

Red Cross offers free virtual classes

PORTLAND—The devastating winter storms our region just experienced, and this past summer’s wildfires, serve as a painful reminder that disasters can happen to anyone, anywhere, anytime — even during a pandemic.

So, in honor of March being Red Cross Month, the Red Cross Cascades Region is hosting a series of free emergency preparedness presentations throughout the month. All presentations are virtual, and everyone is welcome to attend. Red Cross volunteers are available for virtual media interviews today.

Taking place every Tuesday in March from 6 to 7 p.m., classes will cover the most common disasters we face in the Pacific Northwest and how to prepare for them. Whether you’re motivated to start building your preparedness kit, or need a refresher course, these classes are designed to help families and individuals learn how to be better prepared.

Information and links can be found at redcross.org/cascades.

Classes are March 16: Earthquake Safety; March 23: Flooding Safety and March 30: Home Fire Safety.

Red Cross recognizes that preparing for emergencies looks a little different right now, but the three basic action steps remain the same: Build a Kit, Make a Plan and Be Informed. In addition to

the preparedness series, the Red Cross Cascades Region has a free downloadable “Prepare! Guide” available in English, Spanish, Vietnamese and Russian.

For nearly 80 years, U.S. presidents have proclaimed March as Red Cross Month to recognize people giving back through its lifesaving mission — which is powered more than 90 percent by volunteers. They include people who volunteer to provide emotional support, psychological first aid and referrals to community assistance for families coping with disasters during the pandemic.

You can help ensure that families don’t face emergencies alone — especially during a pandemic:

- Donate: Support our Disaster Relief efforts at redcross.org/GivingDay. A gift of any size makes a difference to provide shelter, food, relief items, emotional support and other assistance. Your donation will be part of our annual Giving Day on March 24 to aid families in need across the country.

- Volunteer: Visit redcross.org/VolunteerToday for most-needed positions and local opportunities.

- Give blood: Make an appointment at RedCrossBlood.org.

- Learn lifesaving skills: Take a class in skills like CPR and first aid to help in an emergency at redcross.org/TakeAClass.

PeaceHealth eases visitation restrictions

With COVID-19 transmission falling in Lane County, PeaceHealth will ease its temporary “no-visitor” policy at all four Oregon hospitals to allow one visitor per day, per patient, with some limited exceptions. For patients suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19, the no-visitor policy remains, with limited exceptions.

This change was effective March 8 and applies to PeaceHealth Sacred Heart Medical Center at RiverBend; PeaceHealth Sacred Heart Medical Center, University District; PeaceHealth Cottage Grove Community Medical Center; and PeaceHealth Peace Harbor Medical Center.

PeaceHealth Medical Group clinics will continue to limit visitors to only those accompanying patients needing assistance.

The change in hospital visitation aims to balance safety with patient, caregiver and visitor well-being and satisfaction. PeaceHealth will continue to diligently monitor the local prevalence of COVID-19 and will tighten these rules again if necessary, as the health and safety of our caregivers, patients and community remains our top priority.

While most patients will be allowed only one designated visitor per day, two may be allowed for patients at end-of-life as well as minors, including infants in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. Patients with disabilities may be allowed up to three support persons.

Most hospitalized patients with confirmed COVID-19 are not allowed visitors. Minors, Labor & Delivery and end-of-life pa-

tients may have one visitor. Any exceptions to the policy will be made at the discretion of PeaceHealth clinical care leadership.

Also effective now, PeaceHealth will no longer actively take the temperature of caregivers and visitors upon entry to any PeaceHealth Oregon facility, in alignment with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention infection prevention recommendations.

However, anyone entering a PeaceHealth facility will still be asked to confirm that they do not have a fever or other common symptoms of COVID-19. There will still be thermometers available at screening stations for those who request a check.

Visitors must wear a mask at all times and will be asked to limit their movement throughout the hos-

pitals. They will be issued a dated bracelet identifying them as a visitor. While they can purchase food in the cafeterias, they must return to eat in the room of the patient they are visiting. All gift shops will remain closed to visitors. Visitors will be instructed to clean their hands frequently, avoid touching surfaces and practice physical distancing by remaining at least six feet away from caregivers and others whenever possible.

With the virus still circulating in our community, we encourage everyone to remain vigilant about mask wearing, social distancing and limiting gatherings.

Visit peacehealth.org/coronavirus for more information about safety measures at PeaceHealth, as well as other education and prevention resources related to COVID-19.

OCHS Thrift Shop has special sale today

The Oregon Coast Humane Society (OCHS) Thrift Shop, 1193 Bay St. in Historic Old Town Florence, is having a sale that will floor you.

Well, it’s more like it will floor them. With new flooring.

“We need to clear out as much inventory as we can since we’re getting new floor coverings, so everything in the store is 50 percent off on Saturday, March 13, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.,” said store manager Lynne Dixon.

People will find everything from new and gently used clothing, household goods, tools, furniture, appliances and more.

“We even have a wooden armadillo, for example, which shows just how unique are some of the finds in our store,” Dixon added.

All goods have been donated by the community and all proceeds from the shop help fund OCHS’ shelter at 2840 Rhododendron Dr., the thrift shop and OCHS’s many services

such as spay/neuter clinics, microchipping services, a pet food pantry and more.

After the sale, the shop will be closed through Friday, March 26, with a grand reopening on Saturday, March 27. The store will be unable to receive contributions of salable goods until after March 27.

In 2020, OCHS found new fur-ever homes for more than 600 dogs and cats, provided more than 400 spay/neuter surgeries, distributed nearly two tons of pet food to pets in need

and saved more than 1,000 animals. The humane society adopted out 308 cats and dogs, reunited 104 lost pets with their humans, held medical clinics that treated 233 pets, received 340 strays and 252 pets that were owner surrenders.

Its mission is funded by contributions from the community of pet food, bedding, toys, cat litter, bleach and cleaning supplies and cash.

For more information on OCHS, visit www.OregonCoastHumaneSociety.org.

EVALUATION from page 1A

Siuslaw School Board conducts the superintendent evaluation every year in February and March. The directors met in several executive sessions to discuss the evaluation and the process to gather data.

The directors created an evaluation summary, which is available to view in full at www.siuslaw.k12.or.us/school-board--169, and the

standards and goals they surveyed. “Regarding the eight professional standards, we determined that Superintendent Grzeskowiak is accomplished in performing in the areas of effective financial management as well as policy governance and advocacy,” the document stated. “The board found the superintendent effective in the standards of visionary district leadership, ethics and professional norms, inclusive district culture, culturally responsive instructional leadership and improvement, communication and community relations, and effective organizational management.”

Grzeskowiak was also considered “effective” in his efforts towards his goals.

During the meeting, the motion to approve Resolution 031021-6.5 was made by Director Dennis King, seconded by Director Paul Burns and was passed unanimously by those in attendance.

Director John Barnett was absent, and Director Diana Pimlott arrived in time for the vote.

“Mr. Grzeskowiak, thank you very much,” Sneddon said once the motion was passed.

The consent agenda from the meeting included past meeting minutes and the second reading of policies concerning school counseling, graduation exercise and charter schools.

Action items included the 2021-22 school year calendar and policies on interdistrict student transfers.

All of these were passed unanimously by the board.

In addition, Sneddon read a proclamation about April as Child Abuse Prevention Month.

The proclamation was submitted by 90by30, a nonprofit working to reduce child abuse in Lane County 90 percent by 2030.

“The public cares deeply about child abuse and a majority report that child abuse is a very important moral issue to them,” Sneddon stated. “I call upon all citizens, community agencies, faith groups, medical facilities and businesses to increase their participation in our efforts to support families, thereby preventing child abuse and strengthening the communities in which we live.”

People can learn more by going to 90by30.com.

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BOTH MEETINGS ARE CURRENTLY ON HOLD. WATCH SIUSLAW NEWS FOR RESUMPTION

- Tuesday Evening Group (2nd Tuesday) 5-7 p.m. - Ichiban Chinese/Japanese Restaurant
- Urologist Dr. Bryan Melihuff attends.
- Tuesday Lunch Group (3rd Tuesday) 12 noon - 1:00 p.m. - Ichiban Chinese/Japanese Restaurant
- Urologist Dr. Roger McKimmy attends.

Contact Bob for more information: (H) 541-997-6626 • (C) 541-999-4239 maribob@oregonfast.net