

Fire department to get new defibrillators

Warrenton Fire Department will swap one as-yet unpurchased new vehicle this year for two new difibrillators.

City financing is all about meeting the most urgent needs and that's the case with the fire department equipment.

Support for two of Warrenton's oldest heart monitors was discontinued last year by the manufacturer. One of the two already had stopped working and a second is past its life expectancy.

"The monitors are an important piece of equipment for cardiac emergencies," Fire Chief Brian Alsbury told city commissioners at a recent meeting. "At this time, we are using an AED (automated external defibrillator) in its place, but it



Rick Newton
Fire Chief Brian Alsbury stands with an all-terrain vehicle the city received this year through a grant.

doesn't allow us to do interventions that could improve the patient's outcome."

Funds to replace the aging equipment are in next year's budget. Funds for a fire utility vehicle are in this year's

budget.

So the chief asked city leaders to swap out the estimated \$62,000 vehicle purchase for the \$66,500 defibrillators. The vehicle purchase can wait another year, he said, especially since the pandemic has made buying heavy vehicles difficult and expensive.

As the chief searched for replacements earlier this year for the broken Zoll M Series monitor, he learned the Stryker company is offering a \$2,500 credit for every Zoll returned, working or broken.

To take full advantage of the credit, he recommended the department replace both monitors now rather than later.

City commissioners agreed to the plan.

If it's spring, it must be whale-watching time

Spring whale migration began last month, and the best whale-watching sites are open, the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department reports.

The agency's Spring Whale Week, which has volunteers

who help the public spot migrating whales, was canceled for 2022 due to concerns about the pandemic.

While the Whale Watch Center in Depoe Bay remains closed, the agency brought back the popular whale-

watching livestream on the Oregon State Parks YouTube channel.

Designated whale watching sites offer the best chances of spotting whales because of their locations, usually slightly elevated above the ocean and in areas where whales are more easily seen.

Local watch sites include the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center in Ilwaco, Wash., South Jetty in Warrenton, Ecola State Park in Cannon Beach, and the Neahkahnie Mountain turnout on Highway 101 between Arch Cape and Manzanita.

Some 25,000 gray whales will pass by Oregon's shores from late March to June on their way to cool Alaskan waters. Many will be accompanied by their calves, born during the winter in the warm lagoons off the coast of Baja, Mexico.



Oregon State Parks

A man searches for whales at the Cape Meares State Scenic Area near Tillamook.

Transit agency names top worker

Stephanie Rodriguez was named Sunset Empire Transportation District's 2021 Employee of the Year recently.



Rodriguez

Rodriguez has been with the district since 2016, when she began working in Ride Care, the district's nonemergency medical transportation brokerage service.

When Ride Care was discontinued, Tillamook County Transportation took over the brokerage service and hired Rodriguez. She

worked in Tillamook for several months, but in 2018 returned to Sunset Empire Transportation as a support specialist.

She provides customer service for riders at the Astoria Transit Center, provides paratransit scheduling and dispatch and assists drivers and staff members.

"Her enthusiastic work ethic along with her great humor is very appreciated and enjoyed by staff and riders," the district wrote in announcing her award.



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