

Learning the fine art of fire-starting

Lewis and Clark National Historical Park Ranger Izzy Sanchez will lead a Klahowya Youth Volunteer program on fire-starting and candle-making from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday, March 21, at the Fort Clatsop Visitor Center.

Sanchez has been leading programs at the park since 2018.

The session is one of five living history workshops this spring, with participants agreeing to demonstrate their new skills later during public sessions at the park.

For each session, those who participate will sign up as a volunteer and must commit four hours of volunteer work in the spring or summer. Participants, under the mentorship of park staff, will be able to use the volunteer time for



Courtesy Fort Clatsop

Park Ranger Izzy Sanchez leads a demonstration on fire-starting.

resume building, community service hours, or high school senior project commitments.

For more information, contact Sanchez at 503-861-4416 or lewi_education@nps.gov.

Rules: Schools develop new protocols for COVID

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tracing and quarantining will also be paused,” Superintendent Tom Rogozinski wrote in a letter to parents.

“This decision is consistent with recently updated guidance from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, is supported by the Clatsop County Public Health Department, and, as per the survey results ... reflects the significant support our shareholders have voiced for making masks in our schools optional.”

New protocols that begin Monday:

- Schools will continue to screen students each day for COVID symptoms. “It will continue to be important for individuals with COVID symptoms to stay out of school until they are symptom-free and fever-free for 24 hours,” according to the new protocols.

- Administrators and staff will continue to sustain and

encourage physical distancing.

- Everyone must practice sound hygiene through frequent hand-washing and covering sneezes and coughs.

- Schools will continue to notify parents of COVID cases at school if their child may have been exposed.

- Students and staff members who contract COVID will be required to stay home and isolate themselves for five days and be symptom-free and fever-free for 24 hours before returning.

- In the case of a COVID outbreak in a classroom, a grade, or a program, the district reserves the right to temporarily require masks or to temporarily institute a quarantine for those impacted.

“While most in our community will embrace these changes ... ,” Rogozinski wrote, “many will be disappointed or even frustrated

by them.”

He urged those who are concerned to contact him or their child’s principal.

“We will do all we can to support you and your child through this transition,” he wrote.

The district’s motto will be “Mask-Optional and Mask-Friendly” in support of those who choose to wear a mask some or all of the time.

“The issues of masks and COVID protocols in schools are issues on which there is passionate and often divisive disagreement,” Rogozinski told parents.

“I am very appreciative and proud of the fact that those passionate disagreements have not once in the two years of this pandemic caused a substantial distraction from our district’s focus on serving kids. I thank our students, our parents, and our staff for that.”

Seeking seniors with green thumbs

The Clatsop County Master Gardener Association seeks applicants for its annual scholarship program for graduating seniors who are residents of Clatsop County.

All graduating seniors, including those who attend private school or are home-schooled, are welcome to apply if they plan to attend college, vocational school, or a training program designed to help them develop skills that contribute to the advancement of sound gardening practices while leading to an advanced degree, license, or certification.

This year’s scholarship fund totals \$2,000, which can be granted in its entirety to one student or distributed among several



students.

Awards are made based on a student’s academic standing and interest in horticulture or a related field.

Applicants must submit a completed application and essay, along with high school transcripts and two letters of recommendation by April 29.

Applications can be found at clatsopmastergardeners.org/CCMGA-Scholarship or requested by phone from the Oregon State University Extension Office 503-325-8573.

Catch up on preventative care.

Early on in the pandemic, many people put off in-person doctor visits. It’s time to catch up on any preventative health services you missed. These can include:

- Mammograms and pap smears
- Screenings for diseases and cancer
- Childhood vaccines and annual visits
- Flu and pneumonia shots
- Routine checkups to get advice on diet, exercise and safety

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