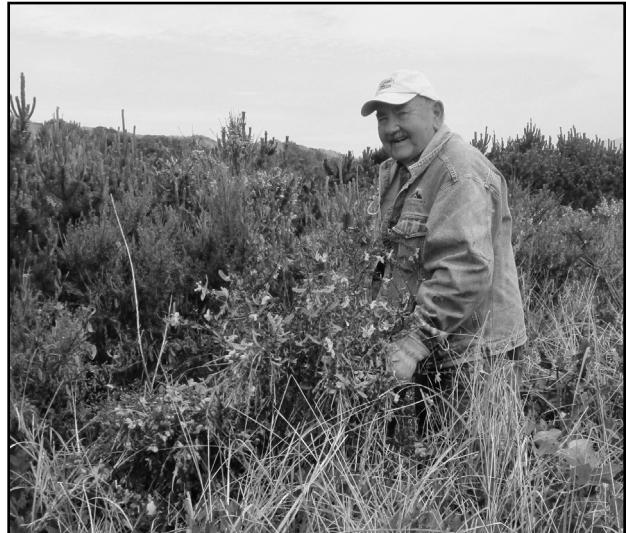




PHOTOS BY MICHAEL ALLEN



Community gathers to remove Scotch broom at North Jetty

Volunteers had a good day weather-wise June 5 for removing Scotch broom at the North Jetty of Siuslaw Public Library.

To start the day, the group was greeted by Lane County Park Ranger Dan Anderson, who expressed his appreciation for their commitment.

Bill Blackwell from Save the Oregon Dunes then marched everyone to a section of dunes along the roadside where we all were amazed at the size of some of the broom.

“In all we had nine volunteers, five of whom were locals who responded to my outreach,” said Michael Allen, member of Friends of Lane County Parks. “Two others I spoke to said they would have liked to have been there and will come to our next work party.”

After two hours of hard labor, the volunteers stacked several large piles of broom hidden from view per Anderson’s instructions.

“As you can see by these

photos we all had a great time,” Allen said. “There’s a lot more to do, so come one, come all.”

On Saturday, June 27, Save the Oregon Dunes has scheduled another Scotch broom removal at North Jetty from 10 a.m. to noon. All are invited to join us.

People can contact Brian Saunders at brian@eugenecascadescoast.org if they plan to attend so they can keep the numbers to a maximum of 10 per group

and a maximum of 20 people total.

People will also be provided instructions on what to bring and how to deal with COVID-19 protocols.

According to Allen, this effort at Scotch broom removal is a great partnership between Lane County Parks and Save the Oregon Dunes.

“I hope the partnership will go well into the future,” Allen said. “Friends of Lane County Parks looks forward to participating as volunteers.”

PeaceHealth funds two more years of Mobile Integrated Health paramedic program

Citing the program’s effectiveness and benefits to the community, PeaceHealth has awarded a \$250,000 grant to Western Lane Ambulance District to continue the Mobile Integrated Health (MIH) collaboration through June of 2022.

Launched in January 2018, MIH program is a partnership between PeaceHealth Peace Harbor Medical Center and Western Lane Ambulance District (WLAD), aimed at preventing hospital readmissions and Emergency Department visits by enhancing in-home care.

WLAD dedicates a paramedic to pay non-emergency home visits to patients following a hospitalization or Emergency Department visit.

Paramedic Wendy Sullivan works closely with Peace Harbor discharge planners and community health worker Heather Hammon to identify patients who have high potential for calling emergency services and/

or being readmitted. If possible, Sullivan visits patients in the hospital to explain how she can help with their post-discharge care.

A 9-1-1 call to EMS frequently results in transport to an emergency room, even when the patient may not require that complex and costly a level of care.

In addition to providing follow-up evaluations, Sullivan educates patients on fall prevention and home safety. She also serves as a connection with other health and social services, making sure patients understand how to access food and transportation resources and other community services.

The program has served more than 250 patients, averaging 48 in-home visits every month. The data show it’s making a notable difference:

- Emergency Department visits have fallen by 200 percent



MIH Paramedic Wendy Sullivan

- Avoidable hospital readmissions are down 200 percent
 - 100 percent of patients give the program positive marks
- “The Mobile Integrated Health program has really transformed

the way healthcare is delivered in Western Lane County,” said Jason Hawkins, Peace Harbor chief administrative officer. “The cost savings to healthcare system are striking, and it has a tremendous positive impact on patients and families—especially those who live in more remote areas and have difficulties seeing their healthcare providers.”

The MIH team works closely with Peace Harbor Palliative Care, allowing patients to remain at home for more of their healthcare needs.

“We have directly observed many of our citizens benefiting from this program,” said Michael Schick, fire and EMS chief. “The staff and directors of Western Lane Ambulance are extremely grateful to have the support of PeaceHealth and to be working with them on this important service to our community.”

The initial two-year MIH pilot program was funded through a grant from the PeaceHealth Peace Harbor Medical Center Foundation and PeaceHealth Community Health.

Based in Vancouver, Wash., PeaceHealth is a not-for-profit Catholic health system offering care to communities in Washington, Oregon and Alaska.

PeaceHealth Peace Harbor Medical Center has been recognized for exemplary performance in using evidence-based clinical processes shown to improve care for certain conditions, including heart attack, heart failure, pneumonia and surgical care.

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