

### Saying thanks during tough times

**BY CINDY YINGST**  
*The Columbia Press*

So many to thank and not enough ways to say it. Last week was National Law Enforcement/Police Appreciation week.

This week highlights Emergency Medical Services.

Next week begins with Memorial Day, an opportunity to reflect on those who gave the ultimate sacrifice so we could be free.

We often remember those in the military when we think of people who regularly put their lives in harm's way. But peace officers, firefighters and those working on road crews have dangerous jobs as well.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, health care workers tending to sick people in hospitals and

convalescent centers deserve huge doses of appreciation and we should remember to thank anyone working with the public in grocery stores, for delivery companies, retail outlets, and post offices. Our heart aches for those who have lost jobs or income.

In Clatsop County, several peace officers have died in the line of duty: Sheriff Jack W. Williams and Deputy James Lamers were shot and killed Dec. 30, 1898; Oregon Police Sgt. James Shepherd was shot by an assailant in May 1980 while on patrol; Warrenton Reserve Officer Robert "Bernie" McMaster died in a traffic accident in March 1996 while responding to an alarm call; and Seaside Police Sgt. Jason Goodding was shot by an assailant in February 2016.

Fallen firefighters include Gearhart volunteer firefighter Robert Chisholm, who lost his life in 1997 while trying to

rescue a swimmer in the ocean.

In the past decade, an average of 1,750 police officers

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Calandra Hollaway

Warrenton Police officers Aaron Berndt (left), Madyson Hanna, and Al Fontana smile while reading a thank you card and getting cookies from a grateful resident.

### Toyooka, Bangs win seats on county board

**BY CINDY YINGST**  
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Clatsop County Commission will have two new board members in January after newcomers John Toyooka and Courtney Bangs beat incumbents Sarah Nebeker and Kathleen Sullivan.

A five-year tax levy for the Clatsop County Fairgrounds also was approved.

Toyooka, 59, manager of Lum's Auto Center, took 60 percent of the vote from Nebeker in the District 2 race.

What resonated with voters?

"Hopefully it was the message that I wanted to unify, to take partisan politics out of the mix and work toward the benefit of everyone," Toyooka said. "That's the goal: to make us all one county."

He called Nebeker "a wonderful person" and thanked her for her eight years of service on the commission.

Nebeker, who has been on the commission since 2012 and was last year's chair, serves on the Clatsop County Arts Council, the Columbia River Estuary Task Force and the Human Services Advisory Council.

Bangs, 41, who helps run her family's tree farm in Knappa, received 63 percent of the vote against Kathleen Sullivan for the District 4 seat.

"What I feel like has been a trend in political forums across the state is that voters want to be heard," Bangs said. "This last year, ... so many decisions were being made that we really didn't want to be made."

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Bangs



Toyooka

### State, county slowly come alive after pandemic closure

*The Columbia Press and news services*

Restaurants, bars and some personal services are back in business after the governor approved Clatsop County's plan for a phased-in approach to reopening.

Gyms, retail stores, barber shops, salons, spas and tattoo parlors are allowed to partially reopen. Local restaurants and bars may offer sit-down dining. And gatherings of up to 25 people are now allowed.

All reopened business are required to follow state guidelines on numbers of customers, physical distancing, cleaning and other measures to help

prevent the spread of COVID-19.

The guidelines can be found on the county's website and include requiring all businesses to provide masks to employees and ensuring that they're worn. Public transit operators must require all riders to wear face coverings.

Under the state's strategy, Clatsop and other counties will be eligible for further opening of business, gatherings and public spaces June 5, as long as the counties continue to meet the mandated health goals.

The reopening action doesn't negate orders approved by Clatsop County and local cities restricting hotels and

vacation rentals. Most local orders maintain these restrictions at least through the end of May.

#### ACTIVE CASES

Clatsop County has had a total of 42 coronavirus cases since March 23. Nearly half -- 19 -- have recovered and none has been hospitalized.

Three new cases were reported Tuesday. All are women living in north county, one in her 20s, one in her 30s, and one in her 50s. A new case reported Wednesday involved a north county man in his 50s.

Last weekend, a north county man in his 30s was reported with the illness. *See 'Pandemic' on Page 4*