



Living like Lewis and Clark... but more comfortably

The Columbia Press

If it feels like nothing is open the week between Christmas and New Year, think again.

Fort Clatsop has scheduled a variety of activities that week about the Corps of Discovery and their stay here, including movies, guided walks, hands-on programs and demonstrations of jobs and other activities undertaken by members of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

“Visit these sites during the time of year the expedition stayed on the coast,” urged park ranger Sally Freeman.

Members of the party were pretty miserable during their stay here – it rained nearly every day during the winter of 1805-06.

Welcome to Oregon, right?

Visitors these days have a warm visitor center and other amenities at the fort.

Fort Clatsop’s “Holiday Happenings” begins Dec 26 and runs through Jan. 1.

See ‘Fort Clatsop’ on Page 6



Above: Ranger Susan Rhoads explains the action of a flintlock rifle to visitors.

Right: Volunteer Jim Wilson prepares visitors for a Netul River Walk.

Photos courtesy Fort Clatsop



Farm and garden store gets go-ahead from city planners

BY CINDY YINGST
The Columbia Press

A farm and garden store visible from Highway 101 received approval with conditions from the city’s Planning Department.

The project initially was rejected by the city’s Community Development director as having “fatal flaws” when developers seemed unwilling to make concessions to their plans.

But at two Planning Commission meetings this month, commissioners instructed both parties to work out their differences so the project could go through.

The proposed 19,000-square-foot Tractor Supply Co. store is slated for a portion of the large cleared piece of land behind Les Schwab Tire Center, at the corner of Highway 101 Business and Southeast King Street.

The Nygaard family, which has owned the property for years, has struggled to attract a major tenant willing to come to Warrenton, said Wes Giesbricht, a partner in the project. At one time they’d been negotiating with Walmart before Walmart chose a site in the North Coast Business Park.

See ‘Farm store’ on Page 6



Prepare ye the way for the upcoming king tides

Volunteer photographers are invited to participate in the first round of this winter’s King Tide Project, which documents the highest reach of the year’s highest tides.

The current focus is on the set of extreme high tides — known as “king tides” — arriving this weekend.

Two additional series of high tides take place Jan. 19-21, and Feb. 18-20.

It’s the ninth year Oregon has participated in the international citizen-science effort. The project began in Australia. King tides arrive when the sun, moon and earth are in alignment, causing a stronger-than-usual

gravitational pull.

The project in Oregon is most concerned with how sea level rise affects Oregon’s coastline. Local sponsors are the CoastWatch Program of the Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition, the Oregon Coastal Management Program of the Department of Land Conservation and Development.

While the King Tide Project can help identify areas threatened by flooding, the more important purpose is to gain a preview of sea level rise.

The king tides, while extreme today, are expected to become the “new normal” as the sea level continues to

rise and storm surges increase due to global warming, scientists say.

Gaining a glimpse of tidal inundation likely to become common decades into the future will benefit planners, resource agencies, conservationists, and coastal citizens in preparing for these changes.

Speakers at a Dec. 14 preview event included Sally Hacker, a professor in Oregon State University’s Department of Integrative Biology, and Steve Dundas, and OSU economist studying the economic implications of shoreline management and protection.

See ‘King tides’ on Page 7