

# Seaside lines up for vaccine

**SEEN FROM SEASIDE**

R.J. MARX



Catsop County has administered more than 17,350 vaccine doses against the coronavirus. I was one of them.

“There’s been so much emphasis put on the importance of the vaccine, that the journey of getting through the process, getting through the line and finally receiving the ‘sacrament’ was almost a quasi-religious experience,” my wife, Eve, said afterward. “It had a sense of ceremony.”

It seemed like a long road. Covering COVID-19 for the newspaper is almost all-consuming. Every story has a consequence from the impacts of the virus: physical, social, personal. Families, businesses, schools, the way we live, the way we think and vote has been linked to the virus in some way.

Every death as a result of the coronavirus seems incongruously both random, yet especially close.

Being in classification 1B — over 65 with no preexisting conditions — I was eligible for the vaccine in late January.

We registered online and checked pharmacy websites. We Googled, surfed, studied, registered, filed, clicked and phoned. Did you have to be a Costco member to get one at Costco? Could you get one in Washington state if you live in Oregon? Eligibility was one thing — getting an appointment another.

Yet judging from the selfies on social media, everybody but us was getting it. What was the secret code? Were they really all eligible, or were they jumping the line? I was almost ashamed for such thoughts. Anyone who wants the vaccine should be allowed to freely get it. No guilt. No shame.

In mid-March, we still hadn’t gotten an appointment, more than six weeks after eligibility.

We had worked our thumbs down clicking refresh on pharmacy webpages.

Though it hadn’t worked in the past, Eve took a friend’s advice and called the county Public Health Department. To her amaze-



Photos by R.J. Marx

**ABOVE: The vaccine line went quickly at Seaside High School. RIGHT: “Didn’t feel a thing.”**

ment, they scheduled us the next week at the old Seaside High School. It was almost too easy.

We entered the high school.

Volunteers greeted us like they were hosts at Wyndham. Some of the volunteers even wore badges labeled “conierge.”

The single-file line down the high school hallway was daunting but moved so quickly that we got to the front in less than 15 minutes.

Though we would have preferred the one-shot Johnson & Johnson vaccine, we happily submitted to the Moderna, administered by an extremely competent volunteer. After taking the shot — it didn’t hurt — we got our little vaccine cards. Sorry, no selfie.



After the shot, we sat in chairs socially distanced from each other in the former high school gym. No wonder lots of baby boomers say they are reminded of getting the polio vaccine in schools in the 1950s and ‘60s.

We were two of 600 jabs that day at the high school, a volunteer mentioned.

More than 5,200 county residents are fully vaccinated, a step toward the county’s goal to reach herd immunity against the virus by vaccinating 27,533 people. This week, the county’s vaccine task force plans to give 1,400 first doses and 1,170 second doses at four events.

And that seems like a good thing.

**MEETINGS**

**Contact local agencies for latest meeting information and attendance guidelines.**

**MONDAY, APRIL 12**

**Seaside City Council**, 7 p.m., 989 Broadway, cityofseaside.us.

**TUESDAY, APRIL 13**

**Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District**, board workshop, 5:15 p.m., 1225 Avenue A.

**THURSDAY, APRIL 15**

**Seaside Transportation Advisory Commission** 6 p.m., 989 Broadway.

**MONDAY, APRIL 19**

**Seaside Budget Committee**, 6 p.m., 989 Broadway.

**TUESDAY, APRIL 20**

**Seaside Planning Commission**, 6 p.m., 989 Broadway.

**Seaside School District**, 6 p.m., www.seaside.k12.or.us/meetings.

**Gearhart Small Business Commit-**

**tee**, 6 p.m., cityofgearhart.com.

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21**

**Tourism Advisory Committee**, 3 p.m., 989 Broadway.

**Gearhart Parks Master Plan Citizens Advisory Committee**, 5:30 p.m., work session, cityofgearhart.com.

**MONDAY, APRIL 26**

**Seaside City Council**, 7 p.m., 989 Broadway, cityofseaside.us.

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**Protect our rocky shore habitat**

I have lived in Cannon Beach for twenty years and was drawn here by its stunning beaches, diverse tide pools, rocky habitats and wildlife. I’ve been a volunteer community scientist monitoring nesting birds every summer for several years. I’m so happy that visitors come here to enjoy this place but as visitation increases I’m deeply concerned about the impacts. Challenges facing inhabitants of the rocky shores are growing and I’ve seen firsthand the disturbance of species of conservation concern like our emblematic puffins and black oystercatchers.

We have a great opportunity right now to help. Oregon’s Rocky Habitat Management Strategy is being updated. As part of this process, the public has been asked to submit site designation proposals. The North Coast Rocky Habitat Coalition (NCRHC) submitted two proposals for Chapman Point and Ecola Point, recommending that these areas be designated Marine Conservation Areas. These proposals include smart, practical measures that balance ecological protection and public access. Many in the community have already embraced these proposals.

Haystack Rock gained status as a Marine Garden in 1991 and it has been a great success story — balancing protection with site access. Let’s follow that up with new designations to help keep our community so special!

The Rocky Habitat Working Group has tentatively approved these proposals with several recommended changes, accessed at: <https://www.oregonocean.info/index.php/tsp-rocky-shores-amendment>.

The Working Group will re-evaluate these proposals soon. Please consider sending a comment in support no later than APRIL 15, 2021 to TSP.Com-

ments@state.or.us. Talking points may be found at <https://www.facebook.com/northcoastrockyhabitats>.

**Tabea Goossen  
Cannon Beach**

**Time to move transient RVs out of Seaside**

The transient RVs that are being allowed to camp for months across from the public restrooms at 12th and Necanicum need to be moved out of town. These people have expired registration dating back to 2015, they have no insurance, their RVs are not fully functional, some don’t even run, doubtful they have valid divers licenses.

Why is this allowed?  
1. The biggest reason is that the RVs can’t be towed because they have a negative value of thousands of dollars. These rigs cost big money to dispose of, nobody will tow them because nobody wants to be stuck paying to get rid of them. Consequently the police don’t even bother enforcing any registration or licensing or insurance laws.

2. The police are tired of chasing them all over town to various neighborhoods where they park if they make them move along. Their theory, “at least we know where they are.”

Watch out because where there was one RV, there is now five RVs, and more to come. Be prepared for Seaside to look like Portland. It won’t take long!  
P.S. The people who thought the five-cent bottle deposit would work twice as good if they made it 10 cents were idiots. Now we have created a livable “lifestyle” for the bottle return homeless who can easily make \$50 a day and team up to fund their drugs, booze and food and made the bottle return areas so undesirable that nobody wants to take their bottles back. Brilliant!

**George Sticka  
Rhododendron**



Tiffany Boothe/Seaside Aquarium

**Seaside’s Tsunami Skippers are among the groups to donate their time and efforts to keeping Seaside’s beaches clean.**

## SOLVE beach cleanup on April 17

Seaside Signal

SOLVE and the Gearhart Homeowners Association invite volunteers to a beach cleanup, on Saturday, April 17, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. This event is part of the annual Oregon Spring Cleanup, presented by Portland General

Electric. The beach cleanup is family-friendly, and volunteers of all ages will find the event fun and rewarding. Help us protect marine life and maintain the beauty of our coast. Be prepared by dressing for any weather and wearing sturdy shoes.

Volunteers are encouraged to bring your own reusable bucket/

bag, gloves, and water bottle to help reduce plastic waste. If you happen to forget, SOLVE will provide bags and gloves. Please keep dogs on a leash and steer clear of roped off western snowy plover nesting areas.

Meet at the Gearhart beach access off 10th Street. Sign up at [solveoregon.org](http://solveoregon.org).

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