

## MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS



Photos by Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

To prepare for a disaster, everyone should have medications in their emergency kits, according to Columbia Memorial Hospital pharmacist Nate Nerenberg.

### Medical Reserve Corps helps people prepare, holds training session

By NICOLE BALES  
*The Astorian*

**C**ANNON BEACH—The Medical Reserve Corps held a learning session on Saturday at City Hall to teach people how to obtain prescription drugs after a Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake and tsunami, as well as techniques to manage pain without medication.

The guest speakers were Nate Nerenberg, a pharmacist and manager of the pharmacy department at Columbia Memorial Hospital in Astoria, and Kathleen Bell, a registered nurse and teacher for the American Holistic Nurses Association integrative healing arts program.

Nerenberg taught people how to incorporate medication into their emergency kits, while Bell shared methods to relieve and manage pain and find increased levels of comfort.

Nerenberg told people to include a typed copy of their prescriptions,

supplements and medical equipment and supplies. He said to update the list every six months and to include expiration dates and any drug allergies. In a disaster, if no computers are working, a pharmacist or doctor could use the lists to get people their medication.

Leaders of the Medical Reserve Corps have been training since 2015, but the learning session was the first public training. They hope to have an emergency preparedness event for the community every quarter.

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The Medical Reserve Corps is trying to educate the community on emergency preparedness for an earthquake or tsunami.

## Mitchell calls foul on recall

#TimberUnity behind petition against Democrat

By EDWARD STRATTON  
*The Astorian*

State Rep. Tiffany Mitchell, the freshman Democrat facing a recall campaign by #TimberUnity over her support of a cap-and-trade bill and other legislation, called the effort inappropriate.

The rural advocacy group launched the recall petition and formed the Recall Tiffany Mitchell PAC on Thursday.

Recalls are meant “to deal with the most egregious sort of violations of ethics, for people who have truly, truly done something wrong,” the Astoria Democrat said. “I’m not sure that’s necessarily what’s happened here.”

“I’m not necessarily sure that the recall being used in this context is appropriate. But if that’s what people want to do, that’s what they want to do.”

Darren Mead, owner of Action Sign Works in Miles Crossing, started the recall petition. His company has printed many of the #TimberUnity stickers popping up around the region.

“I was approached by someone with #TimberUnity after I had already been thinking about it, because I don’t feel that she is really representing the area and the industries in the area,” Mead said.

Mitchell has taken heat from #TimberUnity and others over her vote for the

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## Port, union staff tie pay to the agency’s performance

By EDWARD STRATTON  
*The Astorian*

The Port of Astoria and its union staff have agreed to tie their pay to the agency’s performance.

Thirteen employees at the Port, from maintenance workers to the head of security, are represented by the local chapter of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union. The two parties recently agreed on a new contract through June 2022.

The workers, whose payroll of \$1.2 million represents 15% of the Port’s operating expenses, have historically received between 2% and 3% pay increases.

Under the new contract, wage increases will be based on a three-year rolling average of the Port’s operating gains. Employees will receive no raises for an increase of less than \$99,000, 1% for up to a \$199,000 increase, 2% for up to \$299,000, 3% for up to \$399,000, 4% for up to \$499,000 and 5% for any increase greater than \$500,000.

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## County welcomes new juvenile director from Madras

By NICOLE BALES  
*The Astorian*

Clatsop County welcomed a new juvenile director this summer.

Kelly Braaten started in August, replacing Greg Engebretson, who retired after more than 30 years of service.

Braaten said he is grateful to be working with a great staff and to have worked with Engebretson during his first month.

“I know it can’t happen like that always, but I’m definitely glad and happy that it did ... it’s a little bit more gradual,” he said.

“He’s been in this field and this area for a long time and I think also for staff it will help with the transition as well. But I think it’s going to take some time to get the lay of the land and make all those necessary professional contacts and observe and see how things are going,” he said. “From what I have observed so far, I think things are going really well.”

Braaten moved from Madras with his wife, Karyn, and their three children. He spent over 11 years with the Oregon Youth Authority as a juvenile parole and probation officer. Prior to that, he spent five years as a juvenile parole and probation officer with Deschutes County.



Kelly Braaten

“It’s kind of a natural progression once I realized I was going to be in this field for a while,” Braaten said.

“The Oregon Youth Authority supervises the highest risk population in the state. So for me, the next logical step in my mind was to find something that would challenge me a little bit differently than the average daily casework and things like that.”

He is looking forward to taking on more of a coaching or mentoring role with the juvenile probation and parole officers and working with them to find the best solutions for each child.

“We’re just really excited to have him on board with us,” said

Monica Steele, the interim county manager. “We think he’s going to continue to do great things for the juvenile team and he’s filling Greg Engebretson’s shoes and we are confident he will be capable of doing so.”

Braaten is looking forward to working collaboratively with law enforcement agencies and drug and alcohol and mental health counselors.

“A lot of the time there’s more to the puzzle, sort to speak,” Braaten said.

“So, it’s not just here’s a crime that’s been committed and how do we handle that incident. How do

we give them an opportunity to repair the harm to the victim? How do we give them an opportunity to repay the community? Things like that. But there’s usually more to that story. It could be a need for a connection with local service providers.”

Braaten said that through assessment and referral they can help connect the dots for each case.

“We’re all trying to figure out what’s the best for the community, the youth, the victim and how do we ultimately prevent further penetration into the adult system once they graduate our system essentially — that’s the hope,” he said.

