

# The Dalles Chronicle



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## Governor declares statewide emergency

Tests find cases of COVID-19 in Washington, Douglas and Marion counties

By Les Zaitz  
 Oregon Capital Bureau

Oregon health officials are taking emergency steps to confront the spread of the novel coronavirus in the state as new cases emerged over the weekend. Testing is focused on determining the extent of the outbreak across Oregon and who is most at risk, according to Pat Allen, director of the Oregon Health Authority.

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## State issues guidelines

Oregon health officials have recommended taking steps to prevent infection and keep schools open, according to guidelines published by the Oregon Health Authority. Public health experts at the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and education officials with the Oregon Department of Education and the Higher Education Coordinating Commission issued guidance and best practices for public health experts to schools, colleges and universities for decision-making concerning the novel coronavirus in Oregon on Sunday, March 8.

At this time, the guidance recommends against closing schools and campuses where no cases of COVID-19 are present. It also recommends that schools, colleges and universities consider all alternatives before closing a school, college or university in the event that a COVID-19 case is detected among students or staff. The guidance identifies important

See **SCHOOLS**, page A5

## Oregon scrambling for funding

By Sam Stites  
 Oregon Capital Bureau

SALEM—While new infection cases emerge in Oregon, state officials say they need an additional \$1.5 million to trace contacts of those found infected with the novel coronavirus and more staffing, according to state documents obtained Friday.

They also say they need an estimated \$2.5 million to help local health departments across Oregon prepare for the COVID-19 outbreak and reimburse school districts for the extra costs of sanitizing schools.

Those needs are part of a request made this week by Gov. Kate Brown in a letter to Vice President Mike Pence outlining Oregon's need for up to \$10 million per month in federal help.

Brown also is asking the State Emergency Board for another \$5

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## Skateboards connect kids with artistic expression

By Walker Sacon  
 The Dalles Chronicle

It's a typical Saturday afternoon at The Dalles-Wasco County Library.

A group of Girl Scouts meets as people play chess and work at computer stations. Upstairs, in the Teen Wing, some study quietly while the roar of engines from a racing video game fill the air. One girl learns the basics of 3D printing from a library staffer — they're struggling to keep the machine warm enough to print properly.

In the meeting room on the first floor, Michelle Yamamoto "lassos" kids back to their

stations in an effort to keep her "skateboard art" class on schedule.

Working over the course of three Saturday sessions, the class allowed students to design a skateboard deck— from a blank deck and pencil sketch—to a working board complete with art and wheels.

During the final class, Yamamoto helped finish the boards with grip-tape and varnish before handing them off to Jacob Weill, who showed students how to attach wheels and trucks. Weill was recruited by his wife Mary Pastrana, the programming director for The Dalles-Wasco County

Library. Weill said he had skated enough to learn the basics. "Enough to sprain an ankle trying flip tricks," Weill said.

Yamamoto, a former competitive skateboarder who now teaches art privately and at Hood River's Wildwood Academy, said the uniqueness of "skateboard art" gets kids in-

involved, whether or not they're particularly interested in skateboarding.

Inspiration for students' boards included movies and TV shows, bands, pets, family members and bees.

Ekylah Sutton-Lott said she has always liked bees and that her hive-and-garden themed board was not the first piece of her art they had inspired.

"They're actually really interesting," said Xander Neely as he buzzed between working on his deck and trading snacks with big-brother Westley.

Yamamoto once again herded Xander back to his station and asked him to focus so he could be sure his board would be ready for finishing next week. He gets back to work painting the faces of characters from the manga "Inuyasha" as a few classmates start brainstorming some new and exotic

See **ART**, page A4



## Vogt Fountain restored

By Mark Gibson  
 The Dalles Chronicle

The Dalles Beautification Committee and the Lions Club have joined forces in the restoration of the Vogt Fountain at Sosis Park, which is nearly complete.

The fountain has new water pipes, lights and pump, as well as new paving stones around the fountain. Four cast bronze lion heads are in hand and will soon be installed. The fountain heads are virtually the same as the original heads in place when the fountain was in use at the west entrance to downtown The Dalles, "They look exactly like the pictures we have," said Lennox. The heads will be mounted via holes

drilled from inside a small vault inside the fountain, he added. "It's a one guy job. One small guy," said Lennox.

Now operational, the fountain will be turned on when the weather warms enough to ensure nothing will freeze.

The project was the brain-child of The Dalles Beautification Committee, with help, funds and fundraising from The Dalles Lions. So far, about \$7,000 has been invested in the project.

With the fountain again operational, the Lions and the Committee hope to create a circular path of paving stones connecting the

See **FOUNTAIN**, page A4



The Dalles Beautification Committee and the The Dalles Lions Club Foundation have been working together to restore the Vogt Fountain in the Veterans Garden at Sosis Park. Major work has been completed, and donations are now being sought for paving stones to create a circular walkway through the rose garden. Pictured are, left to right, Lion Jim Bishop, Beautification members Brenda Coats and Bill Lennox, and Lion Jim Wilcox. Above, Lennox holds a metal fountain head in place, which will be installed in the coming weeks. Mark B. Gibson photo

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