

## Oregon comic book series highlights emergency readiness

Adam Duvernay

Register-Guard  
USA TODAY NETWORK

A new comic book in a series designed to inform teens what they should do during natural disasters and emergencies was released this month, this one focused on wildfires.

The Oregon Office of Emergency Management and Dark Horse Comics, the publisher of titles such as "Hellboy," have released the third comic in the "Without Warning!" series. The comic was about earthquakes in the 2014 edition and tsunamis in the 2016 edition.

"Without Warning! Wildfire" features its characters hiking and camping in a Pacific Northwest wilderness area who are forced to flee for their lives to escape a quickly moving wildfire, according to an announcement about the book's release. The comic is supposed to teach readers how to protect themselves, their loved ones and wildlands when wildfires break out.

"The 'Without Warning!' comic book series began because we found that many public education publications struggled to resonate with younger audiences," said Althea Rizzo, OEM Geologic Hazards Program coordinator. "The series has been a huge hit."

The comic book series originated with OEM's Geologic Hazards program, which works with partners to create tools and programs to make Oregon more resilient to disasters, according to

### Where to get it

"Without Warning! Wildfire" is available to read for free at Dark Horse Digital, OEM's website and on iOS and Android apps. It is also available on Kindle, Comixology, Google Play and Apple Books.

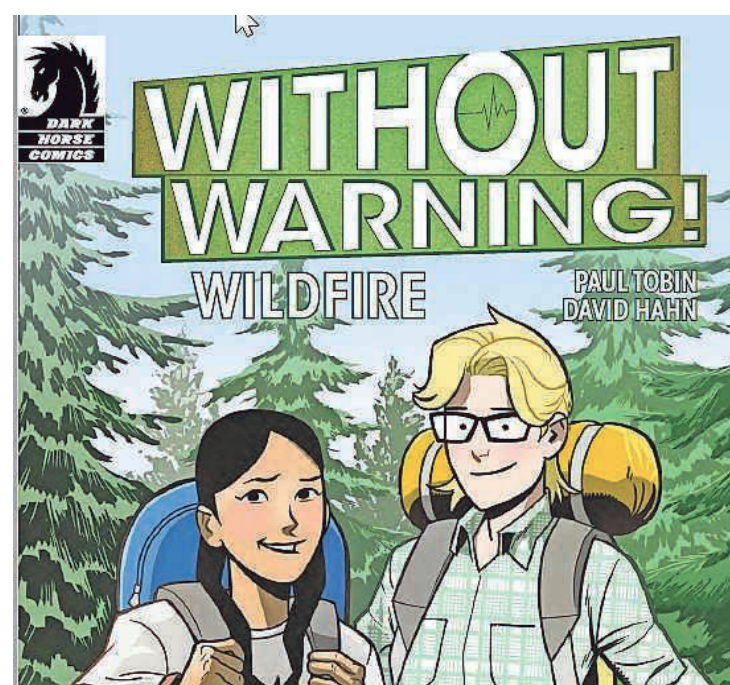
County emergency management offices, Clackamas Community College and Keep Oregon Green offer the comic's print edition in English and Spanish.

the release. The series has distributed around the Pacific Northwest and has been adapted for other regions to promote readiness across the United States.

The latest issue was produced in collaboration with OEM, the Oregon Department of Forestry, Dark Horse Comics, Clackamas Community College and Keep Oregon Green.

"Smokey Bear offers a variety of educational options for young children, but it's been challenging to find engaging and creative resources to talk with teens and young adults about wildfire prevention," Kristin Babbs, president and CEO of the Keep Oregon Green Association, said in a news release. "This comic book fills that important gap."

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The Oregon Office of Emergency Management and Dark Horse Comics have released the third comic in the "Without Warning!" series. The most recent edition is focused on wildfire response and preparedness.

OREGON OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



Steve O'Harra with his collection of political buttons at home in Salem. BRIAN HAYES / STATESMAN JOURNAL

## Salem collectors maintain tiny, round pieces of history

Claire Withycombe

Salem Statesman Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK

The button that started Carl Fisher's collection of thousands was a gift.

Nearly 20 years ago, Fisher's aunt gave him a simple red button with the name "MORSE" in white lettering.

It dated from 1972, when Wayne Morse, the party-shifting Oregon politician, tried to regain the U.S. Senate seat after he lost in 1968.

Fisher now estimates his collection has grown to about 4,000 or 5,000 buttons.

He's also the organizer of the Oregon chapter of the American Political Items Collectors, a group for collectors of political memorabilia.

The Oregon chapter boasts roughly 25 members who pay dues to the national organization. There are more people who collect political memorabilia but don't officially belong to the organization, Fisher said.

Most members focus on buttons. In so doing, they keep alive what were supposed to be fleeting trinkets of the campaign season.

"You can walk into any secondhand store, antique shop and still find but-

tons from the 1940s," Fisher said. "That's just fascinating, that there were so many made that you're still able to find them all these years later. Because these are ephemeral. They were meant to be used and tossed."

Across the state and country, enthusiastic collectors chase down buttons from the history of American politics, reaching back to the patenting of the pin-back button in 1896.

### A childhood interest continues

One such collector is Steve O'Harra, of Salem, whose collection includes some specimens from the early days of the button.

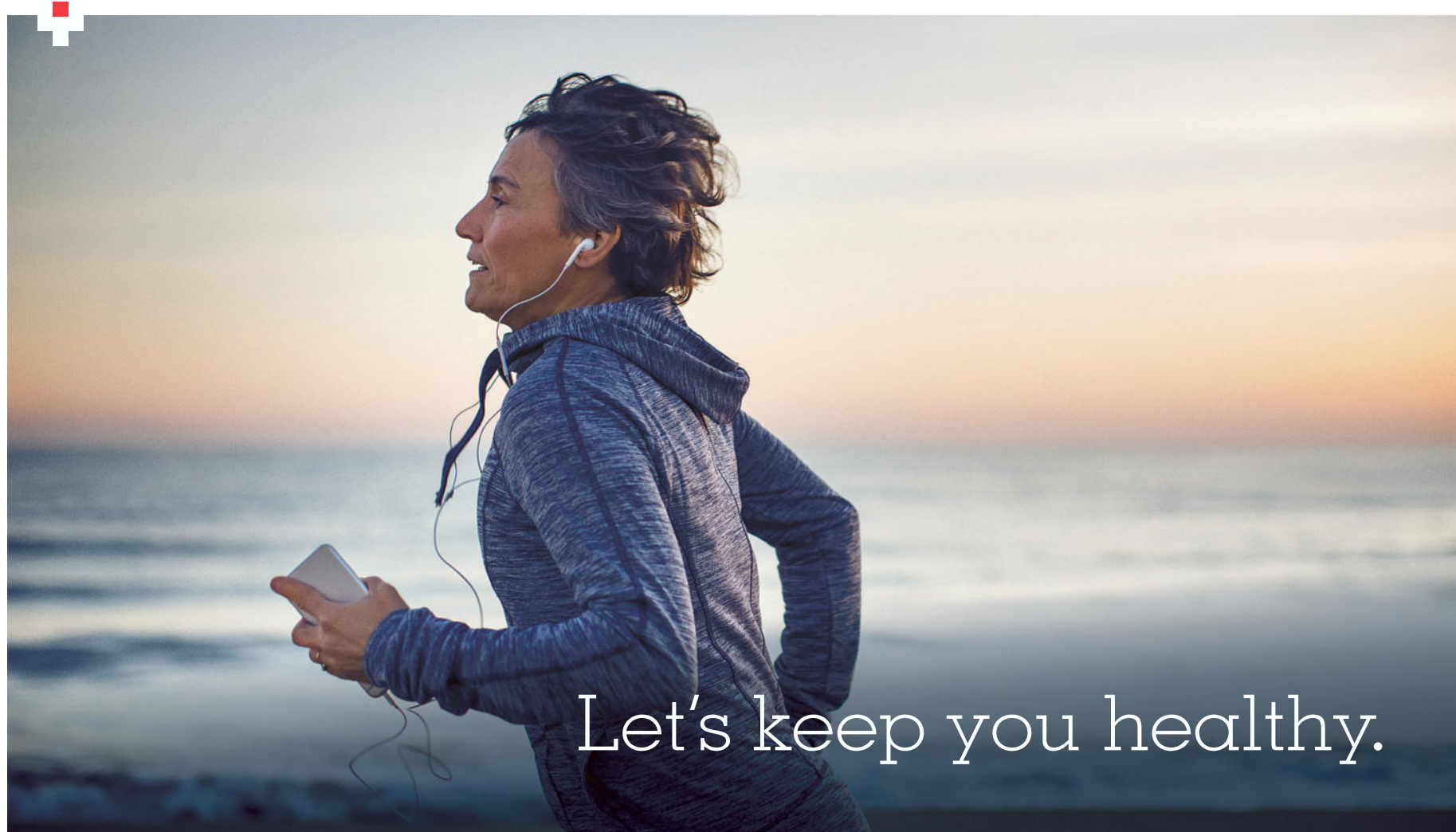
O'Hara said he started collecting political items when he was a freshman, in 1968.

One of his favorite is a gold bug with wings that flip out to display pictures of President William McKinley and his 1896 running mate, Garret Hobart. (They were so-called because McKinley supported maintaining the gold standard).

Born in 1952, O'Harra also likes to collect buttons from candidates who ran

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