

Tsunami modeling reports released

The Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries has released two new tsunami evacuation modeling reports covering Astoria, Warrenton, Cannon Beach, Arch Cape and Falcon Cove.

The reports are part of the Beat the Wave series of publications and complete the evacuation modeling for Clatsop County.

Beat the Wave reports provide information about tsunami wave arrival times, evacuation routes, and minimum evacuation speeds that pedestrians must use to reach safety in the event of a Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake.

Beat the Wave reports and maps for coastal communities can be found at oregongeology.org/tsuclearinghouse/beatthewave.htm.

A tsunami caused by an earthquake along the Cascadia Subduction Zone could impact coastal communities



in as little as 10 to 20 minutes, so moving to higher ground quickly is essential.

This month marks the 11th anniversary of the 2011 Tōhoku earthquake and tsunami in Japan, and is a reminder of the need for tsunami awareness at the Oregon Coast.

“Knowing about and practicing evacuation for locations in the tsunami zone where you live, work or play are critical for keeping you and your loved ones safe in a Cascadia event,” said Laura

Gabel, a coastal geologist. “These reports and ‘Beat the Wave’ evacuation brochures are of great importance for assisting emergency managers, community leaders and the public prepare for Cascadia.”

In towns like Warrenton and Cannon Beach, many homes, businesses, and tourist attractions are in tsunami inundation zones, making it important for community members and visitors to familiarize themselves with evacuation routes.

Longview bus barn burns in Tuesday fire

Longview School District’s bus maintenance shop was damaged Tuesday by a fire that sent up a plume of smoke visible across the city.

It initially appeared to callers that the fire was working its way through some of the district’s buses and employee vehicles as well.

District employees called for help at 10:20 a.m. Tuesday. Crews from Longview Fire Department and Cowlitz County Fire & Rescue were

able to extinguish the blaze at the 38th Avenue bus garage within 10 minutes.

While the fire threatened buses and nearby employee vehicles, no buses were burned and only one personal vehicle that had been parked adjacent to the maintenance garage was damaged.

Firefighters coordinated with school district employees to move parked buses to safety and they were operational for the afternoon

employed for less than six months, which was near the lowest number in two decades.

Meanwhile, 24,000 Oregonians had been unemployed for more than six months, as the number of long-term unemployed decreased rapidly since hitting a recent peak of 65,000 in April 2021.

In February, gains were largest in leisure and hospitality, construction, health care and social assistance, and professional and business services.

Unemployment rate falls again

Oregon’s unemployment rate dropped to 4.0 percent in February, a decrease from 4.2 percent in January.

Oregon’s unemployment rate has dropped rapidly from its peak in April 2020 through late 2021, and is now at its lowest level since prior to the pandemic-induced recession in March 2020 when it was 3.5 percent. The U.S. unemployment rate was 3.8 percent in February and 4.0 in January.

In February, 59,000 Oregonians had been unem-

routes.

“It was a pleasure working with the district employees to make sure we got the kids in their buses this afternoon,” Battalion Chief Matt Amos said.

“Our goal is to lessen the impact on the community as much as possible, so protecting those buses and the maintenance garage was high priority.”

Cause of the fire hadn’t been determined.

Booster: Second round available this week

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virus, according to the CDC and FDA. They also found no safety concerns linked with the second boosters.

OHA officials say there’s more than enough vaccine supply in Oregon to accommodate the second boosters. About 270,000 doses of Pfizer and Moderna have been distributed throughout the state, which should easily meet any surge in demand. And new demand should help providers use up some of their excess vaccine stocks.

“I’m not worried about vaccine supply right now,

even if we see a rush for second boosters following this week’s news,” said Dr. Paul Cieslak, medical director for communicable diseases and immunizations in OHA’s Public Health Division.

“Existing supply is already strong, and the CDC is ready to send more doses if we need them,” Cieslak added.

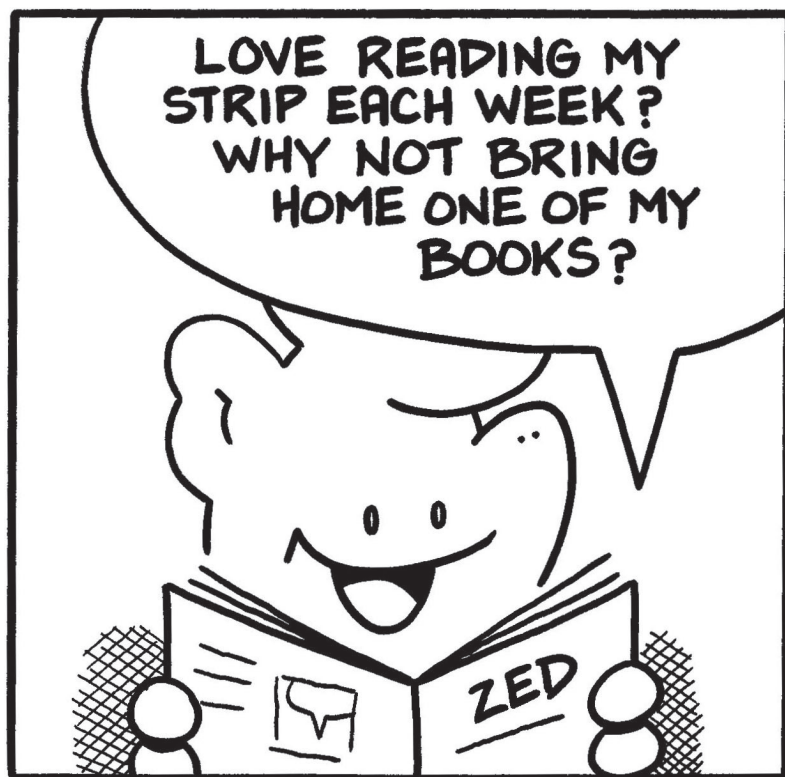
OHA’s vaccine data dashboards show that of the roughly 1.6 million people older than 50 in Oregon, about 893,000, or 56 percent, got their initial booster.

Using that same proportion to estimate those who

will seek an additional booster, OHA anticipates that 500,000 second boosters may be given in Oregon over the next four to six months.

Vaccines are available to people in Oregon through health care providers, local pharmacies and high-volume vaccination and testing sites.

OHA strongly encourages everyone eligible in Oregon to get their primary doses of the COVID-19 vaccines followed by a booster shot. Those most at risk for the virus are people who have not yet received a primary series of the vaccines.



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