

ODOT seeks help with Highway 101

Oregon Department of Transportation seeks public comment on its plan for Highway 101 improvements through Gearhart.

Improvements are essential, the agency says, because Highway 101 is an important route for freight and other commerce, for residents and visitors to Gearhart and the coast.

The stretch through Gearhart has safety issues, particularly for those walking, biking, and crossing the highway.

Possible improvements include changing the number of traffic lanes, adding sidewalks and bike lanes, putting in more crossings or improving existing crossings, improving bus stops, improving lighting and landscaping and fixing flood issues.

A study of recent crashes on Highway 101 through Gearhart found that 72 percent involved rear-end collisions or turning crashes, according to ODOT.

PROBLEM SPOTS

- Highway 101 at Dooley Lane. Community members have flagged the intersection that includes Bud's RV as difficult or dangerous to cross.
 - Highway 101 at Cottonwood Lane. With residences on the east and the Great Wall Restaurant and U-Haul rental on the west, the intersection was flagged.
 - Highway 101 at Gearhart Loop Road. Because of heavy traffic, it's hard for drivers to turn in and out of businesses.
 - Highway 101 north of Fifth Street. Flood zones run along both sides of the highway.
 - Highway 101 near Pacific Way. There are many difficult pedestrian crossings.
- To look at the plan or provide input, search the internet for "US 101 Gearhart Facility Plan Online Open House."

WHS cross country headed to state championships

BY BRUCE DUSTIN
For The Columbia Press

Warrenton's Cross Country team came in second at the 3A/2A/1A district championships on Tuesday.

The competition was hosted by Southwest Christian School and held at Wildcat Trail in South Beaverton.

"We are trying to make history today as the first Warrenton team to qualify for state cross country," Coach Josh Fry said before the meet. By the end of the day, they'd achieved their goal.

Forrest Cooley, the boys' captain, came in third overall; Zander Moha, sixth, Indy Freyer, eighth, Abby Miller, the women's captain, 11th; Doc Freyr, 12th; Eric Cooley, 17th; Nate Streibeck, 21st; and Julian Whitsett, 22nd.

The team had won four out



Danika Cooley

The team, left to right: Abby Miller, Erik Cooley, Zander Moha, Indy Freyer, Doc Freyer, Nate Streibeck, Asher Molloy, Masyn McCulloch, Forrest Cooley, Lucas Thompson, Julien Whitsett, Coach Brenton Salisbury, Coach Joshua Fry.

of five previous matches, finishing first overall in their league. Abby Miller finished second overall for the girls.

"Our motto, 'The harder we

work the luckier we get,' has worked well for us this season," Fry said.

They're now preparing for state championships April 10.

But first, they'll be at the Rainier Invitational on Thursday, April 1, and the Seaside Ridge Relays on Saturday, April 3.

More people become eligible for coronavirus vaccines

The Columbia Press

Twenty Oregon counties were granted the authority to begin offering the COVID-19 vaccine to expanded eligibility groups, the state announced Wednesday. Clatsop was not among them.

The counties declared they have plenty of vaccine and the pool of takers is drying up.

Those counties are Benton, Coos, Crook, Deschutes, Douglas Grant, Harney, Jefferson, Josephine, Klamath, Lake, Lane, Lincoln, Malheur, Marion, Morrow, Sherman, Umatilla, Union and Wheeler.

Eligibility in those counties is now open to frontline workers such as those in grocery stores, people living in multi-generational households and people age 16 to 44 with one or more health conditions that pose an increased risk.

More than 1.8 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered through-

out Oregon.

In Clatsop County, 14,075 people had received one or more doses as of March 26; the county releases its vaccine statistics on Fridays.

Those eligible for the shot in Clatsop include people 45 to 64 with underlying health conditions, seniors 65 and older, educators and child-care providers, plus all those previously eligible such as healthcare workers and first responders.

During the past seven days, Clatsop County has had eight new cases for a total of 838 since the pandemic began. Seven have died and the rest have recovered or are recovering at home.

By ZIP code, there had been 185 cases in Warrenton, 44 in Hammond, 234 in Seaside/Gearhart, and 321 in 97103, which includes Astoria and much of the unincorporated parts of the county.

LINCOLN COUNTY SCARE

On Saturday, one of the adults in custody at the Lincoln County Jail began to have symptoms of COVID-19.

He and everyone else in his housing unit were tested using a rapid test and five tests came back positive.

All of those inmates were moved quickly into a housing unit that had been left vacant in case the need to quarantine arose.

The inmates who tested positive were given a second, more accurate test and all staff members were tested.

BEND COFFEE SHOP FINED

Kevista Coffee in Bend was fined \$27,470 by Oregon Occupational Safety and Health for violating three rules designed to protect employees from coronavirus.

The company willfully continued to expose workers to the virus, despite a public health order limiting the ca-

capacity of indoor dining to zero in an "extreme risk" county.

OSHA launched the investigation in response to multiple complaints about Kevista. An inspection found the company willfully began allowing indoor dining beginning Dec. 3.

Owners Krista and Kevin Lauinger said they chose to re-open the coffee shop even though they were aware it was against workplace health requirements.

The fine is three times the minimum penalty for such a violation. OSHA Administrator Michael Wood said his decision reflects the need to ensure a more appropriate deterrent effect where employers insist on disregarding health and safety standards.

Such willful behavior puts employees at risk and enables the employer to achieve a competitive advantage over businesses that comply with the requirements.