential element to the long-term success of the program."

The St. Helens City Council approved the purchase of the former church in mid February.

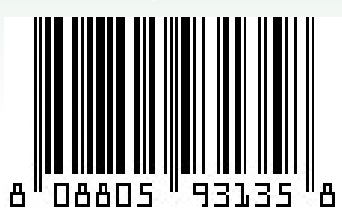
St. Helens School District Superintendent Scot Stockwell said the building purchase is an excellent example of the St. Helens community leveraging its resources.

"As the recreation opportunities

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March 1 Sunrise



Jeremy C. Ruark / The Chronicle

A blaze of color opened up the first day of March along the Columbia River in St. Helens. Weather forecasters are calling for warming and clearing conditions with a chance of rain for the week.

\$23,000 to enhance youth outdoor, bilingual programming

The City of St. Helens has been awarded grants from the Gray Family Foundation and Northwest Early Learning Hub to foster outdoor learning activities and bilingual programming for community youth.

The St. Helens Recreation Program will use the funding to create an Afterschool Adventure Club, support its Nature Buddies program, and hire a Spanish-speaking program coordinator, according to a release from the city.

What the grant will fund

The St. Helens Recreation Program will use the \$20,000 grant from the Gray Family Foundation's Environmental Education Grant Program to create an Afterschool Adventure Club allowing youth in St. Helens to engage in outdoor learning opportunities in a school-based setting. The goal of the new program is to encourage youth to explore the outdoors while learning with adult and peer support.

The program will have built-in flexibility to allow for either in-person or virtual and kit-based activities as COVID-19 safety guidelines allow. Adding outdoor learning spaces in multiple community parks will increase program accessibility. Part of



Courtesy photo from the City of St. Helens

The program will have built-in flexibility to allow for either in-person or virtual and kit-based activities as COVID-19 safety guidelines allow.

the grant funds will also be used to hire a bilingual staff member to support Spanish-speaking participants.

The city also will use a \$3,000 mini-grant from Northwest Early Learning Hub to support the the St. Helens Nature Buddies program. The program is a partnership between the St. Helens Recreation Program and St. Helens Public Library.

Nature Buddies is a weekly activity that promotes children being active or thinking actively outdoors. The goal is to build skills and the ability

to play without the need for parental or adult control. It emphasizes child-led play while caregivers supervise from a distance, although the program is structured to allow adults to actively participate while children lead playtime. Outdoor activities include stories, songs, stretching, and nature-based STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) activities and walks.

The Gray Foundation

The Gray Family Foundation's Environmental Educa-



Courtesy photo from the City of St. Helens

Adding outdoor learning spaces in multiple community parks will increase program accessibility. Part of the grant funds will also be used to hire a bilingual staff member to support Spanish-speaking participants.

tion program seeks to support programs that stimulate or promote the teaching of environmental education in K-12 environments and increases outdoor experiences for youth. The Gray Family Foundation is founded on the belief that fostering an

understanding and appreciation of our natural world is a crucial part of a child's education. The Foundation, a supporting organization of the Oregon Community Foundation, continues the philanthropic legacy of John and Betty Gray by sustain-

ing a permanent organization based on faith in the human spirit and a vision of Oregon as a vibrant, inclusive, and civic-minded society. Their mission is to engage people in Oregon as active stewards of our communities and natural environment.

Northwest Early Learning Hub

Northwest Early Learning Hub finds new and innovative ways to partner across communities to support families and create more opportunities for children to be kindergarten ready. They work collaboratively with community partners to coordinate resources and strategies focused on children and families in Clatsop, Columbia, and Tillamook counties. They serve over 7,200 children ages 0-6 across 13 school districts.

For more information, contact the City of St. Helens at 503-397-6272.

Scappoose Cruise-In



Kelli Nicholson / The Chronicle

Approximately 30 vintage and new cars paraded through Scappoose neighborhoods Saturday, Feb. 27, to show support for local businesses during the pandemic. Volunteers gathered non-perishable donations along the way for the Columbia Pacific Food Bank that will be distributed to families in need.

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Problem Gambling Awareness Month

STAFF REPORT
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For the 19th year, the Oregon Council on Problem Gambling dedicates March to help increase public awareness of problem gambling and the availability of prevention, treatment, and recovery services.

The effort coincides with the National Problem Gambling Awareness Month whose campaign theme is "Awareness + Action."

"Problem Gambling Awareness Month is always important to us, as we highlight a 'hidden' addiction that millions of Americans face, including one in every 38 Oregon adults," Oregon Council on Problem Gambling Executive Director Julie Hynes said.

Special attention is being given this year to problem gambling, given the stress, isolation and financial uncertainty of so many Oregonians throughout the pandemic, according to Hynes.

"Some can be tempted to seek hope through jackpots and escape from everyday problems via other gambling options," she said. "More widespread legalized online betting, day trading, and even video gaming apps have caused harm for more people this year. We want people to know that they're not alone, and that there is effective, free and confidential help available for them as well as their loved ones."

National Problem Gambling Awareness Month is a



Metro Creative Connection / The Chronicle

National Problem Gambling Awareness Month is a grassroots effort that brings together a wide range of stakeholders - public health organizations, advocacy groups and gambling operators - who work collaboratively to let people know that hope and help exist.

grassroots effort that brings together a wide range of stakeholders - public health organizations, advocacy groups and gambling operators - who work collaboratively to let people know that hope and help exist.

Outreach continues to be challenging because of the pandemic, Hynes said, adding that people are isolated at home and the need for online gambling resources and options for treatment are critical.

Visits to the Oregon Problem Gambling Resource website (www.opgr.org).

org) tend to increase during March as a result of the focused marketing and social media outreach efforts.

"Creating awareness of problem gambling and available resources is a statewide commitment that is reflected in the official proclamation that Oregon Lottery and the Oregon Health Authority worked with the Governor's office to develop," the Oregon Lottery's Stacy Shaw said. Shaw is also an officer on the National Council on Problem Gambling board of directors.

"It's great that people are

seeking information," Shaw said, "and we hope that the conversation and action continues to grow this year. We're proud to be in a state that has robust system of prevention through treatment services that are free to anyone concerned about gambling problems, and we want people to know that they don't have to worry about seeking help."

"This year we are focusing on letting people know that in Oregon treatment is really free, a message that's important to people struggling with gambling issues."

Problem Gambling Services Manager Greta Coe, with Oregon Health Authority's Health Systems Division, said the COVID pandemic has made this "a very trying and isolating time for many people."

Because of this, she says, it was important for Oregon Problem Gambling Resource (OPGR) and other local community sources to ramp up their outreach activities and media presence to address the increase in gambling activity and addiction.

"We've expanded our

efforts to build awareness that gambling is an activity that comes with risks," Coe said, "and it's crucial we provide both free education and judgment-free treatment for those who develop gambling problems, as well as resources for those impacted by a loved one's gambling."

The Oregon Lottery's commitment to problem gambling support is year-round. Since 1992, one percent of Oregon Lottery profits has funded problem gambling treatment and prevention efforts throughout Oregon. Since that time, over \$111 million in Lottery funds has supported those services.

To get help for a gambling issue, anyone can call 1-877-MYLIMIT. Treatment is free, confidential and it works. For more information about problem gambling treatment resources or to chat with a specialist, go to Oregon Problem Gambling Resource at opgr.org.

About the Oregon Council on Problem Gambling

The Oregon Council on Problem Gambling is the state affiliate to the National Council on Problem Gambling.

The council promotes the health of Oregonians by supporting efforts to minimize gambling related harm. Board members include stakeholders from the gaming industry, the treatment and prevention field, the recovery community and state and county administrators.

State revenues up, 'kicker' possible



Courtesy photo

Oregonians could share in a \$571 million kicker rebate due to the surging state economy, according to the latest Oregon revenue forecast released at the state capitol in Salem Wednesday, Feb. 24.

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The latest state revenue forecast gives hope that Oregon's financial affairs are brighter.

"The economy is emerging from a dark winter. The resurgent virus of a few months ago is in full retreat. The outlook brightens with every inoculation," the forecast summary reads, stating that following a booming first half of the biennium, Oregon's general fund revenue outlook was inches away from the 2% kicker threshold when the pandemic hit.

"After filling all of the recessionary hole, the March 2021 forecast calls for collections to exceed the threshold by \$170 million (0.9%), resulting in a kicker credit of \$571 million. However, this kicker credit is far from a sure thing. With one more tax season left in the biennium, much uncertainty remains."

Under Oregon law, if state revenues come in above 2% of initial projections some personal tax collections are returned to residents.

Reaction

Gov. Kate Brown said the revenue forecast brings news.

"Even with this good news, it is important to move forward cautiously, as the road ahead remains unpredictable," Brown said. "We also know that many Oregonians are still struggling with job losses, underemployment, and making ends meet."

Oregon House Speaker Tina Kotek released a statement following the release of the financial report saying the positive revenue forecast is good news for the state's budgetary efforts.

"However, I'm troubled by the disconnect these num-

bers and the economic pain on the ground for so many Oregonians," Kotek said.

Senate Republican Leader Fred Girod also issued a statement about the quarterly state revenue forecast.

"I prefer to focus on the revenue coming into Oregonians' bank accounts," he said. "The reality is that 150,000 Oregonians have been put out of work because of the pandemic and the economic lockdowns. Tens of thousands are struggling to make rent, afford child care, and put food on the table."

Girod said the revenue forecast indicates that the state has taken in over \$800 million in excess revenue.

"The state has been bailed out by the federal government," he said. "We are looking at billions more coming our way in the coming weeks from Congress and the Biden Administration."

According to Girod, the Oregon Legislature should not be considering new taxes or rolling back COVID relief.

"That will simply hinder economic recovery and the chances of Oregonians getting back to work," he said.

Senate President Peter Courtney said he was very surprised with the March 2021 quarterly economic and revenue forecast.

"The forecast is way up," Courtney said. "This allows us to start really dealing with the pain and suffering of Oregonians."

Why the revenue forecasts are important

The Oregon Economic Forecast provides information to planners and policy makers in state agencies and private organizations for use in their decision making processes. The Oregon Revenue Forecast opens the revenue forecasting process to public review. It is the basis for

much of the budgeting in state government. The forecast reports are issued four times a year: March, June, September, and December.

The summary

The March revenue forecast summary released Wednesday, Feb. 24, by the Oregon Department of Administrative Services states that the stage is set for stronger economic growth.

"The combination of increased vaccinations, large and swift federal policy responses, and a more resilient underlying economy, results in a cycle unlike anything experienced before. Most encouraging is that the amount of economic scarring to date in terms of business closures and permanent layoffs is much better than first feared. Total personal income is higher today than it was prior to the pandemic, despite Oregon having 160,000 fewer jobs. Households, particularly those in the middle and upper parts of the income distribution have built up considerable amounts of savings."

"As the pandemic continues to wane, pent-up demand will be unleashed, fueling growth in the months ahead. The shift in spending out of physical goods and back into labor-intensive, in-person consumer services will raise employment significantly. While the labor market remains in a deep hole today, a bit more than half of these lost jobs will be regained this year. The rest will be regained next year. Oregon's economy will return to full employment by early 2023, or 6-9 months sooner than expected in previous forecasts."

Read the full Oregon Revenue Forecast with this story at thechronicleonline.com

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Pandemic 1 year in: Governor, OHA director release statements

STAFF REPORT

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Oregon is marking the one year anniversary since the first positive case of COVID-19 was diagnosed in the state.

In Columbia County, there have been 1,270 cases reported and 21 deaths related to the pandemic. Across the state, 2,212 people have died and the Oregon Health Authority reports 155,787 cases as of Monday, March 1.

Governor Kate Brown issued the following statement Sunday.

“For so many Oregonians, after living through the COVID-19 pandemic, wildfires, flooding, severe winter weather, and a long-overdue reckoning on racism and racial justice, our lives are far different than they were on February 28, one year ago.

“Through it all, I have been inspired by the way Oregonians have pulled together and helped one another. Because of your smart choices to protect friends and family, Oregon has maintained some of the lowest infection, hospitalization, and death rates in the nation throughout the pandemic.

“Today, I want to take a moment to say: Thank you, Oregon.

“Thank you to all our frontline workers—from our doctors, nurses and health care workers who have worked tirelessly to save lives, to the agricultural, food processing, and grocery workers who have kept food on our tables throughout the pandemic, to first responders, postal workers, transportation workers, restaurant and food service workers, educators and school support staff, and the many more who have kept us all going.

“Thank you to everyone



Jeremy C. Ruark / The Chronicle
A health worker conducts a Columbia County Public Health COVID-19 test during one of the drive-by events at St. Helens High School.

who has helped friends and neighbors in need—from Oregonians experiencing hunger or homelessness, to those displaced by wildfires, to those who lost jobs and livelihoods during the pandemic.

“Thank you to parents and caregivers, especially working mothers, who have balanced school, work, and family responsibilities in ways we never before imagined.

“We must also acknowledge that this pandemic has had a disproportionate impact on Oregon’s Black, Indigenous, Tribal, Latino, Latina, and Latinx, Pacific Islander, Asian, and communities of color, as well as our immigrant and refugee communities. We must do better—to build a stronger, more just, more equitable Oregon for everyone who lives here.

“With our vaccine efforts ramping up, the light at the end of the tunnel grows closer each day. We are reopening school buildings, businesses, and communities. But we must keep up our guard, with new, more contagious COVID-19 vari-

ants circulating in the United States, including in Oregon.

“Today and every day, we remember the more than 2,200 Oregonians we have lost. Our hearts are with the families who have lost loved ones to this deadly disease. We must continue to keep each other safe by wearing masks, avoiding gatherings with people from outside our households, maintaining distance, washing our hands, and staying home while sick.

“But, while we must continue to keep our physical distance from one another, we will get through the rest of this pandemic the same way we have come this far: together.”

Kate Brown
Oregon Governor

Oregon Health Authority Director Patrick Allen’s Statement

It’s been one year since the first case of COVID-19 was diagnosed in Oregon. Twelve grim months later, nothing is the same.

The pandemic has claimed more than half a

million lives in the United States. More than 2,200 Oregonians have died with the coronavirus. All of us have felt their loss. All of us have seen our lives altered: a beloved grandparent’s lonely wave through the glass of a nursing home window. The empty storefront of a bedrock local business. Birthdays, graduations and anniversaries awkwardly celebrated on a screen instead of in-person. Frustration as parents struggle to help kids in school while trying to meet work demands.

But there’s another number Oregonians should bear in mind, especially as we confront the coming months of the pandemic: 4,000. That’s approximately the number of lives you’ve saved by wearing a mask, limiting in-person gatherings and maintaining social distance.

Oregon was one of the first states in the nation to report a case of COVID-19, but a year later our state has the 4th lowest coronavirus case rate in the nation, the 4th lowest death rate and the 4th lowest COVID-19 death rate among seniors. If Oregon’s death rate matched the nation’s, three times as many Oregonians would have lost their lives.

You made the difference. Month after month, deep into the pandemic, about 8 in 10 Oregonians continue to observe lifesaving pandemic precautions. While we know who’s died from COVID-19 – in ages ranging from under 1 to more than 100 years old, we’ll never know for sure whom you’ve saved. Maybe it’s an esteemed elder who’s alive to lead a virtual devotional group for his faith community. A middle-age mother who’s here to help her daughter apply for college. A thirtysomething who agrees to be best man at his

friend’s wedding, once the pandemic is over. Maybe it’s someone reading this message. Maybe it’s you.

State and local public health actions saved lives too. Governor Kate Brown issued early stay at home orders. Our state was the first in the nation to protect the most vulnerable nursing home residents by limiting visitation. Oregon put limits on bars, restaurants, gyms and other types of businesses that could fuel the virus’ spread. Those limits figured as vital factors in Oregon’s life-saving calculus – but they came with undeniable costs to workers and business owner. Still, and unlike other states, Oregon kept manufacturing and construction going, blunting the worst-case economic fallout on working families.

Here’s another number: 973,022. That’s the number of COVID-19 vaccine first and second doses Oregon nurses and other vaccinators have administered so far, as of today. It’s true Oregon’s vaccine roll-out has been no less bumpy than it has been elsewhere. Yet Oregon has fully vaccinated about 1 in 12 adults, putting us ahead of most other states (Oregon ranks 16th in the percent of people fully vaccinated).

But the pandemic isn’t over. More contagious and more dangerous variants of the virus are taking hold. We are in a race to vaccinate as many people as possible, as soon as we can.

It’s been a hard year. On top of the pandemic, we’ve endured historic wildfires that also claimed lives, displaced thousands and obliterated the homes and businesses that comprised entire communities. We’ve awakened to an overdue reckoning with racial injustice – including unacceptable health

inequities. Winter storms compounded our discomfort and disruption.

We’re tired. But we can’t give up.

With gratitude, and respect for all the lifesaving sacrifices you’ve made so far, I ask Oregonians to:

- Keep wearing masks, limiting your social get-togethers and maintaining your physical distance. Until we know more, we need to keep our guard up.

- Choose to get vaccinated when you are eligible, as soon as an appointment is available to you.

On Friday, Governor Brown told Oregonians we are speeding up our timelines to vaccinate Oregonians. Over the next month we expect to vaccinate more than 3 in 4 seniors. People with underlying health conditions will be eligible no later than March 29th. Frontline workers will be eligible no later than May 1. And we’ll open vaccinations to the first healthy members of the general public no later than June 1.

I know many people have questions about COVID-19 vaccines. I know the experience of racism and memories of historical trauma and medical experimentation are alive in many communities. Other people are wary of government.

Yet once again, we depend on each other to save lives. The COVID-19 vaccine is the safest and most effective way to protect yourself and your loved ones and return to more of our normal life. We need enough Oregonians to get immunized, so all of us are protected.

Thank you for the lives you’ve saved so far and the lives we can all save in the months to come.

Patrick Allen
OHA Director

VIEWPOINTS

Oregon’s revenue forecast, next steps

BRAD WITT

Chronicle Guest Article

Oregon’s March Revenue Forecast was released last week from the Oregon Legislative Fiscal Office, and according to state economist Mark McMullen, revenue is up sharply and is estimated to return to pre-pandemic levels.

Even though there are 160,000 fewer jobs and businesses struggling to survive, economists say that in recent months, those losses have been offset by federal aid, larger businesses’ profits and higher wage earners increased income. While it is too soon to tell, these increases may even mean a personal income tax kicker return for Oregonians.

The new forecast predicts an increase in higher than expected personal income taxes, corporate taxes and lottery revenue. It also seems more likely that a federal aid package for state and local governments could result in billions of additional dollars for the state. We also have healthy reserves thanks to prudent budgeting.

What’s next

With this revenue forecast, the Oregon Legislature’s Ways and Means Committee will now develop the 2021-23 fiscal year state budget. Even with the improved forecast, budget writers still need to be careful how they allocate the funds.

While the economy has improved, individuals and small businesses are still suffering and are depending on some state-sponsored programs. We must make sure those government programs are adequate and sustainable, because we cannot rely on ongoing federal stimulus money, and we don’t want to end up with no money in reserve.

I’m hoping that the economists are correct when they talk about Oregon’s job growth, they anticipate half of the jobs lost to the pandemic will return this year, and the rest in 2022.

In my experience, Oregonians want to work and provide for themselves and their families, but for now, we need to give them the support



Jeremy C. Ruark / The Chronicle

they need to get through these uncertain times.

Landlord Compensation Fund

The Oregon Housing and Community Services Department has launched the first application round for the Landlord Compensation fund, which was created when the statewide eviction moratorium was extended.

This is a voluntary program designed to provide relief to residential landlords who have been unable to collect rent due to pandemic-caused tenant hardships. The application portal is accessible here and will be open until 4 p.m. March 2.

Help shape the future

The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) is seeking applicants to fill 68 commissioner seats on 22 of the state’s agricultural and commercial fisheries commodity commissions. See the list attached to this column at thechronicleonline.com. The deadline to apply is March 15. For instructions or to learn more about commissions please visit the commodity commissions webpage. At Oregon Commodity Commission.

ODA Director Alexis Taylor appoints commissioners. Once appointed, they work as public officials and most serve three-year terms. Their duties include making decisions about funding on promotion, education, and research projects. Director Taylor is looking for applicants representing the diversity among Oregon’s

farmers, ranchers, processors, and commercial fisheries. For public members, users of the commodity who have an interest and time to serve are often the best fit.

A public member must be a US citizen, an Oregon resident, and have an active interest in improving economic conditions for the commodity. A public member cannot be directly associated with producing or handling the specific commodity they seek to serve.

Applicants for producer or handler positions must also be a US citizen, an Oregon resident, and have paid or collected the assessment for that particular commodity for the previous three years or longer in some cases. A producer is defined as a grower or harvester. A handler is the first to buy the commodity from the producer and is often a processor, distributor, or marketer.

For more information about Oregon’s Commodity Commissions, or the application process, please contact Kris Anderson, ODA Commodity Oversight Program Manager kanderson@oda.state.or.us 503-970-3260.

Stay engaged

Due to the COVID-19 health protection restrictions, the Capitol building remains closed to the public. Committee work is being done remotely, and the public is still able to weigh in on bills and other issues. This can be done in writing, by phone or by computer link-up. It has never been more important to be a part of the process.

If you have concerns or comment about a state issue, agency or proposed legislation, please contact my office. It is my privilege to represent you in the House of Representatives as we undertake this important work together.

Rep. Brad Witt serves House District 31. He may be reached at:

- Email: Rep.BradWitt@oregonlegislature.gov

- Telephone: 503-986-1431

- 900 Court St NE, H-382, Salem, OR, 97301

- Website: www.oregon-legislature.gov/witt



Weekly Online Poll

As the pandemic restrictions ease, what is the first thing you want to do?

- Visit friends and relatives
- Eat inside a restaurant
- Take a vacation

Last Week’s Results

Are you subscribing to the high sports game streaming systems?

11% Yes 89% No

Vote online at thechronicleonline.com

The Chronicle

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VOICES OF THE COMMUNITY

Support for public safety building

Please tour the current building that St. Helens Police have called home for over 50 years.

My first impressions of the building go way back to how this quirky little building was given the responsibility of our police station. Fast forward to today, the only change to the main part of the building is that time has taken a toll with wear and tear that stands out clearly. An

entrance area so small, that stepping outside to talk seems like a better option, stained ceiling tiles everywhere, heaven only knows what circulates through the decades old duct work.

The dark narrow hallway that one person at a time can pass through leads to a central room with one large conference table consuming the whole area, this room has many functions crammed into it, functions that need dedicated secure spaces. I felt concerns on how our police are expected to effectively respond to emergency and disaster scenarios working

from this inadequate building. It is time to respectfully retire this building.

Understandable, none of us want to have financial increases for any services, however the scale is so tipped that not having a decent, functional, appropriate, safe building to house our police and public services, with added population growth cannot continue to be ignored. Not moving forward now for a public safety building will only result in greater future expenses, faced with other competing future needs.

Community voice is important to help make a fi-

nancial choice that will better serve our community.

Judy Thompson
St. Helens

Virtual tour

Last week I was treated to an online "Virtual tour" of our community police facility. I was appalled.

The total facility is 2300 Square feet. Many of our homes have more space.

The police station is not ADA accessible, neither is their restroom. There are no meeting rooms. There are no rooms where a police

man can privately meet with a family, take a report, or interrogate a person. Space is very limited. We have 6 supervisors and a dog that share two rooms, one report room where 18 officers share 3 computers.

The 23 full time employees share 18 lockers. An 8X10 room is the only space where an officer can change uniforms or "suite up with protective gear;" this does not provide optimal space for a shift change or an emergency, since it can only accommodate one person at a time.

Our existing police station does not have a proper

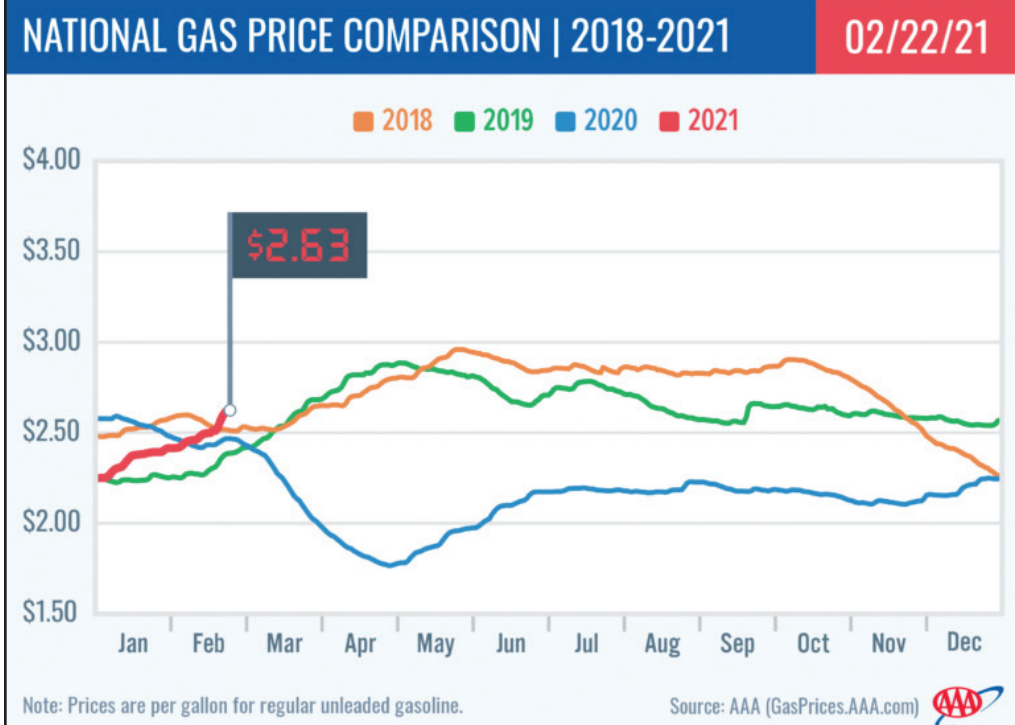
evidence room or a proper workplace with adequate ventilation to test some of the substances that are brought in by the officers.

Our police station is inadequate, outdated, and an actual health hazard to the people working in it. St. Helens is growing, and we need to improve our City's infrastructure to allow for growth.

I care for my city and I hope you do as well. Replacing this building will make all our lives safer and better.

Bill Eagle
St. Helens

Gasoline prices on the rise



STAFF REPORT

chroniclenews@countrymedia.net

Drivers are filling up to some of the most expensive pump prices in about a year, according to the latest American Automobile Association (AAA) price survey.

Over the past few weeks, gasoline prices in Columbia County inched up by 30 cents a gallon.

Driving force

Rising crude oil prices are also driving higher gas prices. Crude climbed above \$60 per barrel last week, which is close to the high price for all of 2020 of \$63.27/bbl (seen on January 6, 2020). Investors believe improving global economies due to the rollout of the coronavirus vaccine will cause demand for oil to pick up. Some major banks and traders suggest crude will rise to the \$70s in the coming months, according to Dodds.

"With the price of crude consistently increasing, so have gas prices because crude oil accounts for more than 50% of the price at the pump," she said in the price survey release.

"Gas prices are likely to be volatile because of the higher crude oil prices and until crude production is back to normal levels, Dodds said. "Motorists can expect these more expensive prices to stick around, but large spikes are likely to subside. AAA believes the national average could climb to \$2.80 a gallon this spring. The Oregon average will likely surpass \$3 a gallon."

The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) reports gasoline stocks sit at 257 million bbl. Just 2 million bbl short of year-ago, stock levels are relatively healthy. That will allow ample supply to get to impacted areas. EIA's latest demand measurement of 8.4 million b/d is the highest reported since early November of last year. However, AAA expects that number to be lower in this Wednesday's report as last week's winter storm took motorists off the road.

Across the nation

All 50 states and the District of Columbia have higher prices now than a week ago and 36 states are seeing double-digit increases. Arizona (+23 cents) has the largest weekly increase. Montana (+5 cents) has the smallest weekly increase.

After 36 weeks, Washington (\$3.01) joins California (\$3.59) and Hawaii (\$3.43) as the only states in the nation with averages at or above \$3 a gallon.

The cheapest gas in the nation can be found in Mississippi (\$2.30) and Louisiana (\$2.34). For the seventh week in a row, no state has an average below \$2 a gallon.

All 50 states and the District of Columbia have higher prices now than a month ago. Every state except Hawaii has a double-digit monthly increase. The national average is 25 cents more and the Oregon average is 18 cents more than a month ago. This is the 46th-largest month-over-month increase in the nation. Michigan (+35 cents) has the largest monthly increase in the country. Hawaii (+9 cents) has the smallest.

Oregon is one of only nine states with lower prices now than a year ago. The national average is 17 cents more and the Oregon average is 11 cents less than a year ago. This is the third-largest yearly drop in the nation. Hawaii (-15 cents) has the largest year-over-year decline. Iowa (+32 cents) has the biggest yearly increase.

Visit AAA.com/covidmap for an interactive map with the latest travel restrictions and policies for North America.



Courtesy photo "Come summer, provided supplies from the federal government continue as planned, any Oregonian who wants the vaccine will be eligible to receive it," Oregon Gov. Kate Brown said.

New vaccine eligibility timelines

ZACK DEMARS

worldnews3@countrymedia.net

Oregon turned a corner in its efforts to vaccinate residents against the coronavirus Friday, Feb. 26, setting a schedule for the eligibility for every adult in the state to receive a shot.

The announcement sets an ambitious timeline for vastly expanding the number of Oregonians who can get in line for a COVID-19 vaccine, with select populations becoming eligible by the end of March and the general public to become eligible by late July.

"Yes, you're hearing me correctly," Oregon Governor Kate Brown said at a news conference Friday. "Come summer, provided supplies from the federal government continue as planned, any Oregonian who wants the vaccine will be eligible to receive it."

Under the plan, on March 29 the state will open eligibility to the next slate of individuals in group 1B. Officials said that includes:

- Adults 45-64, with 1+ CDC-defined underlying health conditions with increased risk. (Conditions include cancer, chronic kidney disease, COPD, Down's syndrome, heart conditions, immunocompromised state, obesity defined by a BMI of 30 or above, pregnancy, sickle-cell disease and Type II diabetes.)

A portion of frontline workers who are highly vul-

nerable, including migrant and seasonal farm workers; seafood, agricultural and food processing workers; and woodland firefighters.

- Families displaced by Sept. 2020 forest fires.

- People living in low-income and congregate senior housing.

- Individuals experiencing homelessness.

No later than May 1, the state will open eligibility to:

- Adults 16-45 with 1+ CDC defined underlying health conditions with increased risk.

- Other CDC-defined frontline workers, which the CDC defines as "necessary for the functioning of society," and who are at higher risk for contracting the virus because they can't work from home or often come in contact with others at work. Some examples include grocery store workers, members of the media, public transit operators and the U.S. Postal Service.

- People who live in multi-generational households.

No later than June 1, the state will open eligibility to the general population 45 or older, and no later than July 1, the state will open eligibility to anyone 16 and older.

A lengthy list of the characteristics and factors which define the state's eligibility groups is available on the state's vaccination website at covidvaccine.oregon.gov.

"For the first time since the pandemic started, we can

provide a timeline that will tell every adult Oregonian a date before which he or she will be eligible to get vaccinated," Oregon Health Authority Director Patrick Allen said Friday. "This will bring into clearer view a time when we will be freed from the grip of the pandemic, and we can see our loved ones, celebrate holidays and return to some of our normal life again."

Friday's announcement came on the heels of a chaotic week for scheduling vaccine appointments, particularly in the state's high-population areas, which has pushed state officials to change how appointments are scheduled at major metro sites.

But according to Allen, the state is already ahead of its own timeline, giving health officials confidence in the ambitious next phases.

"We're speeding up our timelines, not backing off," Allen said.

So far, just over 7% of Oregonians have been fully vaccinated against the virus, with about twice that having received at least a first dose.

That includes about 46% of those over 80, Allen said, and about a quarter of those over 65 (the age group which will become fully eligible for doses starting March 1).

Allen projects about three quarters of the state's seniors will be vaccinated by March 29, weeks ahead of the state's previous timeline.

How does acupuncture work?

PINPOINT CLINIC

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Acupuncture is the gentle insertion of very fine needles into specific points on the body. This process stimulates movement of blood and the release of chemicals within the body, allowing natural healing to take place. These points are selected based on years of training acupuncturists receive based on over 3,000 years of experience in China.

Acupuncture helps to prevent illness by improving the overall functioning of the body's immune and organ systems. Acupuncture is helpful for:

- Treating existing illnesses and injuries.
- Preventing both recurrence of illnesses and new illness.
- Improving overall health.

Acupuncture originated in China over 3,000 years ago. It is part of the holistic system of healing known as Traditional Chinese Medicine ("TCM").

To the human body, acupuncture needles are a physical stimulus. In



Western science, a stimulus is defined as a detectable change in either the external environment or within the body itself. When the body detects change, it produces a response. Although acupuncture is not yet fully understood by Western science, with modern technology scientists can now actually begin to "see" the body's response to acupuncture. For example, using an MRI (a very sophisticated x-ray), researchers have shown that when a needle is inserted at specific acupuncture points on the body, corresponding changes occur in the brain.

In the West, acupuncture is most well-known for its ability to relieve pain so the majority of research thus far has been done in this area.

Acupuncture points are now believed to stimulate the central nervous system (the brain and spinal cord) to release pain-relieving chemicals into the muscles, spinal cord and brain. Acupuncture may also stimulate other chemicals to be released by the brain, including hormones that influence the self-regulating system of the body.

Oriental medicine has been around for thousands of years, and has provided us with a unique and holistic approach to help prevent and treat disease. Western science and Traditional Chinese Medicine ultimately rely on the body's natural healing ability to maintain health and protect against disease. Both have the same goal of helping a person stay healthy. Western science tends to use drugs and surgery as needed. Acupuncturists tend to use gentle needling and herbs. A combination of both systems creates an ideal environment of health and healing.

Pinpoint Clinic can be reached at 503-987-1410 and pinpointclinic.com

Columbia County's trusted local news source



the Columbia County Small Woodlands Board of Directors has decided to cancel the annual ornamental tree sale in March. We very much appreciate the community support in past years and look forward to seeing you in 2022.

Columbia County Small Woodlands Association

Special Report
2021
The Chronicle

A LOOK AHEAD

Special Report: Oregon's child care industry

JESSICA NELSON
Chronicle Guest Article

Editor's Note: With so many families in Columbia County depending on child care services and the challenges they are facing during the pandemic, Oregon Employment Department Economist Jessica Nelson provides us with insight into this important state industry.

Many working parents in Oregon rely on the child care industry for safe, affordable, and educational care for their children.

The importance of the industry has been highlighted in the pandemic recession, as child care centers and providers faced new restrictions and risks of providing care in Oregon communities. Employment in the industry dropped a staggering 35% in one month between March and April 2020, and regained about one-third of those losses by September 2020.

As with so much of our lives, the virus and its spread continue to impact child care jobs and the parents who depend on the care provided by them.

Even with the recent spike in unemployment, most parents are in the labor force and employed, translating into a lot of children needing child care. Elementary school closures and distance learning have changed the day-to-day dynamics of many households, as well as shifting their need for child care.

Some families currently need fewer hours of care, or can do without a formal child care arrangement entirely as children learn at home. Some families, including those of essential workers, face limited options for care outside the home and the constant uncertainty of schedule changes and availability of care when parents need to be at work.

Scare slots

Child care slots were too scarce in most of the state prior to the pandemic. The Oregon Child Care Research Partner-



Metro Creative Connection / The Chronicle

The importance of the industry has been highlighted in the pandemic recession, as child care centers and providers faced new restrictions and risks of providing care in Oregon communities.

ship found that in 2018, "Child care supply is inadequate across the state with 72% of Oregon communities being child care deserts, meaning there are only enough regulated slots available for less than a third of a community's children." For infants and toddlers, 84% of Oregon communities were found to be child care deserts, compared with 61% when seeking care for a preschooler. Parents of young children already faced limited child care options in our state, and the pandemic has caused changes in community-level demand combined with constrained supply.

On top of that, the cost of care continues to rise, with families of young children often spending more on child care than on rent or their mortgage – a trend that existed long before the pandemic but that has been highlighted as parents have left the labor force to care for children at home during COVID-19. For too many families, the juggle and struggle of finding, keeping, and paying for child care during the pandemic has not been worth the pay at low-wage, and suddenly high-risk jobs.

In responses to a Washington University study from the Social Policy Institute, summarized by the Annie E. Casey Foundation in a December 2020 report Kids, Families and COVID-19, about a third of parents responded in the Aug. 10 2020 to Sept. 2 2020 survey period that they somewhat or

strongly agreed they were less likely to return to work in the fall due to a lack of child care (32%). Latino parents were the most likely to report they somewhat or strongly agreed, at 39%.

"Whether these parents are finding such care is no longer available, they can no longer afford it or they themselves have been thrust into additional caregiving roles, an enormous portion of the nation's workers could be sidelined from being able to support themselves and their families," the study stated.

Disruptions in child care might seem like a household-level problem, but when pervasive and persistent, they become a large economic and business problem.

Parents make up a sizeable share of Oregon's labor force. Labor force participation rates are higher among parents than among those without children under the age of 18. Among parents of young children under the age of six, nine out of 10 fathers and seven out of 10 mothers are working. Parents of children under six years of age make up 14 percent of Oregon's workforce, and those with children ages six to 17 make up another 17 percent. Oregon employers benefit from the services of child care providers because these services help their workforce continue to be stable, reliable, and productive.

Small businesses and big pandemic problems

The child care sector was hard hit at the onset of the pandemic recession and heavily affected by the restrictions put in place to stop the spread of COVID-19. Due to the nature of such a close-contact business as caring for children, and additionally to the many changes we all dealt with in the spring that suddenly shifted both demand for and supply of child care, employers had to shift rapidly in the spring to reopen with new safety precautions and limitations to group sizes, cohorts, and a new, much smaller, staffing footprint.

At the onset of COVID-19,

the private-sector child care industry dropped 35% of its jobs in the space of one month, moving from near peak employment of about 13,000 jobs in March to 8,400 jobs in April. As of September, the most recent month of available data, Oregon's child care businesses had regained just 1,300 of the jobs lost this spring, reaching about 9,700 jobs.

The number of businesses didn't change much between the first and third quarters of the year, dropping from 1,417 to 1,392. So far, with data through September, almost all child care businesses had survived the pandemic. With COVID-related restrictions lasting well into 2021, it remains to be seen whether more widespread business closures will take place, and how that will affect local child care marketplaces as the economy recovers from the pandemic.

Over the long-term, child care has seen strong growth. Since the industry has a reliable seasonal pattern, with a drop in jobs during each summer, the 12-month moving average is included in the graph to make the overall trend a bit easier to follow.

From 2009 to 2019, Oregon's child care businesses grew 36%; just about as strong as the 38% growth in private-sector health care and social assistance, the broader sector of which child day care services is a small part. Overall employment grew 21% between 2009 – the depths of the Great Recession – and 2019. With data available only through September 2020, the 12-month average hasn't yet caught up with the steep drop in April 2020.

Child care businesses tend to be small operations. In 2018, Oregon's private-sector child care businesses numbered 1,308 and employed 12,453 workers. Half of the businesses had four or fewer employees. Fifteen percent of child care businesses employ 20 or more workers.

Average wages are low in the industry. Total payroll of child care businesses with employees in 2019 was about \$301 million – this aver-

ages out to almost \$24,000 per worker, less than half the private-sector average of \$54,000. The low average wage is due to the low wages of the occupations that dominate the industry. For example, the median wage of a preschool teacher in Oregon in 2020 is \$14.71 per hour, and the median wage for childcare workers is \$12.90. These two occupations account for more than two-thirds of the employment in the day care industry.

Sticker-shock costs and insufficient pay hamper child care market

The Center for the Study of Child Care Employment at the University of California, Berkeley has studied the dynamics of the child care marketplace, which functions with far less public support than other areas of education.

"Most families who rely on child care are heavily burdened by the cost, and by the time their fees are applied to all the expenses it takes to run a program, very little is available for the educators themselves. As a result, educators end up subsidizing the true cost of high quality services with their low wages," the study states.

Investments in the public good of high-quality, stable, and accessible child care will benefit all of us, yet they remain a difficult public-policy sell. There are good reasons, in terms of equity and economic stability, to increase such investments.

In its study Oregon Early Learning Workforce, the Oregon Child Care Research Partnership notes, "Lower levels of compensation have been shown to be associated with higher teacher turnover, lower teacher morale, and lower levels of observed quality."

Turnover among regulated child care facilities far exceeds turnover at K-12 schools. Teacher turnover negatively impacts children

directly by disrupting the relationships with the adults caring for them, and indirectly through lower morale among remaining teachers. Between 2012 and 2018, the annual

turnover rates in child care facilities ranged from 16 to 29% per year. In all, just 32% of Oregon's 2012 child care workforce were still working in child care in 2018. Programs paying lower wages tended to have lower levels of teacher retention than the industry norm.

As the importance of early childhood education is embraced and more fully supported, efforts are underway to better measure and support the professional development of child care workers and preschool teachers and more fully align their training and compensation with the broader array of educators.

What's next

The study concluded, "Low wages are associated with high turnover rates in both early learning and K-12. High turnover rates harm children and challenge professional development investments; although in Oregon's early learning workforce we find that those in whom we made professional development investments were mainly in the group who remained in the workforce."

The child care industry has grown over the long-term in response to the increasing numbers of families in which both parents work, and to the increasing number of households headed by women. The pandemic recession has harmed the industry a great deal, and its implications for business survival and retention of the child care workforce are still developing as we struggle to get COVID-19 under control.

Families and businesses rely on a stable child care industry. Increasing availability and affordability of reliable child care options will be necessary to getting Oregonians back to work in the economic recovery after the pandemic.

Jessica Nelson is an economist with the Oregon Employment Department. She may be reached at jessica.r.nelson@oregon.gov or at 800-262-3912, Ext 71276.

OBITUARIES

Peter Snell

Feb. 14, 1964 ~ Feb. 25, 2021

Peter "Pete" Anthony Snell was born in Portland, Oregon on Valentine's day. Pete was a big hearted, helpful, kind and generous person, always there for friends.

He was a giver. Volunteering with Oregon Food Bank, working at the Habitat Restore, very involved at Jordan center, and volunteered at many Creekside events. He was well liked by so many within his community.

Pete had green thumbs. His vegetable garden was always amazing. He even

won prizes at the county fair. Peter was even recently certified a Master Gardner. He enjoyed cooking, gardening, canning, family beach trips, fishing, and watching professional car racing. He was never married and had no children.

Peter was survived by his father, mother and sister.

If you would like, please make a donation to CCMH in Pete's Honor. We are planning a memorial gathering toward the end of July at McCormick Park.

Rodney Jack Hansen

Jan. 23, 1952 ~ Feb. 23, 2021

Rodney Jack Hansen was born on Jan. 23, 1952 in St. Helens, Oregon, to Jack and Helen Hansen.

Rodney grew up and lived most of his life in Columbia County. He was a certified electrician and worked several jobs within the county. He is well-known for the time he spent working for Columbia County as a building official and the Fire and Life Safety Team.

Some of Rodney's hobbies were hunting, fishing, and camping. He was very family-oriented and loved to spend time with his family. Rodney also enjoyed work-



ing in and cultivating his garden. He was a very kind-hearted man who always made time for anyone who

needed an ear, and he was always willing to offer his assistance or knowledge to those who needed help.

Rodney is survived by his wife Beverly Mae Hansen; two sons, David and Josh Hansen; five grandchildren, Cody, Sam, Kaden, Austin, and Emma; one great-grandchild Oaklynn; brothers, Ron, Mike, and Keven; sister Sharon; and all of his nieces and nephews.

Rodney was predeceased by his mother; father; and his two brothers, Clinton and Carlan.

Please sign our online guestbook at www.columbiaafh.com.

Jauncey Leo Perrizo

Dec. 31, 1937 ~ Feb. 21, 2021

Jauncey Leo Perrizo 83, of Albany and St. Helens, passed away on Feb. 21, 2021.

John Unversagt

March 5, 1952 ~ Feb. 16, 2021

John Unversagt 68, of Clatskanie, Oregon, passed away Feb. 16, 2021 at home.

Juanita Steward Shearer

Nov. 4, 1925 ~ Feb. 21, 2021

Juanita Steward Shearer was born in St. Helens, Oregon on Nov. 4, 1925. She passed away on Feb. 21, 2021 in St. Helens.

Donations in her name can be made to The Fanconi Anemia Research Fund. A private gathering will be held at a later date.

Joann P. Burge

Oct. 9, 1945 ~ Feb. 21, 2021

Joann P. Burge, formerly of Scappoose, passed away Feb. 21, 2021 at her home in Redmond, Oregon. A Funeral Mass is planned to be held at St. Thomas Catholic Church, Redmond, Oregon, Friday, Feb. 26, 2021 at 11 a.m.

Sam Tift

Feb 8, 1929 ~ Feb. 21, 2021

Sam Tift 92, of Rainier, Oregon, passed away Feb. 21, 2021 in Longview, Washington.

Jon Gillman

July 13, 1944 ~ Feb. 20, 2021

Jon Gillman 79, of Clatskanie, Oregon, passed away Feb. 20, 2021 at home.

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WEDNESDAY EVENING

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THURSDAY EVENING

Table with 12 columns (6:00-11:30) and 10 rows (KATU, KOIN, DISC, KGW, KOPB, KPVT, ESPN, DISN, KPDX, TBS) listing various news and entertainment programs.

FRIDAY EVENING

Table with 12 columns (6:00-11:30) and 10 rows (KATU, KOIN, DISC, KGW, KOPB, KPVT, ESPN, DISN, KPDX, TBS) listing various news and entertainment programs.

SATURDAY MORNING

Table with 12 columns (6:00-11:30) and 10 rows (KATU, KOIN, DISC, KGW, KOPB, KPVT, ESPN, DISN, KPDX, TBS) listing various news and entertainment programs.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

Table with 12 columns (12:00-5:30) and 10 rows (KATU, KOIN, DISC, KGW, KOPB, KPVT, ESPN, DISN, KPDX, TBS) listing various news and entertainment programs.

SATURDAY EVENING

Table with 12 columns (6:00-11:30) and 10 rows (KATU, KOIN, DISC, KGW, KOPB, KPVT, ESPN, DISN, KPDX, TBS) listing various news and entertainment programs.

SUNDAY MORNING

Table with 12 columns (6:00-11:30) and 10 rows (KATU, KOIN, DISC, KGW, KOPB, KPVT, ESPN, DISN, KPDX, TBS) listing various news and entertainment programs.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON

Table with 12 columns (12:00-5:30) and 10 rows (KATU, KOIN, DISC, KGW, KOPB, KPVT, ESPN, DISN, KPDX, TBS) listing various news and entertainment programs.

SUNDAY EVENING

Table with 12 columns (6:00-11:30) and 10 rows (KATU, KOIN, DISC, KGW, KOPB, KPVT, ESPN, DISN, KPDX, TBS) listing various news and entertainment programs.

MONDAY EVENING

Table with 12 columns (6:00-11:30) and 10 rows (KATU, KOIN, DISC, KGW, KOPB, KPVT, ESPN, DISN, KPDX, TBS) listing various news and entertainment programs.

TUESDAY EVENING

Table with 12 columns (6:00-11:30) and 10 rows (KATU, KOIN, DISC, KGW, KOPB, KPVT, ESPN, DISN, KPDX, TBS) listing various news and entertainment programs.

BISTRO From Page A1

of family and friends," she said. "We are truly thankful for everyone who supported us during these difficult times. Without the support of our loyal customers we definitely would not be open today. As most of us have during these trying times we have literally just kind of rolled with the punches."

Stano said the pandemic has allowed her to grow professionally as a new small business owner. "My goal is to be completely adaptable in order

to navigate these troubled waters and times," she said. "Opening a business in 2020 definitely has been a trial by fire experience for me. I am thankful for the support of family and friends.

Stano said, so far she has overcome the biggest pandemic challenge, its financial impact.

"When we initially opened we were on track to employ several employees, which would have provided much needed jobs in our community," she said. "At this time we just our not in a position to hire anyone, as this would definitely sink our little ship."

Stano is the only employee at the bistro, but she said

she is able to run the small restaurant with much support from family and close friends. Securing small business loans from the federal government and grants from the Columbia County has enabled her to keep the bistro open.

"My greatest reward is serving our local community and the needs of our customers," she said. "I truly am blessed to have such devoted customers and appreciate their support of my little operation. It is their devotion and support that drives me to be my best, even when there are times I feeling like giving up. However challenging this past year has been for us, I continue to learn and grow

from my experiences be them good or bad."

Stano said her inspiration comes from working with Trent Dolyniuk, the owner of Black Bird Catering and Columbia County Brewing.

"Trent helped guide me to follow my passion and I went off to school at the Culinary Institute of America in November of 2016 where I received an Associates in Culinary Arts and a Bachelors of Business Administration in Hospitality Management," she said. "After he passed, I wanted to pay homage to where it all started and continue on with the CCB name, not a day goes by that I don't wish that he was here to see what

I have built, to help guide me through the trials I've faced in the past year and to simply enjoy the good days."

Read more about Stano's background with this story at thechronicleonline.com. The Columbia County Bistro, at 305 Strand Street in St. Helens, is open from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday. The bistro's phone number is 503-410-5680.

If you know of someone, an agency or business, or a group, that is making a positive difference in our community and would like to see them featured in Who We Are, email details to juark@countrymedia.net.

Engagement



Courtesy photo Tiera Sweeney and Isaiah Goodrich.

Scappoose residents Jerry and Coppi Sweeney announce the engagement of their daughter, Tiera Sweeney, to Isaiah Goodrich of Hillsboro.

Tiera is a nurse attending Warner Pacific University. Isaiah attended Portland Community College and is employed in real estate. He is the son of Dena and Terry Goodrich of Banks.

Tiera and Isaiah plan an Aug. 21, 2022 wedding.

Nonprofit grant available

The Columbia County Cultural Coalition (CCCC) is offering a special grant of up to \$750 for non-profits that offer distance learning projects that advance arts, culture and heritage within Columbia County.

The deadline for submissions is March 20, 2021. Application forms and guidelines will be available for download from March 5, 2021 via Apply - Columbia County Cultural Coalition (columbiacultural.org).

Grant funds have been made possible by the Oregon Cultural Trust. For further information, contact us through grant@columbiacultural.org.

Smash and grab arrest

STAFF REPORT

chroniclenews@countrymedia.net

An 18-year-old Portland man faces charges after being arrested for three Scappoose burglaries on Feb. 19.

According to Scappoose Police, overnight on Feb. 18 and 19, the Fred Meyer, Starbucks and FastLube stores on Columbia River Highway were broken into by window smashes and the male suspect entered each location.

Starbucks and Fred Meyer had items stolen from inside and vehicle windows were also smashed at the FastLube location.

Scappoose Police officers responded and a short time later a person matching the suspect description was seen near Warren by a Columbia County Sheriff's deputy. After positive identification, the suspect in the case was located at 7 a.m. on Feb. 19, walking near Berg Road in Warren.

The suspect, Miles Berry, 18, of Portland, was taken into custody and was lodged in the Columbia County Jail on burglary charges.

Scappoose Police investigators said the successful closure of the case was due to the quick reporting of these crimes, information sharing, and video surveillance at the locations.

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Classifieds

Listings are updated daily at thechronicleonline.com

103
Yard Work

Lawn Mowing Services
Cut grass, edging, trimming, and clean up. Can do large areas. Call Gene at 503-396-0885 or 971-813-3197.

105
Cleaning Services

Kell-Clean!!
Low-Cost
Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning
• Residential
• Apartments • Rentals
Commercial
Fast Dry Times!
Cell: 503-556-2568
Cell: 503-396-6228
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150
Misc Services

Paul's Tree Service Inc.
No bush too small, no tree too tall- Call Paul! Specialized in danger trees, take downs, storm clean-up. Time to prune- pruning Lace Leafed Maples & ornamental shrubberies, chipping, senior or veterans discount, free estimates. CCB# 217173 Lic., Bonded & Insured. 503-440-0723 or 503-543-8274

301
Health & Nutrition

Alcoholics Anonymous Info-line,
(503) 366-0667
www.oregonaa.district18.org

311
Announcements

FREE!!!!
Car magazines from 1970 - 2020. Hot Rod, Motor Trend, Road and Track and Car and Driver. Please call 503-397-5165.

502
Help Wanted

ASSISTANT POOL MANAGER
Clatskanie Park & Recreation District is now accepting applications and resumes for an Assistant Pool Manager. Responsibilities: Beginning in February and continuing into September assist the Pool Manager with training, managing and evaluating approximately

502
Help Wanted

20 lifeguards. In addition, this position helps in planning, organizing, scheduling and teaching programs offered at our seasonal outdoor pool. Knowledge and Skills: Experience in pool management, supervising employees, administration, leadership and good public relation skills is highly desirable. Knowledge in pool maintenance, water chemistry testing and related is helpful. Experience and Training: Experience preferred. Or the willingness to work within an agreed upon time frame between applicant, Pool Manager and Board of Directors to obtain the required and suggested certifications for the position; First-Aid, CPR, AED certifications, Lifeguard Instructor and Training, Water Safety Instructor and CPO (Certified Pool Operator) Certifications. You can request an application by phone at 208-249-7144 or by email at warren.cyndi@yahoo.com. Applications and resumes can be returned by mail to: Clatskanie Park & Recreation District, PO Box 737, Clatskanie, OR 97016 or by email to warren.cyndi@yahoo.com. If you have any questions, please contact Cyndi Warren, 208-249-7144. Applications with resumes will be accepted until 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 18, 2021.

DRIVER NEEDED:
Local rideshare and food delivery business in Saint Helens. Qualifications: Must be 25 or older, with clean driving history and a newer vehicle. Wages are to be determined. Please submit your resume to mongil losrideshareservices.llc@gmail.com Our website is Mongillosride shareservicesllc.com

Local company hiring sweeper drivers and laborers
Pay depends on experience. CDL not required but a plus. Please call Nick at 503-298-0830.

502
Help Wanted

Middle Educator (6-8)
position at South Columbia Family School for 32 Hours a week, M-F, requires teaching multiple subjects and working directly with families. Must be licensed, technology-capable, and flexible. Starts March 8 through June 10. Position may be renewed based upon performance for 2021-2022. Email vweaver@scappoose.k12.or.us for an application, other required materials, and a full job description. Position open until filled.

Newspaper Delivery
Scappoose/St. Helens Routes available for delivery of The Oregonian and other National Newspapers. No experience necessary. Early AM hours. Routes run 2.5 - 3.5 hrs and are low mileage. Pay for delivery and tips average \$1000.00 - 1500.00 per month depending on paper count. Please call 971-400-5679 and leave a message that includes your name and phone number.

POOL MANAGER
Clatskanie Park & Recreation District is now accepting applications and resumes for a Pool Manager. Responsibilities: Train, manage and evaluate approximately 20 lifeguards; beginning in February and continuing into September. Plan, organize and schedule programs offered at our seasonal outdoor pool. Be responsible for scheduling adequate staff for the safety, supervision, cleanliness, water chemistry and mechanical operation of the pool for youth and families in our District. Maintain pool and employee records. Perform such other duties as assigned by the Operations Manager and/or Board of Directors from time to time. Knowledge and Skills: Strong administrative skills, recreational aquatic programming skills, leadership and managerial

POOL MANAGER
Clatskanie Park & Recreation District is now accepting applications and resumes for a Pool Manager. Responsibilities: Train, manage and evaluate approximately 20 lifeguards; beginning in February and continuing into September. Plan, organize and schedule programs offered at our seasonal outdoor pool. Be responsible for scheduling adequate staff for the safety, supervision, cleanliness, water chemistry and mechanical operation of the pool for youth and families in our District. Maintain pool and employee records. Perform such other duties as assigned by the Operations Manager and/or Board of Directors from time to time. Knowledge and Skills: Strong administrative skills, recreational aquatic programming skills, leadership and managerial

502
Help Wanted

skills, pool maintenance and water chemistry skills and good public relation skills are a must. Thorough knowledge of policies, procedures and equipment used in daily outdoor pool operations helpful. Work with pool related chemicals and be familiar with State and Federal regulations regarding outdoor pool operations. Experience and Training: Experience preferred. Or the willingness to work within an agreed upon time frame between applicant and Board of Directors to obtain the required and suggested certifications for the position; First-Aid, CPR, AED certifications, Lifeguard Instructor and Training, Water Safety Instructor and CPO (Certified Pool Operator) Certifications. You can request an application by phone at 208-249-7144 or by email at warren.cyndi@yahoo.com. Applications and resumes can be returned by mail to: Clatskanie Park & Recreation District, PO Box 737, Clatskanie, OR 97016 or by email to warren.cyndi@yahoo.com. If you have any questions, please contact Cyndi Warren, 208-249-7144. Applications with resumes will be accepted until 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 18, 2021.

The City of St. Helens is hiring a PARKS AND RECREATION MANAGER
See website for details: www.sthelensoregon.gov/jobs. Deadline: 3/5/21. Equal Opportunity Employer.

The Clatskanie Library District Board is seeking a Library Executive Director
The Library Executive Director performs responsible and varied administrative and professional work related to planning, organizing, and directing all aspects of library services for the Clatskanie Public Library. They work extensively with staff, volunteers, the Clatskanie Library District Board, Friends of the

502
Help Wanted

Clatskanie Public Library, and others in and outside the library to ensure that the library continually evolves to meet community needs. The Clatskanie Library District Board is an Equal Opportunity Employer. To Apply: A complete job description and application can be accessed through the Library Board Chair at https://www.clatskanielibrary.org/about-us/work-for-us All applicants must provide a cover letter, current resume and a completed Clatskanie Library employment application. Incomplete application packets will not be considered. Mail, email, or fax your application, cover letter, and resume to: Clatskanie Public Library, CED Application c/o Jim Gibson, Board Chair, PO box 577, Clatskanie, OR 97016. Jim Gibson, Board Chair, jgibson@clatskanielibrary.org. Fax: 1-888-313-0650. Applications must be received by 5:00 pm on Friday, March 12, 2021.

The Rainier Cemetery District is looking for Part-Time Office help
(20-25 hours per week). Must be at least 18 years of age and able to pass a background check. Duties are, but not limited to; answering phones, meeting with the public and record keeping. Skills required for this position are, but not limited to; Excel, Word, data entry, attention to detail, customer service and the ability to work independently. The position is available immediately. Please send your resume to: Rainier Cemetery District, PO Box 307, Clatskanie, OR 97016. You can also email your resume to cyndi@donnercpa.com or drop off at 365 S Nehalem Street, Clatskanie. If you have any questions, please contact Cyndi at 503-728-2038. Resumes will be accepted until 3 p.m. on Monday, March 8, 2021.

The Rainier Cemetery District is looking for Part-Time Office help
(20-25 hours per week). Must be at least 18 years of age and able to pass a background check. Duties are, but not limited to; answering phones, meeting with the public and record keeping. Skills required for this position are, but not limited to; Excel, Word, data entry, attention to detail, customer service and the ability to work independently. The position is available immediately. Please send your resume to: Rainier Cemetery District, PO Box 307, Clatskanie, OR 97016. You can also email your resume to cyndi@donnercpa.com or drop off at 365 S Nehalem Street, Clatskanie. If you have any questions, please contact Cyndi at 503-728-2038. Resumes will be accepted until 3 p.m. on Monday, March 8, 2021.

502
Help Wanted

General Assignment Reporter
St. Helens Chronicle and Clatskanie Chief, has an immediate opening for a general assignment reporter in Columbia County. Primarily responsible for writing multiple day-to-day news stories for the two weekly newspapers and accompanying websites. Reports to the publisher. The successful applicant will produce a wide variety of news and information, including local business, government, schools, and community events and various feature stories. The general assignment reporter will also contribute to our teams' efforts in developing special sections. Country Media, Inc. offers highly competitive newsroom wages and a variety of employee benefits, including group health insurance; paid holidays, vacation and sick leave; mileage reimbursement; and others. For immediate consideration, please email a cover letter and resume to jruark@countrymedia.net We look forward to hearing from you.

PORT OF COLUMBIA COUNTY
The Port is recruiting for the following two positions: FACILITIES MAINTENANCE SPECIALIST and REAL ESTATE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER. To learn more and apply, please visit our website www.portofcolumbiacounty.org/jobs. EOE

690
Wanted Autos

Drake's Towing
Cash 4 Cars
\$Drake's Towing is now paying TOP Cash\$ 4 Junk Cars!!!
We buy junk/broken cars, trucks, vans, heavy equip. Top \$\$ paid to \$300. We are LOCAL, serving Columbia County. Same day service.
503-438-6099

702
Garage Sales

GARAGE SALE ONE DAY ONLY
157 MacArthur, St Helens, Sat. March 6, 9 to 4. Tools, furniture, housewares, appliances, tires, rims, more. Masks required. Hand sanitizer provided. 10 people max inside.

706
Estate Sales

Estate Shop
tools - tools Saturday 3/6 from 9 am-3 pm. Cash only. 33759 TARBELL Rd Scappoose.

NEED A JOB?
CHECK THE CLASSIFIEDS ONLINE AT WWW.THECHRONICLEONLINE.COM TO FIND YOUR PERFECT JOB OFFER

738
Livestock/Supplies

Chehalis Livestock Market
always welcomes cattle from Oregon. Auctions every Friday & first Saturday of the month at 1 pm. Oregon cattle must have Oregon Brand Insp before crossing into WA state. Cattle deliveries accepted Thurs, from 10-8 and Friday morning starting at 8 am. Call or see our webpage: clmauctions.com for further information, 360-746-3191.

806
Houses Furnished

FOR RENT!
Nice big downstairs 3 bed/1 bath home with own kitchen, laundry, bath & parking. Private entrance. Big yard. Looking to rent to a couple or a single occupant. \$1400/month. Please call 971-276-4316.

815
Rooms for Rent

Roommate wanted
in a 2 bedroom apartment in Scappoose. \$600/month - includes all utilities with cable. Call 503-369-9377. Available immediately.

Chehalis Livestock Market
always welcomes cattle from Oregon. Auctions every Friday & first Saturday of the month at 1pm. Oregon cattle must have Oregon Brand Insp before crossing WA state. Cattle deliveries accepted Thursday from 10-8 and Friday morning starting at 8am.
Call or see our webpage: clmauctions.com for further information, 360-748-3191

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VIEW OUR CURRENT RENTAL PROPERTIES AT:
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(NEXT TO THE SCAPOOSE TOTEM POLE)

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Ads received after the deadline are not guaranteed to be placed in that week's issue. Call 503-397-0116 for more information

Public Notices

PROTECTING YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW



CH21-1615

NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF BALLOT TITLE

Filed in the Office of County Clerk 2/23/2021 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a ballot title for a measure to be referred by Rainier Cemetery District has been filed with the Columbia County Clerk February 22nd, 2021. A measure election will be held within the boundaries of Rainier Cemetery District on May 18th, 2021. The election

will be conducted by mail. The ballot title caption is: Five-year Local Option Tax for Cemetery Operations. Caption Five-year Local Option Tax for Cemetery Operations Question Shall the Rainier Cemetery District impose \$0.05 per \$1,000 of assessed value for five years for cemetery operations beginning in 2021/2022? This measure

may cause property taxes to increase more than three (3) percent. Summary The Rainier Cemetery District will use the tax revenue from this measure for daily cemetery maintenance, office support for state mandated paperwork and to replace aging maintenance equipment. Without this additional revenue the district will be unable to

replace equipment required for the maintenance of the district's twelve cemeteries. The proposed rate will raise approximately \$81,180 in 2021-2022 and \$87,674 in 2022-2023, \$94,688 in 2023-2024, \$102,264 in 2024-2025 and \$110,445 in 2025-2026 for a total of \$476,251. The estimated tax cost for this measure is an ESTIMATE ONLY based

on the best information available from the county assessor at the time of the estimate and may reflect the impact of early payment discounts, compression and the collection rate. Any elector of the district may file a petition for review of this ballot title in the Columbia County Circuit Court no later than 5:00 p.m. Thursday, March 4 th ,

2021 (which is the 7th business day after receipt). The challenger must notify the Columbia County Clerk's Office in writing not later than 5:00 p.m. on the next business day following the day the petition for review is filed (ORS 255.155). This notice is published pursuant to ORS 255.145(5) by Elizabeth E. Huser, Columbia County Clerk.

CH21-1617

NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF BALLOT TITLE

Filed in the Office of County Clerk 2/22/2021 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a ballot title for a measure to be referred by Clatskanie School District 6J has been filed with the Columbia County Clerk February 22nd, 2021. A measure election will be held within the boundaries of School District 6J on May 18th, 2021. The election will be conducted by mail. The ballot title caption is: Five-Year Local Option

Tax for Cemetery Operations Caption Authorizes General Obligation Bonds to Improve and Update School Facilities Question Shall Clatskanie School District No. 6J issue \$10,000,000 general obligation bonds for school capital costs, receive \$4,000,000 grant? If the bonds are approved, they will be payable from taxes on property or property ownership that are not subject to the limits of sec-

tions 11 and 11b, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution. Summary The District has been awarded a \$4,000,000 State grant, which will be available only if the bonds are approved. If approved, bond and grant funds would finance capital costs within the District, including: • Renovating and constructing Clatskanie Middle High School to separate middle and high school spaces • Upgrading Clatskanie Middle

High School auditorium to industry standards for school and community use • Safety and security improvements, including controlled entry, at Clatskanie Elementary School and Clatskanie Middle High School • Renovating, furnishing, replacing, improving, remodeling District facilities, including plumbing, electrical, HVAC, roofing, internal/ external finishes, and parking/ driveway areas • Pay bond issuance

costs Bonds would mature in 20 years or less from the date of issuance and may be issued in one or more series. If approved, the bond tax rate is estimated to maintain the current bond tax rate of \$0.91 per \$1,000.00 of assessed value. Actual rates may vary based upon interest rates incurred and changes in assessed value. Any elector of the district may file a petition for review of this ballot title in the Columbia County

Circuit Court no later than 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 3rd, 2021 (which is the 7th business day after receipt). The challenger must notify the Columbia County Clerk's Office in writing not later than 5:00 p.m. on the next business day following the day the petition for review is filed (ORS 255.155). This notice is published pursuant to ORS 255.145(5) by Elizabeth E. Huser, Columbia County Clerk.

CH21-1618

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING Monday March 15, 2021 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

that the Columbia County Planning Commission will have a work session on March 15, 2021, regarding the adoption of the Oregon Model Floodplain Ordinance to replace Section 1100 of the Columbia County Zoning Ordinance. This will be a discussion only, no public hearing or decision will be made at this meeting. (File # TA 20-03). SAID PUBLIC MEETING will be held before the Columbia County Planning Commission on Monday, March 15,

2021. During the COVID-19 global pandemic, the Columbia County Planning Commission will be hosting their public hearing via online webinar. Please use the links below if you wish to participate in the public meeting. Online Access Information: Meeting Name: CC Planning Commission Work Session. Date and Time: Mon, Mar 15, 2021 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM (PDT). Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone. <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/387268413> You can also dial in using your phone. United States (Toll Free): 1 877 309 2073 United States: +1 (571) 317-3129 Access Code: 387-268-413. New to GoTo-Meeting? Get the app now and be ready when your first meeting starts: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/install/387268413>. If you have any questions or concerns regarding access to the meeting or need accommodation, please call the Land Development Services office at (503) 397-1501.

com/join/387268413 You can also dial in using your phone. United States (Toll Free): 1 877 309 2073 United States: +1 (571) 317-3129 Access Code: 387-268-413. New to GoTo-Meeting? Get the app now and be ready when your first meeting starts: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/install/387268413>. If you have any questions or concerns regarding access to the meeting or need accommodation, please call the Land Development Services office at (503) 397-1501.

CH21-1620

NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF BALLOT TITLE

Filed in the Office of County Clerk 2/25/2021 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a ballot title for a measure to be referred by Scappoose Rural Fire Protection District 1J has been filed with the Columbia County Clerk February 25th, 2021. A measure election will be held within the boundaries of the district on May 18th, 2021. The election will be conducted by mail. The ballot title caption is: Replacement five-year local option levy for emergency service operations. Caption Replacement five-year local option levy for emergency service operations Question Shall District levy \$1.99 per \$1,000 of assessed value for five years beginning 2021-2022 for emergency service operations? This may cause property taxes to increase more than three percent. Summary Scappoose Rural Fire Protection District provides fire, rescue,

and emergency medical services. With this measure, the District's elected Board of Directors is asking voters to replace the current local option levy of \$1.24 per \$1,000 of assessed value. In 2020 SFRD responded to 1,916 calls of which 40% were overlapping medical call, which is a 15% increase from 2016. The community's demand for fire and EMS response is increasing. The current local option levy funds over 60% of operations for fire and ambulance response for the district. This proposed levy will retain all current emergency response staff and add three additional 24-hour positions. This will fund 2 ambulances 24/7 and improve response times with overlapping calls. The new local option levy would increase the existing levy by \$0.75, making this new local option levy \$1.99 per \$1,000 of assessed value and will be-

gin 7/1/2021. The new rate of \$1.99/\$1000 on a home with a \$200,000 assessed value would increase your taxes \$150. The levy would raise approximately \$2,668,639 in 2021-2022, \$2,745,608 in 2022-2023, \$2,827,977 in 2023- 2024, \$2,912,816 in 2024-2025, and \$3,000,200 in 2025-2026, for a total of \$14,155,040. Any elector of the district may file a petition for review of this ballot title in the Columbia County Circuit Court no later than 5:00 p.m. Monday, March 8th, 2021 (which is the 7th business day after receipt). The challenger must notify the Columbia County Clerk's Office in writing not later than 5:00 p.m. on the next business day following the day the petition for review is filed (ORS 255.155). This notice is published pursuant to ORS 255.145(5) by Elizabeth E. Huser, Columbia County Clerk.

CH21-1609

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF COLUMBIA

In the Matter of the Estate of: EVAN ELNATHAN KJORNES, Deceased. CASE NO. 21PB01276 NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Dawn Ritenour and Rebecca Schmit have been appointed co-personal representative. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them, with

vouchers attached, to Dawn Ritenour at 1850 7th Street, Columbia City, Oregon 97018 or Rebecca Schmit at 34047 Church Road, Warren, Oregon 97053, Co-Personal Representatives of the Estate of Evan Elnathan Kjornes, within four months after the date of first publication of this notice, or the claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may

be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the co-personal representatives, or the lawyer for the co-personal representatives, David B. Herr, 33608 E. Columbia Avenue, Suite 110, Scappoose, Oregon 97056. David B. Herr, OSB# 890117, Attorney for Co-Personal Representatives.

CH21-1614

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF COLUMBIA PROBATE DEPARTMENT

In the Matter of the Estate of CAROLYN SUE CURTIS, Deceased. No: 20PB08294 NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS NOTICE is hereby given that the undersigned has been appointed personal representative of the above estate. All persons having

claims against the estate are required to present the same within four months from this date at the office of VanNatta, Petersen & Anderson, P.O. Box 748, St. Helens, Oregon 97051; and if not so presented, they may be barred. All persons whose rights may be

affected by the proceeding may obtain additional information from the records of the Court, the personal representative or the attorneys for the personal representative. Dated and first published: February 24, 2021. Date of final publication: March 10, 2021.

CH21-1619

Columbia County Rider Public Forum Announcement:

Date: March 16, 2021 Time: 6:00 p.m. A virtual public forum will be held on March 16, 2021 to discuss upcoming service changes and proposed Dial-a-Ride fare adjustments. The forum will take place virtually at the GoToMeeting link below.

Join meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone. <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/434846637>. You can also dial in using your phone. United States (Toll Free): 1 877 309 2073 United States: +1 (571) 317-3129 Access Code: 434-846-637.

CH21-1612

NOTICE OF WORKSHOP

The Columbia County Fairgrounds is holding a Workshop - March 11th, 2021 at 6:30pm in the Pavilion at 58892 Saulser Road, St. Helens, OR 97051 and virtually by calling 1 877 309 2073 and using access code:960-143-413.

CH21-1616

NOTICE OF VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING

Notice is hereby given, the Columbia County Transportation and Road Advisory Committee (CTRAC) will hold a virtual public meeting on Thursday, March 11, 2021,

at 10:00 a.m. The public is welcome to join the meeting from their personal computer, tablet, or smartphone. The link is <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/309992285>. The

public is also welcome to dial in using a telephone: United States (Toll Free): 1-877-309-2073 or United States: 1-646-749-3129. Julie Wheeler, Secretary.

TRADITION From Page A1

a lot of nervous people that thought it would look bad if something had happened. We cancelled so that we would be able to work well with the county." Carr said now that the pandemic restrictions are easing, many people want to get out and about and begin enjoying events, such as the fair and rodeo again. "If we can find a way to make things happen and be respectful to those that want to do things again, but still be respectful to those that are cautious by following the pandemic health and safety guidelines, we are trying to meet the needs of everyone and still put on a safe and successful event," he said.

Looking ahead Carr said the Columbia Fair and Rodeo is a tradition that helps sustain the local economy and one that should never fade away. "For me a fair just doesn't represent watching a rodeo and getting an elephant ear," he said. It's the full meal deal. You are supporting local businesses, allowing them the opportunity to interact with the public, and we are giving the community a local event and a place to gather. We are creating jobs and we are building relations." For more information about the drive through diners, the mEGGa Egg Hunt and the Columbia County Fair and Rodeo, visit columbiacountyfairgrounds.com, or call the fair office, at 503-397-4231.



The popular rodeo is expected to return to the county fair this summer.



Columbia County Fair Board President Jamie Carr said the popular summer event helps fuel the local economy and builds community relations.

SPORTS SCHEDULES

Scappoose High School football

March 5	7 p.m.	At Wilsonville
March 12	7 p.m.	Vs. Forest Grove (St. Helens HS)
March 19	7 p.m.	Vs. Hillsboro (St. Helens)
March 26	7 p.m.	At Canby
April 2	7 p.m.	At St. Helens

Scappoose High School boys soccer

March 4	4:15 p.m.	Vs. Milwaukie/Milwaukie Acad. of the Arts
March 9	4:15 p.m.	Vs Hillsboro (Chinook Field)
March 11	7 p.m.	At Putnam
March 16	7 p.m.	At La Salle Prep
March 18	4:15 p.m.	Vs. Wilsonville (Chinook Field)
March 23	4:15 p.m.	Vs. Parkrose (Chinook Field)
March 30	4 p.m.	Vs. Milwaukie/Milwaukie Acad. of the Arts

Scappoose High School girls soccer

March 9	7 p.m.	At Hillsboro
March 11	4:15 p.m.	Vs. Putnam (Chinook Field)
March 16	4:15 p.m.	Vs. La Salle Prep (Chinook Field)
March 18	7 p.m.	At Wilsonville
March 23	7 p.m.	At Parkrose
March 35	4:15 p.m.	Vs. St. Helens (Chinook Field)
April 1	7 p.m.	At St. Helens

Scappoose High School boys cross country

March 3	3 p.m.	Crown Z. Trail at Scappoose
March 27	10 a.m.	Scappoose vs Valley Catholic Dual BXC

Scappoose High School girls cross country

March 27	10 a.m.	Scappoose vs Valley Catholic Dual BXC
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Clatskanie Middle/High School football

March 5	7 p.m.	At Rainier
March 12	7 p.m.	At Corbett
March 19	7 p.m.	Vs. Rainier
April 2	7 p.m.	Vs. Warrenton

Clatskanie Middle/High School volleyball

March 2	5:30 p.m.	Vs. Rainier
March 4	6:30 p.m.	At Seaside
March 6	2:30 p.m.	Vs. Vernonia
March 9	5:30 p.m.	At Warrenton
March 16	7 p.m.	Vs. Willamina
March 18	5:30 p.m.	At Rainier
March 25	5:30 p.m.	Vs. Warrenton
April 1	5:30 p.m.	At Willamina

Scappoose High School volleyball

March 2	7 p.m.	Vs. Milwaukie/Milwaukie Acad. of the Arts
March 4	7 p.m.	Vs. Hillsboro
March 9	7 p.m.	At Putnam
March 11	7 p.m.	At La Salle Prep
March 15	7 p.m.	Vs. Wilsonville
March 17	7 p.m.	Vs. Parkrose
March 23	7 p.m.	At St. Helens
March 25	7 p.m.	At Wilsonville
March 30	7 p.m.	Vs. Milwaukie/Milwaukie Acad. of the Arts
April 1	7 p.m.	At Hillsboro
April 3	7 p.m.	Vs. St. Helens

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David Wasylenko
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St. Helens High School volleyball

March 2	7 p.m.	At Putnam
March 4	7 p.m.	At Milwaukie/Mulwaukie Acad. of the Arts
March 9	7 p.m.	Vs. La Salle Prep
March 11	7 p.m.	Vs. Parkrose
March 15	7 p.m.	Vs. Hillsboro
March 17	7 p.m.	At Wilsonville
March 23	7 p.m.	Vs. Scappoose
March 25	7 p.m.	Vs. Putnam
March 30	7 p.m.	At La Salle Prep
April 1	7 p.m.	Vs. Wilsonville
April 3	7 p.m.	At Scappoose

St. Helens High School boys soccer

March 4	7 p.m.	At Putnam
March 9	4 p.m.	At Milwaukie/Mulwaukie Acad. of the Arts

St. Helens High School girls soccer

March 4	7 p.m.	Vs. Putnam
March 11	7 p.m.	At La Salle Prep
March 16	4 p.m.	At Parkrose
March 18	7 p.m.	At Hillsboro
March 23	7 p.m.	Vs. Wilsonville
March 25	4:15 p.m.	At Scappoose (Chinook Field)
March 30	7 p.m.	Vs. Parkrose
April 1	7 p.m.	Vs. Scappoose

St. Helens High School football


March 5	7 p.m.	Vs. Hillsboro
March 12	7 p.m.	At La Salle Prep
March 19	7 p.m.	At Canby
March 26	7 p.m.	Vs. Forest Grove
April 2	7 p.m.	Vs. Scappoose

Rainier High School volleyball

March 2	5:30 p.m.	At Clatskanie
March 4	5:30 p.m.	Vs. Willamina
March 10	6 p.m.	At Vernonia
March 11	5:30 p.m.	At Astoria
March 16	5:30 p.m.	Vs. Warrenton
March 18	5:30 p.m.	Vs. Clatskanie
March 22	5:30 p.m.	At Willamina
March 25	5:30 p.m.	Vs. Vernonia
March 30	5:30 p.m.	Vs. Astoria
April 1	5:30 p.m.	At Warrenton

Rainier High School football


March 5	7 p.m.	Vs. Clatskanie
March 12	7 p.m.	Vs. Warrenton
March 19	7 p.m.	At Clatskanie
March 26	7 p.m.	Vs. Corbett
April 2	7 p.m.	At Yamhill-Carlton



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OSAA Returns Season 2 'culminating week' to schools

STAFF REPORT chroniclenews@countrymedia.net

The Oregon School Activities Association (OSAA) has opted to forgo conducting state championships for Season 2, returning control of the sixth week of the season – or culminating week – to the schools.

The executive board, which has reviewed the issue in a work session, reached a consensus to return the week to the schools "to coordinate and execute local/regional culminating events at their discretion."

Season 2 – which includes traditional fall sports football, soccer, volleyball and cross country – begins with contests March 1 and ends with the culminating week April 5-11. Contingency groups from those sports provided input to the board.

"The board has spent a lot of time on this over the last couple months," OSAA

executive director Peter Weber said. "The realities of trying to conduct large events, given where things stand right now, didn't seem advisable in their minds. A lot of different issues come into play."

Organizing state championship events during the COVID-19 crisis is riddled with complications, according to the OSAA. In a release, the board cited issues such as establishing equitable qualifying procedures, district-adopted travel restrictions, county gathering-size restrictions, and impacts from schools forming regional pods as key factors.

The board also noted that some schools will not be able to start their seasons on time, and others may have their seasons fragmented or shifted due to outbreaks.

The board said that it did not want to "put any undue pressure" on schools to compete in a state championship event that could have health risks for their students and



Jeremy C. Ruark / The Chronicle

The OSAA board said that it did not want to "put any undue pressure" on schools to compete in a state championship event that could have health risks for their students and community.

community. It cited recommendations from the Oregon Health Authority that advise against unnecessary travel between counties, especially those at different risk levels. The potential for overnight stays also was a concern.

"Criss-crossing the state at this point, or bringing a large group of people to one venue, just wasn't something that they were supportive of at this point," Weber said.

Weber said the board considered the different dynamic of a championship event for

cross country, an individual sport, and the other team sports, which require more time for playoff rounds. But overriding factors remained.

"Part of it goes back to where things are in the state right now," Weber said. "The idea of schools staying local and regional for their regular season, then to turn around in the sixth week and say, 'OK, now we're going to put that aside and brings kids from all over the state to one location,' if we could even find a location to do that, just didn't make sense to the board at this point."

Considering the season already has been shortened, the board views returning the sixth week to the schools as an opportunity for additional participation.

"That would include subvarsity, etc. They would be able to participate that week," Weber said.

The football contingency group has considered creating

a "bowl week" of sorts since its early discussions. For example, the sixth week could include crossover "bowl" games between nearby leagues.

Whatever the schools decide, the OSAA has pledged its support.

"Our staff is going to support schools as much as we can as they try to organize those things," Weber said. "We certainly want to help promote. But ultimately, that will be the local decision as to what they do."

The decision on Season 2 has no bearing on championship plans for Seasons 3 and 4. The OSAA will review options for those seasons in the coming months.

The board reaffirmed its support for conducting virtual events for cheerleading, dance/drill, solo music, band, orchestra, choir and speech. Those events will take place as scheduled on the OSAA calendar.

CHURCH

From Page A1

increase, the city and school district will share facilities, saving taxpayer money," Stockwell said.

Stockwell said the proximity of the new facility will increase access to using the district's high school fields and classrooms after hours and in the summer when they are not in use.

"Students will be able to

walk from the high school to the recreation center to participate in programs or help support programs and mentor younger children," Stockwell said. "It's a tremendous opportunity to open access to our high school. Our dream is that through park and recreation programs, both children and adults will have access to state-of-the-art fields and facilities made possible by the investment our community made with passing a school construction bond."

What is inside

City officials said the interior of the Gable Road building includes dedicated office space for recreation staff, a full-size kitchen to expand the types of activities the program can offer, dedicated classroom space so multiple activities can occur at the same time, and potential space to host community partners.

"I'm excited for what this purchase means for the Recreation Program and

our community," St. Helens Recreation Manager Shanna Duggan said. "We can now bring expanded activities to a new area of St. Helens. This means more opportunities for everyone in our community to connect and engage in meaningful ways. A strong recreation program helps build a strong community."

The city will continue to use its current recreation center at 1810 Old Portland Road for recreation events. With the purchase of the Gable Road property, the Old Portland

Road location will also be utilized for specialized programming and partnerships with community organizations. Additional community rental opportunities will also be available.

How it will be funded

The city will use a combination of general funds, enterprise funds and reserve funds cover the \$800,000 purchase

of the Gable Road property. The sale is expected to be complete by fall of 2021.

On Page A2, read how the city will use new grants to enhance the youth outdoor and bilingual programs.

To learn more about the St. Helens Recreation Program and find out how you can participate in upcoming activities, visit www.sthelens-oregon.gov/parksrec.

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