

Oregon Health Plan online application system getting an upgrade

SALEM—The Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS) and the Oregon Health Authority are upgrading the eligibility system Oregonians use to apply for health coverage.

The upgrade is the first milestone in a larger project to make it easier for Oregonians to apply for health and human services benefits.

As the agencies transition from the old system to

the new one, there are two important considerations to be aware of:

1. The online application will be unavailable from July 2 to 5 while the upgrade is in progress.

2. Online applications that are not submitted by 4 p.m. PDT on July 2 cannot be transferred to the new system during the upgrade and will have to be restarted.

For Oregonians applying for Oregon Health Plan

benefits online, it is important to complete those applications by July 2 or wait to start the application after July 6. Paper applications and applications completed over the phone are not impacted.

Oregonians can contact customer service at 1-800-699-9075 (TTY 711) to apply over the phone or request that an application be mailed to them. They can also download, print and mail a paper application.

Both options are available in multiple languages.

After July 6, Oregonians can apply for the Oregon Health Plan online at one.oregon.gov.

The Oregon ONE system will continue to be upgraded, in phases, through February 2021. Once the system is fully updated, all Oregonians will be able to use a single online application to apply for cash, childcare, food and medical benefits. They will also

have the option to apply for any of these programs over the phone or in person at any local Aging and People with Disabilities, Area Agency on Aging or Self-Sufficiency Programs office that provides those benefits.

"This upgrade is just the first step in improving

the way the state delivers health and human services benefits to Oregonians and their families," said DHS Director Fariborz Pakseresht.

Please visit the DHS Benefits and Assistance page to learn more about the programs available to qualifying Oregonians.

PAC releases finalists for next round of Art Exposed

The City of Florence announced that there are 11 finalists for the five locations of the Public Art Committee's Art Exposed program, a rotating outdoor art gallery in Historic Old Town Florence. The finalists represent artists from the Florence area, as well as from across the State of Oregon, Pacific Northwest region and internationally.

The Public Arts Committee is interested in hearing from the community about the proposed finalists.

Art Exposed is an outdoors, rotating art gallery with sites located along Bay Street in the heart of Old Town Florence. Currently, the program has four pieces that are on display, which are due to

be replaced in Summer 2020. A fifth Art Exposed location is being added at Maple Street Park.

The Public Arts Committee had originally planned to make these decisions at the Public Arts Committee meeting in March, but, due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, all city committee meetings have been cancelled up until now.

The Public Art Committee will now be making these decisions at its meeting on Monday, July 27, at 5:30 p.m.

Due to safety precautions related to the virus, the meeting will be held virtually through the GoToWebinar platform, but the committee welcomes and encourages the public to submit pub-

lic comment prior to the meeting.

To view the finalists, people can visit the project webpage at www.ci.florence.or.us/bc-pac/art-exposed-program-finalists.

Comments on the finalists can be submitted via email to Sarah Moehrke, Community & Economic Development Assistant at Sarah.Moehrke@ci.florence.or.us or by mailing comments to Florence City Hall, 250 Highway 101, Florence, OR 97439.

Art Exposed has been one of the most successful programs of the Florence Public Art Committee, providing members of the local arts community to display their work, as well as international artists.

The art chosen will be displayed for two years and the chosen artists will be given a stipend of \$1,000. The pieces, while on display, are for sale to locals as well as the estimated 750,000 people that visit Florence annually. Thirty percent of the proceeds from every sale from the Art Exposed program is reinvested into the public art program for future projects.

The Committee has been successful in selling work from the first wave of Art Exposed.

For more information on the Art Exposed program and the current pieces on display, visit www.ci.florence.or.us/bc-pac/art-exposed-florence-rotating-outdoor-art-gallery.

Siuslaw Watershed hosts online stream of 'The Story of Plastic'

Join Siuslaw Watershed Council online for a virtual screening of "The Story of Plastic" with a live Q&A on Wednesday, July 1, at 6 p.m. This film is presented in partnership with the Siuslaw Chapter of Surfrider Foundation.

"The Story of Plastic" brings into focus an alarming, man-made crisis and the heroes who are working every day to rise up against big plastic.

After the film, people can learn more from panelists about efforts underway in Oregon to reduce plastics and ways that you can get involved.

Spanning three continents, the film illustrates

the ongoing catastrophe: fields full of garbage, veritable mountains of trash, rivers and seas clogged with waste, and skies choked with the poisonous emissions from plastic production and processing.

The July 1 panel includes:

- Kelly Bell, Lane County Master Recyclers Coordinator
- Britte Kirsch, Lane County Master Recycler

- Megan Ponder, The Story of Plastic Producer
- Charlie Plybon, Oregon Policy Manager for Surfrider Foundation

The panel discussion will provide an opportunity for the community to ask local experts about plastic pollution issues and solutions.

Tickets are by donation and benefit the Siuslaw Chapter of Surfrider Foundation.

Registration is required.

Then, 48 hours before the panel discussion, attendees will receive a link to stream the film on their own. The link will be delivered to the email address used to register. In that same email, people will also receive Zoom info for the panel discussion. Everyone should watch the film before the panel discussion.

For more information, visit www.siuslaw.org/events/.

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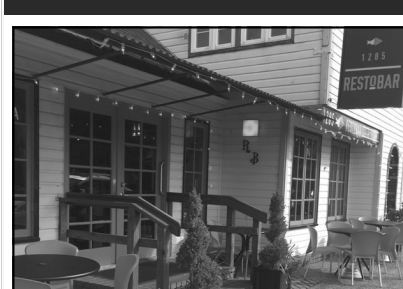
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