

Opal Center Student Art Contest winners announced

Art

from A1

3rd — Russell Johnson

Ages 13-15

1st — Layla Hamilton

2nd — Avery Long

2nd — June Smith

3rd — Loriana Yanez Welch

3rd — Iylah Molyneaux

3rd — Ellah Cardwell

Ages 9-12

1st — Sadie Cardwell

2nd — Julian Lyon

3rd — Taylor Klarr

3rd — Owen Joslin

Ages 5-8

1st — Titus Ervin

2nd — Olem Joslin

3rd — Piper Ervin

3rd — Parker Hayes

Judges selected winners from the following age-based categories, which included several ties:

Ages 16-18

1st — Matthias Donner

2nd — Evie Smith

Moderate from A1

- Outdoor recreation and fitness: outdoor full-contact sports can resume
- Retail stores: up to 70 percent capacity, though curbside pick-up is still recommended

Lane County Economic Development Management Analyst Jenna Cusimano sent out the updated guidelines Tuesday morning to area businesses and entrepreneurs. “While the downward trend in cases and the rollout of vaccines in Oregon are encouraging signs, it will take time to reach the level of community immunity we need to fully return to normal life,” she said. “Until vaccines are widely available with high participation rates, the surest way to move towards re-opening our businesses is to continue practicing health and safety measures. Thank you to each of you who have worked so diligently to keep your staff and customers safe and healthy.”

Additionally, the governor introduced a new caution period for coun-

ties shifting back to higher risk levels. Beginning this week and continuing until further notice, counties that reduced their COVID-19 spread enough to move down in risk level in the previous two-week period, but see their numbers go back up in the next two-week period, will be given a two-week caution period to bring COVID-19 case rates back down again. In this cycle, this includes Jackson and Malheur counties. The caution period will allow counties to re-focus efforts to drive back down creeping case numbers, and give local businesses additional certainty on their plans for operating. If, at the end of the caution period, case rate data still puts the county at a higher risk level, the county will move to that

level. “We still have more work to do before we reach the level of community-wide protection we need in order to return to a sense of normalcy,” Brown cautioned. “I encourage all Oregonians to keep it up and to get your vaccine when it’s available to you.” The Oregon Health Authority examines and publishes county data weekly, with county risk levels reassigned every two weeks. The first week’s data will provide a “warning week” to prepare counties for potential risk level changes. The next assignment of risk levels will be announced March 23 and take effect March 26. Updates to Warning Week data and county risk levels will be posted to coronavirus.oregon.gov.

“While the downward trend in cases and the rollout of vaccines in Oregon are encouraging signs, it will take time to reach the level of community immunity we need to fully return to normal life.”

— Jenna Cusimano, LCEDM analyst

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Are you ready?

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

How to Prepare Your Home for Any Emergency

While no one wants to dwell on worst-case scenarios, the last year has in many ways illustrated that there are no certainties in life. Preparing your home to handle a wide range of emergency scenarios will offer you peace of mind now and keep your family safe in the future.

To get prepped, start with the essentials. With sufficient fuel, water, food and other necessities, you can ride out potential emergency scenarios. Here’s how to collect and store these items safely and securely:

Water

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends storing at least one gallon of water per person per day for 14 days so that in the event of an emergency that affects water supply, you’ll have enough for both drinking and sanitation.

When it comes to long-term storage though, standard plastic bottles are not ideal as they degrade over time, compromising water quality and safety. Instead, consider taking a cue from the military. Standard issue to U.S. and Canadian Armed Forces, Scepter Military Water Cans hold 5 gallons and are made from rugged, high-density polyethylene. BPA-free, they keep chemicals, odors and tastes out of your water; corrosion- and fungus-resistant, water also stays clean and safe. And because they are virtually indestructible and can withstand extreme weather conditions, they can pull double-duty and come with you on camping trips, sports expeditions and other adventures. Millions of these containers have been used around the world by U.S. Armed Forces and are now available to consumers, making them a must-have for any emergency supply kit.

Fuel

Homeowners should have a fresh supply of gasoline, diesel and kerosene so they can operate generators, chainsaws and other tools often needed during and after emergencies. Fuel containers should be stored in secure, dry locations away

from heat sources, pets and easy access to children. You should also be sure to select containers that exceed ASTM and CPSC minimum standards, such as the SmartControl fuel containers from Scepter, available in 1-, 2- and 5-gallon sizes. These high-density polyethylene containers feature an innovative spout design that helps save fuel when it’s needed most by eliminating messy spills. For high-capacity needs, the 14-gallon wheeled Scepter Duramax offers a safe and convenient refueling choice.

Food

The CDC recommends storing at least a three-day supply of food for emergency scenarios. Be sure these are items with a very long shelf life that don’t require refrigeration or cooking. They should also meet the dietary needs of all household members. Periodically check your supply to ensure expiration dates have not passed and refresh items as needed. To avoid spoilage and odors, store food in airtight containers away from petroleum products and heat. Of course, other important essentials should also be in your emergency kit, such as batteries, flashlights, first aid supplies and prescription medications. For a comprehensive emergency supply list, visit www.ready.gov. Don’t wait until there’s a problem to get your ducks in a row. By that time it’s often too late, with essentials gone from store shelves. Preparing your home today can offer you peace of mind now, and comfort and safety in an emergency. (StatePoint)



PUT TOGETHER A PLAN

Make sure all the pieces are in place to render you and your family prepared in the event of a natural disaster.

- Listen to radio or television newscasts for the latest weather information, and follow all evacuation directions and suggestions.
- Keep a stock of non-perishable food items as well as bottled water on hand inside your home.
- Keep a 72 Hour Kit on hand inside your home that is easy to get to in the event of a disaster.

For more information and tips on disaster response and preparedness, contact your local emergency services center.

South Lane Fire & Rescue • 233 Harrison Ave, Cottage Grove 541-942-4493 • 55 South 1st Street, Creswell 541-895-2506



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