

CMH names chief financial officer

Columbia Memorial Hospital has named Zach Schmitt as its new chief financial officer.

Schmitt joined the hospital's administrative team a year ago. In his new position, he'll work closely with Chief Executive Officer Erik Thorsen and a yet-to-be-named chief operations officer.

Schmitt and his family moved to the North Coast from Redbud, Ill. He grew up



Schmitt

in Louisville, Ky., and received his bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of Kentucky.

He spent six years working at a 365-bed hospital in the St. Louis area while earning a master's degree in business administration with a focus on finance from St. Louis University.

"We were fortunate enough to have an opportunity at CMH presented to us," Schmitt said. "CMH has al-

ready realized tremendous growth and financial sustainability over the past couple of years. I want to build onto those prior successes and help CMH continue to grow and expand while improving patient satisfaction and financial stability."

Prior to joining CMH, Schmitt was chief financial officer for a critical-access hospital. His background includes accounting, patient access, information technology, case management and environmental services.

State seeks fish folks for management council post

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife is accepting nominations for a seat on the Pacific Fishery Management Council.

The council manages 119 species of groundfish, pelagic species (sardines, anchovies and mackerel) and highly migratory species (tuna, shark and swordfish) off the coasts of Oregon, Washington and California.

It includes 14 voting members who represent tribal and state fish and wildlife agencies, as well as private citizens knowledgeable about sport fishing, commercial fishing or marine conservation.

The deadline to request nomination materials is Feb. 8 for a three-year term, which begins Aug. 11.

Council members often

make difficult decisions fulfilling standards set forth by the Magnuson-Stevens Act. Members also make a substantial time commitment to participate in council business and related activities.

To be considered, or to nominate someone, contact Cyreis Schmitt at 541-867-4741 or cyreis.c.schmitt@state.or.us.

Tax time: AARP can help get 'er done

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ration through its Tax-Aide program.

There are two Clatsop County locations, Astoria Senior Center at 1111 Exchange St., and Seaside Community Center at 1225 Avenue A.

The tax-assistance program is in its 50th year and is the nation's largest free tax assistance/preparation service.

Since its inception, the program has served more than 50 million taxpayers.

There's no fee, no age requirement and AARP membership is not required.

"Getting help through Tax Aide is not limited to older adults," AARP Oregon Communications Director Joyce De Monnin said. "We wel-

come older adults, families and even college students if they are low to moderate income."

Volunteers are trained and IRS-certified each year to ensure they know about and

understand the latest changes to the Tax Code.

For more information, including which documents to bring to the tax site, visit aarpfoundation.org/taxhelp or call 888-227-7669.

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Tony Larson, left, and Carla Oja, right, take over leadership duties from festival director Leila Collier, center.

Leadership changes for festival

Astoria Scandinavian Midsummer Festival Association announced a change in leadership.

Leila Collier, who has led the festival committee for three years, is stepping down. Two co-directors will take her place: Tony Larson and Carla Oja.

Larson, a professional mediator, is of Danish descent and a life member of the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Studies.

Oja is an instructional assistant and former manager of

Tapiola Pool. All four of her children have been active in festival dance groups, courts and flag ceremonies.

Other officers for the coming year are Treasurer Carole Lyngstad, Secretary Bonnie Fisher, Historian Sonja Madsen and Publicist Judi Lampi.

Scandi Fest was named an Oregon Heritage Tradition in 2017. The 51st festival will be in June at the Clatsop County Fairgrounds.

The festival has about 80 volunteers.

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