

Bacteria levels prompt advisory at Tolovana State Park Beach

Visitors should avoid contact with the water

By **McKINLEY SMITH**
The Daily Astorian

Wind, sand but no surf for visitors to Tolovana State Park Beach, where the Oregon Health Authority issued a health advisory Tuesday

against water contact because of fecal bacterial levels that have risen above normal. The advisory recommends against direct water contact with the ocean, as well as nearby creeks or pools. The bacteria can cause diarrhea, stomach cramps, skin rashes, upper respiratory infections and other illnesses, according to the state. Children and the elderly may be more at risk from

waterborne bacteria. Tara Chetock, program coordinator for the Oregon Health Authority's beach monitoring program, compares the symptoms to those of food poisoning and stresses that visitors "avoid water contact." Other beach recreational activities that do not involve water, such as kite-flying or walking, are encouraged. The water at Tolovana

State Park Beach was resampled Tuesday, and Chetock said the lab results should come back today. If the results show acceptable bacterial levels, the advisory will be lifted. The advisory does not apply to neighboring beaches. High bacterial levels may result from stormwater runoff, sewer overflows, failing septic systems and animal waste.

Oregon employment possibly at high-water mark

By **EDWARD STRATTON**
The Daily Astorian

After many months of slight decreases, seasonally adjusted unemployment rates stalled or slightly increased in all but 10 of Oregon's 36 counties over May.

The unemployment rates increased by one-tenth of a percent in each of northwest Oregon's three counties, but regional economists warn against overreaction.

In Clatsop County, the 5.2 percent seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in May was up from 5.1 percent in April, with 260 jobs added out of an expected 300. The county still has one of the 10 lowest unemployment rates in the state, and is still lower than the 5.5 percent national average. Clatsop County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate is tied for fifth-lowest in the state, along with Polk County.

Erik Knoder, a regional economist with the employment department, said the change is statistically insignificant and won't become a trend until unemployment climbs at least a half of a percent over several months.

Sheriff's deputy, K-9 participate in trials

The Daily Astorian

Clatsop County Sheriff's Office Deputy Thomas Phillips and his K-9 partner, Pax, recently participated in the Washington County Sheriff's Office K-9 Trials, where the pair demonstrated their abilities.

The trials, held last Saturday, included an obstacle course, area search, handler protection, fastest dog, vehicle extraction and high stress obedience.

Pax participated in all of the events and received second place in the fastest dog and vehicle extraction events.

Nine K-9 teams participated from Washington County Sheriff's Office, Multnomah County Sheriff's Office, Newberg/Dundee Police Department, Sherwood Police Department and Springfield Police Department.

Phillips — a member of the sheriff's office for the past nine years serving in the corrections and criminal divisions — has been the sheriff's



| Area | May 2015 | April 2015 | 1-yr. ago |
|-----------|----------|------------|-----------|
| Clatsop | 5.2 | 5.1 | 6.1 |
| Columbia | 6.8 | 6.7 | 7.6 |
| Tillamook | 5.4 | 5.2 | 6.5 |
| Oregon | 5.3 | 5.2 | 7 |
| U.S. | 5.5 | 5.4 | 6.3 |

*Preliminary, seasonally adjusted rates. Source: Oregon Employment Department

Daily Astorian graphic

office patrol dog K-9 handler since September 2012, when the office received Pax from Vigilante Canine service.

Serving as a K-9 handler involves a great deal of training and care above that of normal duties, according to the Sheriff's Office. Phillips has been traveling to Washington County every other week to ensure proficiency of the team.

Pax has deployed 44 times with 26 successful captures for a 59 percent success rate. Such a success rate is higher than the national average of 50 percent.

Pax is a 4-year-old male Belgian Malinois who is trained in tracking, area search, building search, article search, handler protection and suspect apprehension.



Submitted photo Pax, a 4-year-old Belgian Malinois, has a successful capture rate that is higher than the national average.

as the mid-4 percent range around 1990 and 2007. But the average seasonally adjusted unemployment rate between 1990 and this May, he added, is 6.7 percent, through both recessions and recoveries.

May's non-farm payroll employment grew by 100, or 0.6 percent, from last year, leaving it at 17,390 jobs overall. Nearly a quarter of those positions were in the leisure and hospitality industry.

Over May, the private sector added 190 jobs, including 80 added by leisure and hospitality; 40 added by education and health services; and 30 added by other services. Local government, including education, added 50 jobs over May.

Columbia and Tillamook

Columbia County's 6.8 percent seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was the 27th lowest in the state and slightly up from April.

The county had 10,720 non-farm payroll positions, 260 or 2.6 percent more than

last year. The county's largest employment sector was local, state and federal government, followed closely by trade, transportation and utilities.

In Tillamook County, the 5.4 percent seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in May was up a fifth of a percent from April. Its non-farm payroll employment, 8,630 jobs, was 100 more than a year before, a growth rate of 1.2 percent. Nearly 23 percent of that employment was from the local, state and federal government.

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for June on July 14 and the county and metropolitan area unemployment rates July 21.

Warrenton adopts new budget, water and sewer rate hikes

By **DERRICK DePLEDGE**
The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — The Warrenton City Commission voted Tuesday night to approve the city's budget for the next fiscal year along with steep water and sewer rate increases intended to stabilize financing for the city's infrastructure.

The budget for the fiscal year that opens in July is \$29.2 million, up from \$25.2 million this year.

Water rates will jump by 15 percent, sewer rates will increase by 2.5 percent, and a storm sewer surcharge will double to 20 percent, up from 10 percent.

Households that consume 4,000 gallons a month will pay a combined \$115.28, up from \$104.86, a \$10.42 hike.

New water and sewer rate studies will help determine future rate increases.

"It's not an easy decision for any of us to make these recommendations or for you to have to adopt them," City Manager Kurt Fritsch told commissioners. The loss of large water

consumers, particularly Pacific Coast Seafoods, which had a fish processing plant burn in 2013, has contributed to the pressure to raise rates.

The city has also struggled to improve infrastructure and is in the process of a potentially expensive upgrade to levees to meet federal flood-control standards.

The city's spending plan, meanwhile, includes money for a new aerial ladder truck for the Warrenton Fire Department and a new garbage truck.

In other business Tuesday:

- Mayor Mark Kujala honored former Mayor Paul Rodriguez, who died earlier this month. Rodriguez, who ran the Iredale Inn, served on the City Commission from 2001 to 2003 and as mayor in 2004. Kujala presented a resolution to Rodriguez's family recognizing the former mayor's service.

- The City Commission heard an update from the Oregon Army National Guard's 224th Engineer Company in Albany, which has helped the city with levee improvements.

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Go to www.adblockplus.org and install "AdBlockPlus" It will block most pop ups. In addition, each browser, Internet Explorer, Firefox, Chrome, Safari, etc. has a feature that can also minimize pop ups. Go to your browser's settings section, and make sure the blocker is turned on. Detailed instructions for each browser is available at our web site- www.astoriasbest.com

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Q: Should I be rinsing my dishes prior to washing them in my dishwasher?

A:

NO! Pre-rinsing is neither recommended, nor is it required. The fact of the matter is that modern dish washing detergents do not activate properly without some soft food waste being introduced into the inside the dishwasher tub during the wash cycle. You will use more hot water pre-rinsing your dishes than your dishwasher uses to wash an entire load... which is usually less than 8-10 gallons per load. You will save money without wasting a valuable water resource, and your dishwasher will perform better, which is what it is designed to do.

Tim O'Brien
Adult Outpatient Supervisor

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Q: What kind of Alcohol and Drug Services are available at Clatsop Behavioral Healthcare?

A:

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