



Keeping it clean during a pandemic

SOLVE has had to get creative in its mission

BY CINDY YINGST
The Columbia Press

A group that has organized mass beach cleanups for years has found keeping the coastline clean a bit challenging with social distancing requirements.

“Although we had to cancel the Spring Oregon Beach Cleanup in March, we have replaced this massive one-day effort with a summer beach cleanup series,” said Jon Schmidt, coordinator of SOLVE’s beach cleanup programs.

SOLVE, formerly SOLV or Sustaining Oregon’s Legacy by Volunteering, was founded in 1969 as a way to improve the environment, bring residents together, and foster generations of good stewardship. The “e” was added when the group added education to its repertoire.

New programs, or those that will

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Left: Members of the Flores family, who have volunteered with SOLVE for six years.

Below left: A group from St. Mary Star of the Sea poses at the Peter Iredale shipwreck.

Below: Volunteers spread out to clean the beach near the shipwreck.

Courtesy SOLVE



Skipanon Water Control District a step closer to disbanding

BY CINDY YINGST
The Columbia Press

A board that worked diligently for decades providing flood control along the Skipanon River has all but disbanded. And now the Clatsop County Commission must decide how to dissolve the agency and its assets.

“It has come to more urgency recently as the Skipanon board no longer has a quorum,” County Manager Don Bohn said Wednesday.

Skipanon Water Control District was unable to find anyone to run for a seat on the board during its last election two years ago. That left the board one member short.

Eighteen months ago, another board member resigned. Then another resigned six months ago.

On June 23, the three remaining Skipanon district board members voted unanimously to dissolve and filed a six-step dissolution plan with the county.

The next step would have been for the board to call for a vote of property owners within the district, but longtime Chair Tessa Scheller resigned June 29.

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Eighth Street Dam, looking north.

County’s virus cases on steady incline; new mask rules

The Columbia Press

Da Yang Seafoods, which has two processing plants in Clatsop County, reported a positive COVID-19 case last weekend and is working with the county to ensure any potential outbreak is contained.

“The cooperation of Da Yang has allowed the county to respond quickly to the case,” county officials wrote in a press release.

The man, who is in his 30s and a north county resident, was identified as a potential positive case through daily health screenings at the com-

pany. On Sunday, the company alerted Public Health officials, which arranged to have the man tested at the county’s drive-through program the following day. His results came back positive on Tuesday. He is recovering at home.

All 160 employees at the company’s two Astoria facilities were to be tested Thursday with results expected today or Saturday.

Da Yang closed the plants for deep cleaning on Wednesday and it will remain closed until test results are received from the rest of the workforce.

In the past week, Clatsop County has recorded 13 coronavirus cases for a total of 68 cases as of Wednesday. Fifty-five of them have recovered and the rest are recuperating at home.

On July 16, three cases were reported. They are a male in his 20s who lives in north county and who had been hospitalized for an unrelated condition; a male in his 60s from north county; and an adolescent boy who lives in south county.

On July 17, six cases were reported, all in south county. Three of them

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