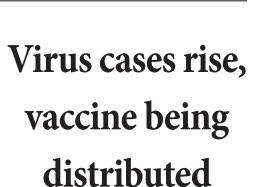
Local Man Arrested At Capitol ... PAGE 2

New Years Baby..... PAGE 8

# **EVSGuard**

January 12, 2021

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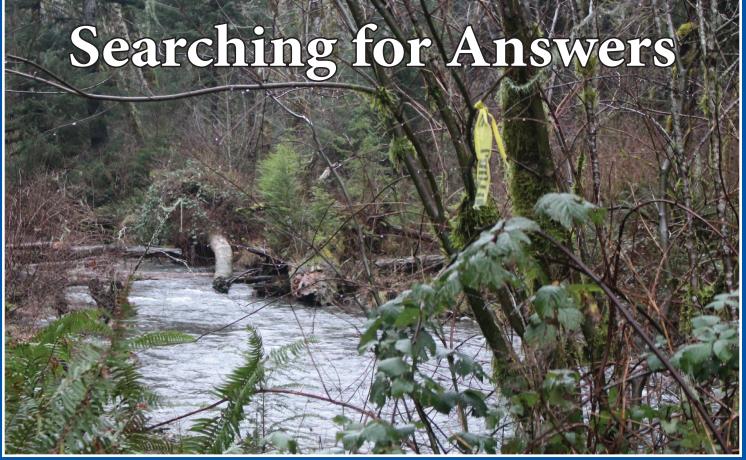
On Jan. 1, Lincoln County went down a risk level in the Governor's COVID-19 'Risk and Protection' framework. But with virus cases once again on an uptick, Lincoln County Public Health is expecting to move back into 'Extreme Risk' this week.

Since the first of the month, Lincoln County restaurants have been permitted to open back up for dine-in seating. However, that will not be the case for much longer, predicts Health Department Director Rebecca Austen, RN.

"Our test positive rate is low, but it is our total number of cases that is causing this change in status," Austen said in Public Health's recent update. "For the two-week period of Dec. 27, 2020 - Jan. 9, 2021, we have already seen 89 cases. If we end up with 97 cases in two weeks, we will be at the extreme risk level."

Despite the rise in case counts, Public Health reported that Phase 1a of vaccine distribution is in full swing with over 900 people in the county receiving the first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine so far. Lincoln County received all doses of the Moderna vaccine with second doses scheduled to arrive three weeks after the initial shipment. Pacific West Ambulance, North Lincoln Fire and Rescue, Lincoln Community Health Center and Public Health have been receiving the vaccines for distribution.

See COVID-19, Page A7



NEWS GUARD PHOTO/MAX KIRKENDALL

Oregon State Police reported that the child was found on the banks of the Salmon River at the H.B. Van Duzer Forest State Scenic Corridor.

Investigators left with no leads

following child's death

MAX KIRKENDALL newsguardeditor@countrymedia.net

After a full month, Oregon State Police (OSP) detectives seem to have more questions than answers regarding the remains of a child found in rural north Lincoln County.

On Dec. 10, investigators were summoned to the H.B. Van Duzer Forest State Scenic Corridor, located near Otis/Rose Lodge, for a death investigation. At this location, investigators found the remains of a female child that the Oregon State Medical Examiner's Office estimated to be between 6.5 to 10 years old. She is approximately 3'10" to 4'6" tall, and had long hair that is dark brown or black.

The body was found in proximity to the rest area along Highway 18 at the H.B. Van Duzer Forest State Scenic Corridor,

which sees an estimated 8,000 vehicles per day, according to the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT). OSP also said last week that the body was located along the banks of the Salmon River.

Due to the heavy winter rains, the Salmon River often expands and shrinks depending on the weather. For this reason OSP Captain Tim Fox said their detectives "do not know 100 percent how she got to where she was."

## County students heading back to class in February

#### MAX KIRKENDALL

newsguardeditor@countrymedia.net

Following Governor Kate Brown's announcement Dec. 23, stating that Oregon's statewide COVID-19 metrics would no longer be in effect, school districts have been tasked with making their own judgement on when students would be allowed back in classrooms.

In Lincoln County, the decision was made this week by Lincoln County School District (LCSD) and Superintendent Karen Gray, to bring some students back in class starting Feb. 1.

Before winter break, LCSD announced that its schools would be moving all students back to Comprehensive Distance Learning at the start of the new year due to a surge in coronavirus cases in late November/early December. Now, with Lincoln County shifting from 'Extreme Risk' to 'High Risk' in Oregon's COVID-19 framework, LCSD feels comfortable enough to start bringing students back to school.

"Our numbers for the last two weeks were 217.4 (cases) per 100,000 (people)," Gray said. 'In the two-week period before this, we were at 174 (cases), which is less than the 200 per 100,000 required for Extreme Risk so we were downgraded to High Risk.

"As you can see, our numbers are back up and

still concerning. We have a lot of work to do to get our numbers down and create a safer community in which to bring staff and students back."

On Monday, Jan. 4, Gray said Oregon's superintendents met with the Governor about the new "advisory" status of the school metrics.

"Governor Brown heard three important requests from us: a) Working with our labor unions to ensure that bringing students back to school is a top priority, b) establishing a timeline for educators to receive the COVID vaccine, and c) working with Oregon Health Authority to move aside roadblocks to reopening," Gray said.



#### LCSD Superintendent Dr. Karen Gray

Gov. Brown said in December that school districts should make a goal to bring all Oregon students back to a model of in-person instruction by Feb. 15. To meet that benchmark, LCSD is beginning a staggered reopening starting with a Hybrid model of K-6

students starting Feb. 1. This Hybrid model includes two days per week of fullday in person school and three days per week of online learning. The cohorts are Monday/Thursday and Tuesday/Friday with online schooling on Wednesday for students.

The following week, starting Feb. 8, LCSD plans to bring back grades 7-12 in a Hybrid model with the option for principals to bring kids back the week before February 8 for orientation for either one or two days. More detailed information will be coming out specifically about that plan.

"Our hope is that we get a plan for COVID vaccinations and that we can all get them before February 1. I will be pushing hard for this. Regardless, we will still be bringing students back," Gray said. "We had students K-3 without vaccines safely and we would have had them all back by December

See SCHOOL, Page A7



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# Oregon Health Authority rolls out plan to administer 12,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine a day

#### MAX KIRKENDALL

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A day after Governor Kate Brown directed the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to achieve the benchmark of 12,000 COVID-19 vaccinations administered in Oregon per day by the end of the next two weeks, health officials detailed plans of how they plan to meet that goal.

Gov. Brown said, Jan. 4, the 12,000 doses a day goal will "put (Oregon) on track to deploy every vaccine we have in our hands."

"This is an all-hands-ondeck effort, and I have directed OHA to partner as widely as possible to ensure we are using all available resources to ramp up Oregon's vaccinations rapidly," Gov. Brown said.

OHA Director Pat Allen spoke with members of the media Jan. 5 along with OHA's Chief Medical Officer Dr. Dana Hargunani. Allen said Oregon currently ranks 36th in the United States in vaccine distribution with 1.2 percent of the population receiving the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

"These COVID-19 vaccines have proven to be safe and they are the most reliable tool we have to stop the spread of this virus," Dr. Hargunani said.

Allen said getting vaccinations done as quickly as possible is a top priority for OHA because Oregon is considered vulnerable to the virus as far fewer people have contracted it compared to other states in the U.S.

Last week, Oregon received 34,000 doses of Pfizer vaccine last week and over 24,000 doses of the Moderna vaccine. Over 51,000 doses have been administered, which has accounted for about 1 in 4 doses



Oregon currently ranks 36th in the United States in vaccine distribution with 1.2 percent of the population receiving the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

administered that Oregon received.

Additionally, 326 people in Oregon have had both doses and are considered fully immune.

With OHA's five step plan, Allen believes Oregon is on pace to reach the 12,000 doses administered per day by next week.

Dr. Hargunani detailed the plan that includes expanding partnerships and administration sites. The five steps include:

- Speeding Phase 1a (administering vaccines to health care workers and long-term care facilities) by staging.

- Expanding federal pharmacy partnerships to reach more nursing home residents and staff members.

- Giving Phase 1a workers the ability to get vaccinated at a local pharmacy.

- Leveraging all Public Health agencies to help with administering vaccines.

- Supporting innovated partnerships.

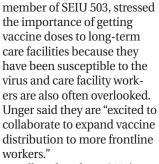
Dr. Hargunani said the COVID-19 has proven to be a little more difficult to distribute compared to the flu shot. Some issues OHA has had to overcome includes: Adapting to distribution during a pandemic, which provides challenges like finding a controlled, safe space for administration; the Pfizer vaccine requires ultra cold storage. OHA is currently working to get more of this storing units in more hospitals; and Oregon does not have enough doses for everyone right now, which has caused the need to prioritize who gets access to it first.

To overcome some of these challenges OHA is hoping to rely on partnerships with local agencies. One of these new partnerships was announced by Joe Ness, chief operations officer of OHSU Healthcare.

Ness said OHSU is currently OHSU administering about 1,000 doses of the vaccine per day and are expecting to expand next week thanks to a partnership with SEIU 503, Oregon's Public Services and Care Provider Union. The partnership will focuses on getting vaccines to long term care facilities.

"We are a community of healers and we care deeply about our most vulnerable populations," Ness said. Melissa Unger board

Melissa Unger, board



Allen closed out OHA's update by announcing 1,059 new cases for Jan. 5 and 44 new COVID-19 related deaths. Allen also emphasized that OHA and other state agencies are working day and night to get the vaccine out to Oregonians.

"As we roll out the vaccine, all of us need to keep doing our part... wash your hands, keep you physical distance and stay home if you are sick," Allen said.

#### National Guard Deployment

Two of the state's top priorities are to ramp up vaccinations in Oregon and get children back into classrooms, Gov. Kate Brown announced last week.

For the latter, Brown said she will be deploying the Oregon National Guard to assist with COVID-19 vaccination efforts to help reach the goal she set earlier this week of administering 12,000 vaccine doses a day.

National Guard members will be providing vaccine support in Oregon starting last weekend at a mass vaccination event at the state fairgrounds in Salem, Brown said. The goal is to vaccinate 250 people per hour and guard members will be providing logistical and nursing support.

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) has delivered vaccine doses to 190 sites across the state already and expects to allocate doses to an additional 30 next week, OHA Director Pat Allen said.

The 12,000 vaccine doses per day plan comes on the heels of a raised COVID-19 transmission rate across the state, Allen said. The transmission rate estimates how many people an infected person will spread the virus to; a transmission rate of 1.0 would indicate that a person with the virus

passes it to one other person. The state's estimated state transmission rate fell in late November to 0.8 and stayed low through mid-December, but the winter holidays brought a sharp increase, Allen said.

The estimate the OHA has, as of Dec. 23, is a transmission rate between 1.14 and 1.45.

"This estimation does not reflect any potential further increase in transmission related to social gatherings over Christmas and New Year's Eve," Allen said. "This means we could continue to see a sharp increase in diagnosed cases."

#### In-person learning

In the effort to get students back into classrooms, Brown announced in December that the state guidance and metrics on when districts can be reopened moved from mandatory to advisory— giving districts more local control. The change took effect at the start of the new year.

"All of our schools will still be required to adhere to health and safety measures," Brown said. "They must continue to work in close consultation with local public health departments."

Colt Gill, director of the Oregon Department of Education, said two factors remain important for districts determining when students will return to in-person instruction. The first is to ensure community case rates stay low so COVID-19 is not regularly introduced to the schools and disrupting the learning environment. The second is the district's ability to implement health and safety protocols and requirements for the schools

The department has over 160 health and safety protocols that need to be in place at schools that reopen and remain mandatory, he said. Some of the requirements include entry screening protocols, use of facial coverings, physical distancing, cohorting and frequent hand washing.

"These protocols are mitigating the risk of transmission in schools in Oregon and across the country, and really around the world, when they are implemented with fidelity," Gill said.

The state's COVID-19 Vaccine Advisory Committee met for the first time yesterday and approved teachers and staff at K-12 schools to be next in line for the vaccine after the phase 1-A group which includes emergency responders. healthcare workers and residents and staff at longterm care facilities.

"I know the impacts for our children — having to learn online— have been very, very challenging," Brown said. "Not just from an educational standpoint, but from a social and emotional standpoint, also from a social interaction standpoint. It's been really challenging for our children, so this needs to be a priority."

Further decisions about which groups of people will next be prioritized for vaccinations will be decided in the coming weeks.

*St. Helens Chronicle reporter Monique Merrill also contributed to this article.* 



Andrea Price, Sales Manager NMLS 983751

Jamie Fritzsche, Senior Loan Officer Lincoln City man arrested at state capitol demonstration

**David Willis** 

2 p.m. a group of counter

Oregon Capitol and a fight

broke out between the op-

posing sides. Law Enforce-

ment members quickly

separated the two groups

protesters arrived at the

NMLS 1030946

Brooke Buchheit, Loan Officer NMLS 1460570

### Zero down for something around town!

Thinking rural? The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) offers a loan program that is attractive for first-time homebuyers of residences in designated rural areas. Options include loans with little or no down payment and lower interest rates. Income limits (determined by location) are also a consideration, and the home must be owner-occupied.

Don't be confused by the term "rural." Rural areas and home types vary. Many homes that qualify for this program are in traditional developments. All Lincoln and Tillamook county is considered a rural area. Be sure to ask for details about designated rural areas.

#### **Facts:**

- No down payment is required (though limitations apply).
- Interest rates are lower.
- There are no lot size restrictions
- USDA loans are limited to homes within designated rural areas.
- 100% financing and seller can pay 6% of the sale price towards borrowers closing cost and pre-paid items (borrower comes in with little to no out of pocket money).
- Manufactured allowed if home is 2006 or newer.



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Oregon State Police, Salem Police Department, and Marion County Sheriff's Office personnel were monitoring a protest that was occurring at the Oregon State Capitol last week at the same time domestic terrorists had descended upon the United States Capitol building in Washington D.C.

According to an OSP release, at approximately



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1026 SE Jetty Ave., Lincoln City 541-994-5665 Open Daily 9:30-7:00. Sun. 11-6 and worked to keep the two groups separate for the remainder of the day. David Willis, 43, of Lin-

coln City, was arrested and charged with harassment and disorderly conduct. OSP said the investigation is continuing and more charges are possible after consultation with the Marion County District Attorney.

Marion County Jail later cited and released Willis from police custody.

Additionally, OSP reported Cody Melby, 39, was arrested for trespassing while in possession of a firearm during last week's demonstrations at the Capitol. Melby was also cited and released from Marion County Jail.

Shortly after the disturbances began, OSP declared an unlawful assembly at the Oregon Capitol building.

Late Wednesday evening OSP released the following statement.

"Oregon State Police have heard rumors that armed groups were considering taking over and/or occupy the State Capitols.

"Oregon State Police fully support peoples first amendment rights of freedom of speech and to gather peacefully. OSP will not tolerate criminal activities and you will be arrested if you engage in any of these acts.

"The security of the capitol is our priority, if you are considering any unlawful activities at the Oregon State Capitol or surrounding areas, please reconsider. The safety of our community members, Capitol occupants, and police officers is paramount."

### Bystanders, NLFR crews save naked man from high surf

#### MAX KIRKENDALL

newsguardeditor@countrymedia.net

Just before 3 p.m. on Jan. 3, North Lincoln Fire and Rescue (NLFR) received a report of a man in the water near NW 70th Street and Logan Road in Lincoln City.

The man was suspected to be under the influence of multiple intoxicants and was not wearing clothing while willingly trudging through the waves. Lincoln City was under a high surf advisory last weekend with waves reportedly as high as 30 feet crashing into the beach and up to the riprap walls.

At one point the subject was in water over his head and was struck by a log. A local resident, Steven Moore, said he heard the man yelling in the water and called upon his neighbor to help him extract the man out of the surf before rescue crews arrive.

"I called my neighbor Jimmy.



North Lincoln Fire and Rescue along with three bystanders saved a man from the strong winter waves on Jan. 3.

Him and another guy walk up and we all see the man in the ocean getting taken over by waves," Moore said. "We immediately start making our way down to him using the edge of the rocks dodging several sneaker waves."

Moore said when they reached about two houses away, they saw a rescue team approaching from the south. Watching as the rescue crews battle the large waves, Moore and the others decide to spring into action.

"Jimmy, myself and another guy go in once we see the tide starting to recede. We get up to him and try to get him to come back and he starts fighting with us immediately, grabbing my hair, taking us all down into a big wave," Moore said. "I grab his hand and rip it from my hair, we are taken over by several waves and I go under for a few seconds planting my feet away from the ocean, this is the time the rescue team comes in and starts assisting us getting him out."

Moore said the struggling persisted until each rescuer is able to grab a leg or arm individually. The crew was hit by several sneaker waves causing additional concerns. Moore said they were able to get the subject to a nearby flat spot on a set of shoreline stairs. That's when Moore and the other bystanders decided their work was done.

him then load him onto a board and load him into an ambulance," Moore said. "We were in the water about four minutes and in total I saw him in the water for over 15 minutes."

NLFR Chief Robb Dahlman said the rescue took four NLFR personnel and the three bystanders who were all risking their lives to save the man.

"I was called by Lincoln City Police Sgt. Randy Weaver who had to relay the fact that it was sheer heroism on the part of NLFR personnel that saved this mans life," Dahlman said. "Many times while he was waiting for personnel to arrive, and watching the subject, he thought this man was going to die

"Several of the rescuers commented to me this was one of those really scary rescues that your training, trust in each other and your equipment makes a difference."

"They inject him and subdue

### Disaster preparedness class offered at local college, registration fees donated to fire victims

#### THE NEWS GUARD

Iim Kusz retired from North Lincoln Fire and Rescue last year.

Fire prevention is still near and dear to his heart, and for his upcoming disaster preparedness class at Oregon Coast Community College, he's inviting Jenna Trentadue, National Fire Plan Coordinator from the Oregon Department of Forestry, to speak about FireWise, a program supporting creation of defensible spaces around homes in fire-prone areas.

Another guest speaker will join Kusz's two-session class. Dr. Lesley Ogden, CEO of Samaritan North Lincoln Hospital and Pacific Communities Hospital, will talk about COVID-19, and how

pandemics and other health risks can be incorporated into the list of circumstances coast residents may wish to be better prepared for in the future.

Kusz would normally be paid for his instruction through OCCC's Community Education Program, but he's donating his compensation to the Echo Mountain Fire Relief Fund. The community college is following suit, donating 100% of all registration fees (\$15 per participant) to the same fund.

#### About the class

In 2015 The New Yorker published a cover story, "The Really Big One," that detailed the risks to the West Coast of the Cascadia Subduction

Zone. The risks of a "Cascadia Event" and the tsunami it would/will cause, were laid plain in stark, sobering language.

As a result, attendance in **Oregon Coast Community** College's Disaster Preparedness class, already a popular recurring course in OCCC's **Community Education** program, ballooned. Sellout crowds gathered to hear Jim Kusz, at the time a Captain with North Lincoln Fire & Rescue, explain how to craft appropriate "go kits" for home and autos, and how to be prepared to ride out the earthquake, tsunami, and the days or weeks of isolation that would likely follow.

Many of these students were surprised when each class began with the same

refrain from Capt. Kusz: "The wildland fire is going to get us long before the tsunami will."

In fact, some of those who evacuated from the Echo Mountain Complex Fires last summer did so in cars equipped with "go bags" inspired by their participation in Capt. Kusz's class.

This winter, OCCC is pleased to return this course – the most attended class in the history of the Community Education program at OCCC - via Zoom. The class summarizes some of the fundamental risks that threaten to strike the Northwest at any time, and Kusz delivers the content in a casual, friendly manner. The class isn't about fear or panic; it's about confidence and preparedness.

Westmont

This two-session class will be recorded, with the link made available to all registrants, even if they cannot attend the live classes. The cost of "Disaster Preparedness for the Pacific Northwest" is \$15, and 100% of payments will be donated to Echo Mountain Fire Relief. The class will be held from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday, Feb. 2 and 4.

If you've attended Kusz's classes in the past, expect this one to be updated and informed by 2020's many challenges. If you cannot attend the class but would like to make a contribution to the Echo Mountain Fire Relief Fund, deposits can be made at any First Interstate Bank. The Fund's tax ID is 853034665, Oregon Registry No. 171985196.

Other non-credit community education courses are available via Zoom this winter, including a live cooking class coming this March, and a series of astronomyrelated courses. The lineup also includes a personal-finance class as well as courses designed to prepare you to become a licensed Real Estate Broker or a licensed Real Estate Property Manager in Oregon, among others.

To register for a class, visit oregoncoast.edu/communityed, or find the online "Catch the Wave" course schedule at bit.ly/wintercatch. Or, register by phone, at 541-996-6222.



THE NEWS GUARD

Samaritan North Lincoln

facility staff and residents. I his will be followed by those at highest risk for the disease and essential workers, then the younger and healthier general public. Community health care employers located in Lincoln County are being contacted by the county and asked to register their staff for vaccinations. This will be followed by another Samaritan walkin clinic closure in 21 days so these individuals can obtain their second dose. If you are a community health care employer and have not been contacted by the county, go online to tinyurl.com/AgencyVaccine to register your agency. If more information is needed, call 541-265-0621 option #0 or email LincolnCoCallCenter@co.lincoln.or.us.

The Samaritan walk-in clinics located in Newport and Lincoln City will be temporarily closed to the public Friday, Jan. 15 through Sunday, Jan. 17 so community health care workers - by appointment only through the county health department - can obtain their first round of COVID-19 vaccinations at those two locations.

Anyone with medical needs during those dates who may have turned to the walk-in clinics for care are encouraged to contact their primary care provider for an appointment or to visit samhealth.org/Care-Now for information about other health care options. For emergency needs, the emergency departments at

Hospital and Samaritan Pacific Communities Hospital are always open.

"We apologize for any inconvenience, but it is imperative that we assist in vaccinating our fellow health care workers against the coronavirus," said Lesley Ogden, MD, chief executive officer of both Samaritan hospitals in Lincoln County. "These walk-in clinic locations seemed the most logical in terms of staffing, parking and accessibility."

Samaritan Health Services began receiving vaccine in late December. In collaboration with Lincoln County Health and Human Services, the vaccine is being distributed in multiple phases to health care workers, first responders and long-term care

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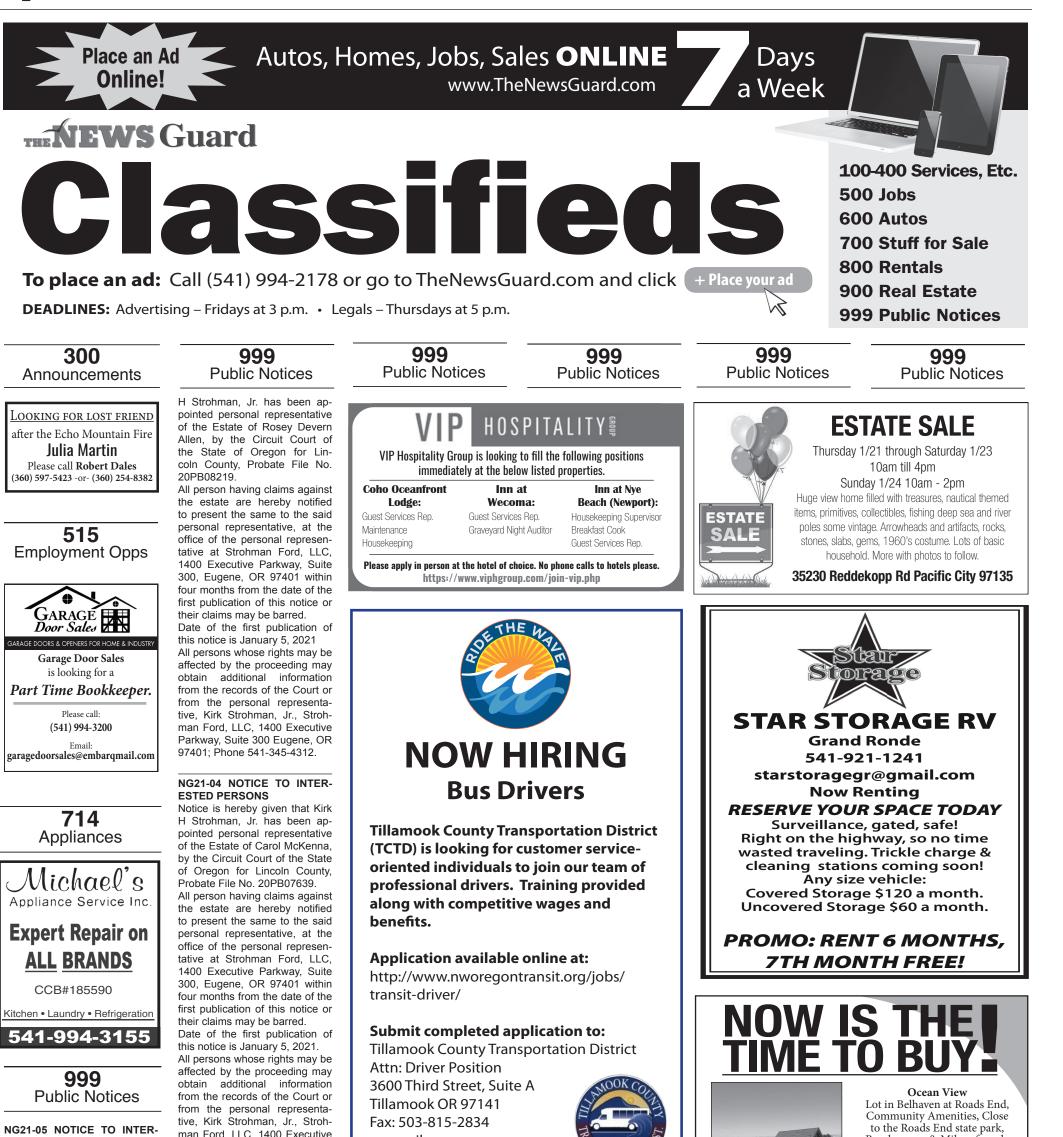
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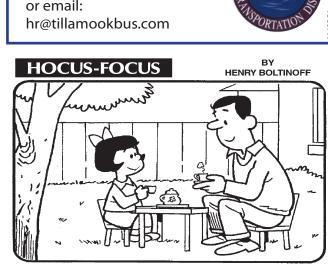
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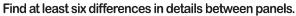
#### AIHKCITSPIDFJED

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally Unlisted clue hint: — DE VIL

Anita Dipstick	Jasper Lucky Nanny Pepper	Perdita Pongo Roger Rolly	Sgt. Tibbs Tripod Whizzer
Heraee	-		

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Differences: 1. Bow is smaller. 2. Skirt is shorter. 3. Table leg is missing. 4. Teapot is moved. 5. Hair is different. 6. Cuffs are missing.



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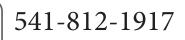
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# Public announcement:

Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments, Senior and Disability Services will conduct an online public hearing on Thursday, January 14th from 4 to 5 pm to introduce the 2021-2025 Area Plan service areas and receive public feedback or recommendations. To receive an access link to participate, provide your email at:





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### **OPINION/OBITUARY**

#### **MEWS** Guard

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> Frank Perea II Publisher

Max Kirkendall Managing Editor

Lori Eberlein **Business Manage** 

Nicole Clarke Marketing Consultant

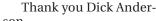
#### WRITE TO US:

Letters are limited to 250 words and will be edited for grammar and spelling and may be edited to remove errors, unsubstantiated or irresponsible allegations or clarity. Letters containing details presented as facts rather than opinion must include sources. Letters not following this policy will not be published. All submissions must include full name, local street address and phone number.

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#### **ADVERTISING DEADLINES:**

Advertising: Wednesday, 5 p.m. Legals, Community news and listings: Thursday at 12 p.m.



NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE

1-800-273-8255 | suicidepreventionlifeline.org

I will miss former mayor, Dick Anderson, and believe our city will be poorer as a result of his absence as mayor.

Appreciation

He was an activist mayor constantly working for the betterment of our city. He was not a "figurehead". He contributed many unpaid hours and a great deal of energy to keep Lincoln City in good health.

I admire his optimistic attitude, his intelligence, non-stop work ethic and ability to craft thoughtful compromise while skillfully managing city business meetings. His weekly coffee hours throughout the city was evidence of his accessibility to the public, transparency and accountability.

son.

VOICES OF THE COMMUNITY

Chester Noreikis, Lincoln City

#### **Response to Short Term Rentals**

I am responding to Kelly Gresh's recent letter to the editor regarding short term rentals.

First of all I don't consider myself narrow-minded in objecting to the current licensing of vacation rentals in Lincoln County, and I understand some of the additional taxes that are paid by these owners in taxes within the county.

I'm not disputing the numbers she states regarding the amount of dollars they bring into Lincoln County.

I AM aware however of how few long term rentals the workers she mentions have available to the point that retail establishments have a very hard time filling vacancies as low wage earners can't afford to live here.

She mentions having her house available to her in her retirement. I retired here to a quiet little community in Depoe Bay which is slowly becoming over run by vacation rentals.

I can't believe that two houses built behind me with seven bedrooms and four bathrooms in each are retirement homes for their owner.

I'm not voicing my complaints from "rumors" and parroting issues I've heard about, but first hand experiences I've had over the past several years. People slowly walking

by to stop and point at my house and stand there discussing it, people wandering through my backyard, the beach toys that are purchased by renters only to be abandoned on the beach when they leave, the continual noise and trash remaining from fireworks that renters feel is not their responsibility to pick up, not to mention the dogs that are not on leashes and not picked up afterwards.

**OREGON YOUTHLINE** 

877-968-8491 | Text "teen2teen" to 839863

My neighbors walk the beach almost every day and take a bag with them to pick up trash that they bring to their home and dispose of. I'm not saying all renters are responsible for all of the trash, but I'm not aware of many renters doing this service.

I've seen real estate ads for houses in my neighborhood that say "This would make a great vacation

rental home, " even though our CC&R's do not allow vacation rentals within our community.

Not having sidewalks in our neighborhood, we frequently walk in the roadway for exercise, and cars speed through to the rental properties without regard to those walking.

Of one thing Ms. Gresh and I are in agreement. I don't believe that STR's should be banned or eliminated within Lincoln County, but I do believe they need to be regulated to the point that they aren't allowed everywhere and oversaturate neighborhoods who have longed to have their "Mayberry RFD" neighborhood back as it was even 4-5 years ago.

> Karen Nichols, Depoe Bay

Gomberg: 2021 session opening this week

#### Hello Friends, The 2021 regular or "long" legislative session will convene on January 11, begin-

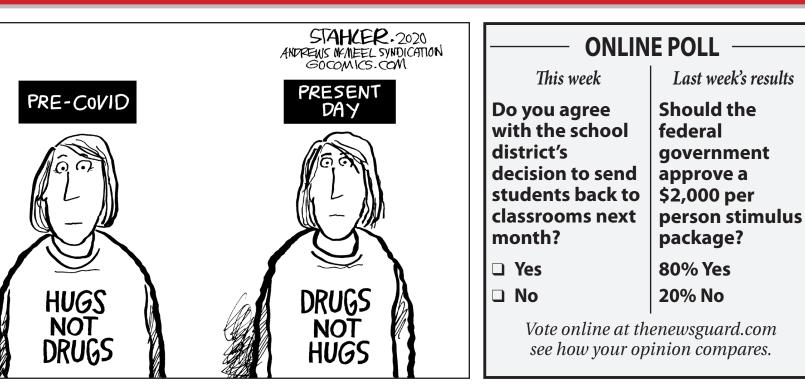
budgets for the two-year biennium.

I will be Co-Chairing the budget subcommittee on

General Government. This committee hears budget requests for the Department of Revenue, Administrative Serour coastal and coast range families, workers, and small businesses well.

On Tuesday, the Coastal

republicans and two democrats has asked me to serve as Chair for the next two years. Senator-Elect Dick Anderson



Sports information and Letters to the editor: Friday at noon.

#### **POSTMASTER:**

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The News Guard has several

options for submitting

ning with swearing in for all newly elected or re-elected members. Late last week, House committee assignments were announced.

I am pleased to be serving as House Vice-Chair for the Joint Committee on Ways and Means. This is the combined House and Senate committee that approves all state agency

ΜΕΜΟ

Transportation and Economic Development as I have for the past three sessions. This committee approves spending for ODOT, Business Oregon, the Employment Division, Housing, OLCC, Veterans Affairs, and Bureau of Labor and Industries.

I will be returning to the budget subcommittee on

vices, and approves spending for the Executive, Legislative, and Treasurer's branches.

Finally, I have been appointed to a new committee on Wildfire Recovery which will focus on measures to rebuild after the September inferno.

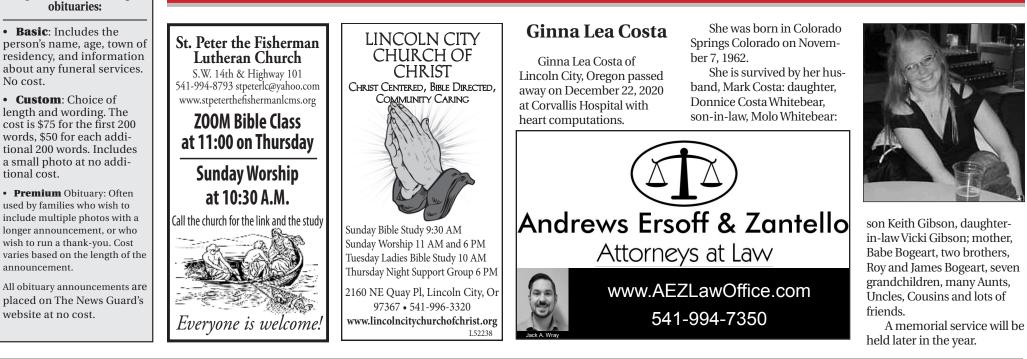
This collection of assignments will allow me to serve Caucus met with its new members who will be sworn in next week. As you know, the Caucus includes House and Senate members from coastal districts. This group is one of the most successful examples of bi-partisan and bi-cameral cooperation in the Capital.

I am honored to share with you that this team of five has been named Vice-Chair.

On Monday, I'll be traveling to Salem for the official opening of the 2021 session. Most work for the first two months will be conducted remotely. Hopefully by April, your Capitol will begin to re-open.

Warm Regards, Rep. David Gomberg

#### Submission deadline for Obituaries is 12 p.m. on the Friday before publication.



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mation that might help

has to be sent to a private

lab that will do genetic ge-

nealogy and phenotyping."

working closely with the

Fox said OSP has been

National Center for Missing

and Exploited Children from

the start of the case in hopes

of finding a potential match.

The center has about 700

cases of unidentified chil-

dren remains from across

the country, including nine

in Oregon, The Oregonian

reported last week. Howev-

er, Fox said no connections

If you have any infor-

have been made.

Many other states have children back al-

is expected to give Oregonians another

ready in person and our Governor is com-

mitted to having Oregon's students back in

Gray said that on Jan. 19 the Gov. Brown

# Mystery

From page A1

OSP said they will not be releasing anything regarding the nature of child's death, nor will they release what was found at the scene.

Fox told The News Guard last week that their agency has received over 100 tips regarding the case but so far, OSP does not have any solid leads to follow. Fox called this a 'priority case' as OSP has had more than six different Major Crimes Detectives working the case.

OSP released a sketch of the victim last week courtesy of the Clackamas

# School

#### From page A1

18 except that Lincoln County had that awful surge which, sadly, may happen again post-holiday break. Let's hope not.

"What is clear is that COVID is not being spread in our schools but in our community. This is true across the nation.

## COVID-19

#### From page A1

"One way we can keep each other healthy, support our health care workers and get Oregon back on its feet is to get vaccinated against COVID-19," Austen said. "When we get vaccinated, we slow the surge to help our nurses, doctors, schools, fellow community members and businesses."

Austen said the county is nearly finished with vaccinated first responders and are now moving to others in Phase 1a.

Examples for Phase 1a include, but are not limited to:

• Group 1: Hospitals; urgent care; skilled nursing and memory care facility health care providers and residents; tribal health programs; emergency medical services providers and other first responders.

• Group 2: Other longterm care facilities and congregate care sites, including health care providers and

viduals working in a correctional setting; personnel of group homes for children or adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

school, too."

County Sheriff's Office in

hopes of identifying the

child. The race or ethnic

complete.

origin of the child has yet to

be determined according to

OSP, but DNA analysis is not

Due to the condition

had likely been deceased at

least 30 days before she was

discovered and Fox said last

week that OSP is unsure of

when the full DNA results

"DNA will take time,"

Fox said. "OSP collected the

sample, that sample then

will be come back.

of the remains the victim

• Group 3: Outpatient settings serving specific high-risk groups; in home care; day treatment services; non-emergency medical transportation.

• Group 4: Health care personnel working in other outpatient and public health settings, School employees including teachers, support staff and daycare.

The county is working daily to distribute all the vaccine they get from the State of Oregon. Right now, the state determines how many doses of the vaccine they will get, so that limits how fast they can distribute and vaccinate.

Austen said Phase 1B might start in the next few weeks and will include people age 75 years and

older, adults with high-risk medical conditions and other essential workers. Finally, Phase 2 will be open to all people in the community. Public Health will do extensive outreach as they get closer to each of these phases.

"We understand that some people may be nervous about the COVID-19 vaccines, this is totally reasonable," Austen noted. "Fortunately, researchers have been working on vaccines for the coronavirus family for years, so they did not have to start from scratch. As researchers have been working intensely to develop and test the vaccine, they have been transparent in sharing data, holding live hearings and pausing trials when it's been important to slow down. Vaccine makers have also pledged that they would not seek FDA approval until phase 3, the

that has given Public Health 'trust and confidence' in the vaccination. Public Health is also encouraging the community to get up

health and safety update. LCSD is not

until then, if any at all.

planning to make any changes to their plan

"Our plan is to bring students back in

early February," Gray said. "The caveat to

this is that if things go really badly for the

including the seasonal flu shot.

"By staying updated

make sure our sacrifice and efforts to fight COVID-19 keep everyone safe," Austen

# to date on all vaccinations

on immunizations, we can

### said. **K9 Ready For Duty**

#### COURTESY PHOTO

county and something else comes out on

Jan. 19, we will have to address that. Hav-

ing said that, our plan moving forward is

to bring students back in early February.

weeks planning for K-12 Hybrid."

The district will be spending the next four

After six weeks of intense training, Officer Molly Wehrley and K9 Nato received their certification from the **Basic Patrol K9 Program** on December 30, 2020, and are now out patrolling the streets of Lincoln City. **Officer Wehrley noted that** she is honored to be one of only a handful of female K9 Handlers in the state of



residents; hospice programs; mobile crisis care and related services; indi-

older and frontline essential workers. Phase 1C will include people age 65 and final phase, of testing is done.' Austen said knowing



Oregon.

### **Police Blotter**

The police blotter relates the public record of incidents as reported by the Lincoln City Police. All individuals arrested or charged with a crime are presumed innocent until proven guilty. Information printed is preliminary and subject to change.

#### LINCOLN CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

#### MONDAY, JAN. 4

10:01 a.m. Theft, 6107 NE Oar Dr. Subject at LCPD reported a theft of gift card funds, card number had been compromised.

10:12 a.m. Abandoned Vehicle, 200 Blk SE Oar Ave. 1997 black Isuzu towed by Lincoln City Towing.

#### **TUESDAY, JAN. 5**

12:05 a.m. Extra Patrol/ Suspicious Activity, 1345 NW Harbor Ave. Extra patrol request due to subject seen trying sliding glass door and walking around the property. Photos of subject received and property owner would like to press charges. Suspect later located at Nauti Mermaid Bar. They were cited and released for Trespass II and Attempted Burglary II.

4:08 a.m. Disturbance, 2945 NW Hwy 101, Inn at Wecoma. Report of disturbnace in room. Female needed medical. Suspect take into custody for Assault IV - Domestic. Transported to LCPD.

9:23 a.m. Graffiti, 1000 SE Hwy 101, Goodwill. Caller reported additional graffiti at location. 'ACAB' in red on east side of emergency access and 'BLM' in

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COOPERTIRES

white on green PP&L box on II. the property.

9:52 a.m. Abandoned Vehicle, NE Johns Ave./ NE 4600 Blk. 2002 black Hyundai towed by Car Care Towing.

1:38 p.m. Theft, 1609 NW 30th St. Caller reported theft of 32' Roku Smart TV.

10:22 p.m. Theft, Lincoln City. Phone report on theft.

11:26 p.m. Shoplift, 4101 NW Logan Rd., Safeway. Report of male and female stealing items from the store. Both subjects contacted and taken into custody for Theft and False Information. One suspect also had a misdemeanor warrant out of Lincoln County and felony warrant for a parole violation. Both subjects cited and released for Theft

#### WEDNESDAY, JAN. 6

4:42 a.m. Disturbance, 3430 NE Hwy 101, Ashley Inn. Original call to 911 from location. Callback to a female who answered and sounds from a male were heard in the background saying she was hurting him and hurting herself. Male taken into custody for Assault IV - Domestic, Harassment. Transported to LCPD.

9:32 a.m. Assist on Arrest/ Warrant Arrest, 1102 SW Coast Ave., Canyon Drive Park. Subjects contacted in restrooms of location after report of possible emergency. Misdemeanor warrant confirmed out of Lincoln County for Trespass, possession of meth. Subject cited and released with date to appear.

**Retaining Rip Rap Walls Driveway & Road Building Tree & Stump Removal Brush Mulching & Mowing Yearly Fire Protection Program** 



7:24 a.m. Theft, 1500 SE East Devils Lake Rd., Outlet Mall. Report of damage to Pepsi vending machine at location with funds stolen.

3:57 p.m. POH, 3910 NE Hwy 101, Pig N Pancake. Original report of physical disturbance in the parking lot of location. Parties separated, involved male taken to hospital.

4:59 p.m. Crash, 3327 NW Hwy 101. Report of a single vehicles crash into the median. No injuries.

5:39 p.m. Theft, 2945 NW Hwy 101. Nintendo Switch stolen around Dec. 30.

#### **THURSDAY, JAN. 7**

9:34 a.m. Animal, 1541 SE 3rd St. Report that a pitbull in a van in the parking lot bit someone and they went to the hospital.

11:29 a.m. Theft, 1834 NE 7th Dr. Report of theft of drills and miscellaneous hand tools from his truck.

12:46 p.m. Theft, 2159 NW Hwy 101. Employee reported a theft at Imagine That.

4:16 p.m. Arrest, 2133 NW Inlet Ave. Suspect cited and released on LCPD warrant charging intimidation after a report of them refusing to leave the Nordic Motel.

10:27 p.m. Disturbance, 1415 NW 31st Pl. Report of possible disturbance at location. Juvenile was knocking on doors, asking for help. Mother transported to hospital for medical issue.



### **COMMUNITY** Samaritan welcomes first baby of the new year



COURTESY PHOTO

Baby Rogan Michael Baca is snuggled by his parents, Taryn Fortin and Bryan Baca.

### Chinook Winds reopens Friday

#### MAX KIRKENDALL

newsguardeditor@countrymeida.net

On Dec. 1, the Siletz Tribal Council made the decision to shut down Chinook Winds Casino Resort (CWCR) due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Lincoln County experienced a surge in virus cases in late November and CWCR also dealt with a workplace outbreak of at least 10 people, according to Lincoln County Public Health.

However, after six weeks of closure, the Siletz Tribal Council has made the decision to reopen CWCR with increased safety measures in place. Chinook Winds will open to the public at 10 a.m. on January 15, 2021.

"We know this is a chal-

lenging time for our community and team members. We took time to ensure a safe reopening. We are ready to welcome all those who feel safe to visit", said Michael S. Fisher, General Manager.

The casino will have modified hours to allow for daily cleaning and disinfecting of the property. The Executive Management team is regularly reviewing local coronavirus data and trends to provide recommendations to the Tribal Council as the situation changes.

Safety protocols include: no smoking on all properties, limited capacity, face coverings required, temperature checks at the entrance and more.

See a full list of the protocols at thenewsguard.com.

Let's keep the

#### THE NEWS GUARD

Rain driven by a south wind hit the hospital window, but newborn Rogan Michael Baca was snug in his Oregon State University attire and safe in his parents' arms.

Born at 9:35 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 2, Rogan was the first baby to be born at Samaritan Pacific Communities Hospital in 2021, and the first to be born to parents Taryn Fortin and Bryan Baca.

The couple, who live in Toledo, said the hospital staff was amazing during Taryn's labor, delivery and recovery. Rogan was due on Dec. 26 but waited a week to be born. Even after labor was induced, it was necessary to have a cesarean section, which was performed by OB/GYN physician B. Edward Yanke, DO.

Taryn said Rogan wasn't eager to come out, but he weighed a healthy 8 pounds, 1 ounce and was 21 inches long at birth.

"We knew Rogan would be either a Christmas baby or a New Year's baby," Bryan Baca said. Both he and Taryn have extended family close by eager to welcome the new family home.

### **OCCC** announces fall honor roll

#### THE NEWS GUARD

The Fall Term of 2020 was unlike any that has come before.

"Despite this challenging, unusual term, our students persevered," said OCCC President Dr. Birgitte Ryslinge. "Our faculty and staff were awed by the dedication and resilience our OCCC Sharks exhibited day after day, week after week, throughout the Fall."

#### Honor Roll: 3.25-3.49

Seth Bodtke Allene Brennan Danielle Clark Allison Cleland Barbara Culbertson **Rayanne** Damrow Shaneon Dinwoodie Jenny Elmore Harmony George Kristen King Darius King Patricia Majeski Veronica Mendoza Phillip Miller Anastasia Montano David Potter Ellana Taylor Samuel Watson Jade Weber Connor Willeford Mindy Wyles

Dean's List: 3.5-3.74

Madison Berry Tanaya Brown Hailey Dalke Brandy Ebert-Ketcher Jayme Elmore Harley Engen Jessica Fantroy Flor Isela Gaspar Marquez Shelby Johnston Sharon Kang Zachary Kegley Abigail Krupar Melissa MacDonald Jacob Martin Xitlali Mason Kaylani McMillan Rebecca Meisner Leslie Melo Lira Naphtali Meyer Desirea Nickerson Avarie Owens Yeliel Rinehart Ashley Rodriguez Micah Rosas Savannah Russo Kelly Stinson Tristan Sudborough **Cierra** Topete Amelia Valentine Isabella Vick Emily Welch-Russell Aldona Williams

#### President's List: 3.75-4.0

Tessa Adamson Olivia Anderson Hailey Baker Diana Ayllin Baltazar -Gonzalez

Amanda Barnhart Christina Baskett **Evangeline Benham** Larenda Bennett Rebekah Bina Sara Birman **Emily Bjornsgard** Shannon Blackburn Chyanna Blackburn Cassandra Brandt **Emily Braunstein** Melissa Campana Julia Clemens Jacob DeVries Savannah Duncan Gracee Esquivel Elizabet Estrada Cornejo Angelina Felix Cantua Mahala Fisher Kimberly Fisher Sally Flatt Jessica Flores Martinez Michelle Fortin Shannon Foster **Robert Gaskins** Ira Gray Melissa Hernandez-Pacheco Jennifer Highland Celia Ifran Ashlee Johnson **Quinton Jones** Cora Kehr Ariel Kramer William Kunde Kortney Kurmins-Hahn Rita Latta Crystal Linenko Leta Main Nikki Martinez

Guadalupe Martinez-Galicia Jamie Martinson Tayler McAlpine Joshua McAvoy Luke McCarthy Renee Mooney Elva Noriega Kaycie Otis **Christopher Parker** Jennifer Margarette -Parker Julia Portaro Adam Potter Eric Power Samantha Raines Ashly Reed Tava Rilev Alejandra Rosales Cortes Tanya Russell Ethan Schutze Kaitlyn Schwab **Ronald Shearer** Lauren Smith Nicholas Spangler Gage Stephensen Tiffany Stewart Ramon Topete Joselyn Trujillo Teodoro Cameron Vasquez Shirley Vaughn Shirley Vaughn Jason Velazquez **Reece Williams** Amanda Williams William Wood Brenn Woodman Kristen Woolery Janet Zamorano Moreno Alexis Zuercher



### WE ALL HAVE A PART TO KEEP EACH OTHER SAFE.



WEAR A MASK



#### MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCE



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FREE walk through or drive through event!

Face masks & social distancing required

