

Briefs

Wildlife center hosts open house

Wildlife Center of the North Coast will have its annual spring open house and native plant sale from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 8.

The public is invited to tour the center's hospital and grounds. And there will be crafts for kids. Proceeds from the sale of plants and other merchandise go toward the rescue, rehabilitation and release of local native wildlife.

The center is a 89686 Highway 202 in Astoria.

Master Gardeners offer plant sale

Clatsop County Master Gardener Association is holding its spring plant sale online through May 20.

A virtual plant store is available on their website, clatsopmastergardeners.org, where shoppers will find a variety of tomato, herb and other vegetables that can be purchased online. All plants are organic and have been selected by the Master Gardeners for their suitability to the Pacific Northwest coast.

Purchases will be available for pickup from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, May 22, at Fernhill Holly Farms, 92668 Fern Hill Road. The group will provide curbside delivery. A map with driving instructions to Fernhill Holly Farms is on the website.

Scavenger hunt, ballet featured during May Arts Walk

A free scavenger hunt and ballet performance will be featured during the Second Saturday Art Walk in downtown Astoria.

Each year, the Liberty Theatre welcomes 2,100 school children to see a fully staged ballet production performed

COVID: Variant is dominant

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ants of concern, those that have mutations in the virus genome that alter the characteristics and cause the virus to act differently.

A variant of concern may cause more severe disease, spread more easily between humans, require different treatment and change the effectiveness of vaccines.

The B.1.1.7 variant is 50 percent more transmissible and may cause more severe disease. At this point, it appears that COVID-19 vaccines are effective against the variant.

Clatsop County will remain a high-risk county, as are all Oregon counties, until at least May 13, the state announced.

As of Wednesday, the county has had 955 cases with 24 hospitalizations and eight deaths since the pandemic began. During the previous seven days, there had been 16 cases.

TEEN VACCINES

Clatsop County has received a supply of the Pfizer vaccine and is offering vaccines to teenagers 16 and 17 years old.

The Pfizer vaccine is the only one approved for people younger than 18. Until this month, the county had received primarily the Moderna vaccine.

The first Pfizer clinics are scheduled for May 15 in Astoria and May 22 in Seaside.

Teenagers wanting to re-

serve a spot should take the vaccine survey on the county's website, co.clatsop.or.us.

More than 27,000 doses have been given in Clatsop County, and 10,000 people are fully vaccinated.

The county's goal is to vaccinate 70 percent of the population, or about 27,500 people, to reach "herd immunity" and provide widespread protection against COVID-19 for the community.

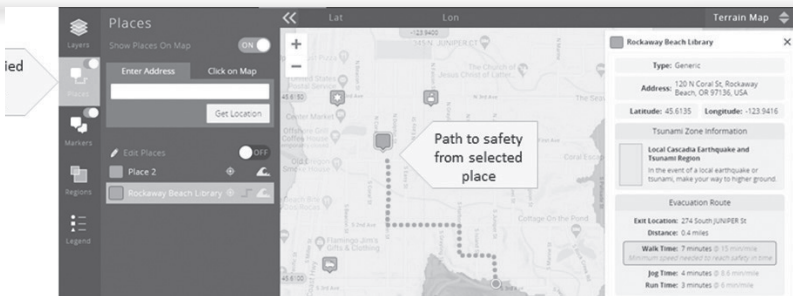
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

Oregon will be allocated more than \$90 million in federal assistance from the American Rescue Plan for homeowners struggling to pay their mortgage, home insurance and utility payments because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"No one should have to fear losing their home due to circumstances beyond their control, like a global pandemic," U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden said.

"The economic fallout of this public health crisis has underlined just how close many Oregonians are to losing the roof over their heads to defaults and foreclosures," he added.

Both of Oregon's senators voted for the American Rescue Plan Act, which among its provisions provides up to \$9.96 billion in relief nationwide for homeowners through the Homeowner Assistance Fund.



Computer app shows safest routes no matter where you are

A new computer application provides a custom map showing the quickest escape route during an impending tsunami.

The NANOOS app, which stands for Northwest Association of Networked Ocean Observing Systems, was a joint effort of the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries and the University of Oregon.

"Knowing the specific path you need to take to reach high ground quickly will help coastal residents and visitors plan well in advance, before an earthquake and tsunami occur," said Jon Allan, a state coastal geomorphologist.

"You can practice your route, whether from your home, school, or work. Every minute counts after a local earthquake."

The Japan earthquake, which occurred a decade ago, killed more than 15,000 people. The greatest risk to U.S. coastal residents is from a magnitude 8 or 9 or greater earthquake on the Cascadia Subduction Zone, which is just offshore.

Users who create free NANOOS accounts can save markers and paths for later reference.

Paths to safety for all Oregon coastal communities are being developed and will be added when available.

To learn more, go to nvs.nanoos.org/tsunami.

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