

Time to part with pennies and dimes

Pardon me, mister. Can you spare some change?

Oregon Bankers Association encourages people to empty their piggy banks to help small businesses facing coin shortages resulting from the pandemic.

When retail establishments closed due to COVID-19 restrictions, the rate of coin recirculation slowed. Consumers migrated to online shopping and used debit and credit cards to avoid physical contact.

Coins that would have been returned in change were no

longer being circulated. Recirculated coin represents 80 percent of the total supply. The rest is met by new coin production.

As businesses have reopened, demand for coins has increased, but a large portion remains with consumers.

The slow pace of recirculation means a sufficient amount of coins aren't readily available.

Residents can help by depositing spare change at local banks or coin-cashing machines, and by using exact change when making purchases.

Public safety calls

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• Provide mutual aid for structure fire, 1:44 p.m. July 21, 1200 block 15th Street, Astoria.

• Water rescue, 2:08 p.m. July 21, foot of Sixth Street, Astoria.

MEDICAL CALLS

• Female who can't stop coughing, 11:14 a.m. July 15, Sunset Beach approach.

• Male not feeling well, 12:50 p.m. July 16, 100 block Southeast Anchor Avenue.

• Unknown medical problem, 5:36 p.m. July 16, 0-100 block Northwest Cedar Avenue.

• Male with high fever, 12:45 p.m. July 17, Fort Stevens Campground.

• Male with knee injury, 5:24 p.m. July 17, 350 yards north of Peter Iredale shipwreck.

• Female with diabetic issue, 5:31 p.m. July 18, 500 block Northwest Date Avenue.

• Help Medix with extraction, 6:11 p.m. July 18, 200 block Southwest Second Street.

• Elderly male who's shaking and sweaty, 9:24 p.m. July 18, 33100 block Columbia Beach Lane.

• Lift assist, 5:23 p.m. July 19, 700 block Northwest Warrenton Drive.

• Female with high blood-sugar, 9:28 a.m. July 20, 500 block Northwest Date Avenue.

• Unknown medical problem, 2:52 p.m. July 20, 300 block Alternate Highway 101.

• Male with diabetic problem, 12:18 a.m. July 21, 300 block Jade Place.

• Unconscious female, 9:33 p.m. July 21, Costco.

Red Cross needs Clatsop County volunteers

The Pacific Northwest could be in for a busy wildfire season, experts say, which has prompted the American Red Cross to seek volunteers to help in local communities.

"The coronavirus pandemic will make it challenging to deploy trained disaster volunteers from other parts of the country, should a large emergency occur in Oregon or Southwest Washington,"

said Rebecca Marshall, regional disaster officer for the Cascades Region, which includes Clatsop County.

"In light of this, the Red Cross is asking you to be ready to help your community," she said. "Train now to be a Red Cross volunteer and answer the call to help if the need arises."

Several types of help are needed, including shelter

Planning a 'head' makes boating more bearable

If nature calls while on the water, it helps to plan a "head," the Oregon Marine Board says.

Some recreational boating facilities have reduced or closed available services in light of the pandemic.

If access to shoreside restrooms is limited and your boat does not have an installed head, have a backup plan such as a portable toilet or bucket with a fitted lid, gloves, toilet paper, hand sanitizer and garbage bags.

Warrenton Marina has a dump station just north of the marina office in the inner basin. Astoria has two: one on the fuel float at West Mooring Basin and a second at the Hanthorn Cannery/Pier 39 dock.

Other marinas may install them near holding tank pump-out stations on the guest or fuel dock. For disposal, turn the dump station on, lift the lid, and pour contents into the basin. A hose with nonpotable water is available to help with rinsing the portable toilet or bucket. Look to the visual instructions posted on the side of the dump station, if needed.

To prevent clogs and keep



Courtesy Oregon Marine Board
A boater uses a marina dump station after a day on the water.

the system working, don't add any garbage such as wet wipes, paper towels, food packaging or fish waste. Garbage should be placed in a trash bin.

Those planning a boat trip may want to check out the marine board's pump-out

and dump station page, which provides a map and links showing locations for all floating restrooms, portable toilet dump stations or holding tanks. Go to oregon.gov/osmb and look under the "boat launches and docks" category.

Another tool is a free application called "Pumpout NAV," which highlights the location closest to you. It's available for both Apple and Android devices.

Boaters have free access to a majority of the 80 waste-disposal locations in Oregon, although a few may

charge a small fee. Many marinas and boating facilities have made use of grants available through a partnership with Clean Vessel Act, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Sport Fish Restoration Fund, and Oregon State Marine Board.

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