

Newport dentist opens wide for kids

by JUSTIN WERNER

Pediatric Dental Associates opened an office in Newport last November to fill a need for Lincoln County kids who require extensive or special dental work.

Sporting a futuristic office full of the latest equipment, Pediatric Dental Associates (PDA) is a unique kid's dentistry at 127 Eads Street geared for infants, toddlers and adolescents and make what could be a traumatizing event a sweet experience.

The staff is trained to make extractions and other intensive treatment doable by focusing on the child's comfort. Patients under 16 can watch kids' movies on Netflix on a ceiling-mounted TV with headphones while having a procedure performed. With nitrous oxide (laughing gas) chances are they won't feel a thing.

Before the opening of PDA's Newport office, kids could be seen by local dentists, but would often be referred to a specialist in Salem, Dallas or another city, where drive times and scheduling conflicts posed a genuine problem for parents.

Everyone close to owner Jay Vaikuntam says he genuinely cares about kids' oral health. He has been a dentist and instructor for more than 25 years. Oregon has been home to the Vaikuntam family since 2000.

"Dr.Jay's" main goal is to provide the best dental prevention and treatment methods available while creating a positive experience. Dr.Jay completed his pediatric dental



residency training at the reputed Eastman Dental Center at the University of Rochester in New York. He has written several articles that have been published in peer reviewed journals.

Prior to moving to Oregon, Dr.Jay was a faculty member and teacher at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio. His current focus and main area of interest is in the prevention of early childhood caries (ECC). In his spare time, he loves spending time with his family. He is also a passionate photographer and nature lover.

PDA, which takes most insurances, has maintained an office in Albany for more than 20 years and treats over 60 kids a day. The Newport office can serve about 35 kids per day.

"Our days are pretty full, but eventually we will get another doctor," Barnes said. "We will hire more staff and grow."

PDA can be found on Facebook. Call 541-928-1509 to schedule an appointment.



Schoolgirls protest for climate change

by JIM FOSSUM

Lincoln County School District students Hailey Feuling and Maia Stout are warning against warming and the effects of climate change with their participation in the international school-strike protest movement "Fridays For Future."

Feuling, 13, and Stout, 14, are Waldport Middle School students who have stood on the side of Highway 101 in Newport and Yachats every Friday for 13 straight weeks as part of a global movement inspired by 16-year-old Swedish activist Greta Thunberg. "We first got involved with Friday's For Future after we saw a video of Greta's speech at the UN Climate Change Conference. She immediately inspired us to take action," Feuling said.

Even though they're on spring break, you can find them along the road in Yachats.



Health officials report flu cases

by PUBLIC HEALTH

Lincoln County Health & Human Services has received reports of four flu outbreaks in the past three weeks. The schools affected are Eddyville Charter School, Sam Case Elementary, Newport Middle School and Yaquina View. A norovirus outbreak is now closed with no new cases reported since March 12.

The best way to protect against the flu is to be vaccinated. Additional steps people can take to protect themselves and others from the flu are to:

- Wash hands often with soap and water, or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Cover coughs and sneezes.
- Stay home when sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Keep surfaces that may have flu germs on them cleaned and disinfected.



Murder-suicide near Newport

by HOMEPAGE STAFF

Lincoln County Sheriff's deputies found two Tillamook residents dead from gunshot wounds in an apparent murder-suicide upon making a welfare check last week in a campground near Newport.

Authorities said they believe Carla C. Gustafson, 64, killed Charles W. Young, 87, before taking her own life on Thursday, March 28, at Whaler's Rest RV & Camping Resort in South Beach.

Responding to campground staff reports, police located the victims after learning the occupants had not been seen for several days. Deputies found Young with an apparent gunshot wound and Gustafson with an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Authorities learned Young and Gustafson are family members from Tillamook.

Motivation for the shooting is unclear, police said.



Why hasn't Lincoln City banned single-use plastics?

by JAY ROELOF

Recently, at a Lincoln City Council meeting, Councilor Riley Hoagland tried repeatedly to impress upon our mayor the importance of passing a local ordinance restricting the use of disposable plastics. He has tried to do this before, but mayor [Dick] Anderson has pushed back on his request, as both he and his predecessor, mayor [Don] Williams, did in prior years.

So, this time, Riley pleaded to at least ban plastic foam food containers, pointing out what an embarrassing situation it is for us, as a key recreational destination on the Oregon coast, to continue to avoid banning single-use plastics, when so many other coastal and inland Oregon cities are doing the opposite.

Just look at what is happening across the nation and even next door in Salem as well as at the State level in Oregon and Washington State.

Some of the strongest voices on this issue have come from our youth — as happened over a year ago, when a group of local kids got together to work on this problem and

eventually appeared before our City Council to (unsuccessfully) plead for a plastic bag ban. But they did succeed in receiving strong support thereafter from Council member Kip Ward.

Please note that, when cities like Newport fail to take action at the Council level and instead avoid their responsibility as legislators, as they did in 2013 by turning the issue into a ballot measure, young people not of voting age were left out of the process. And that is just plain wrong, as 21 kids proved on a much larger issue, when they filed their 2015 Juliana v. U.S. lawsuit in U.S. District Court in Eugene.

So, for the sake of our city's environment and the future of our kids and grandkids, please support Counselor Riley Hogan's efforts to get the Mayor and other City Council members to do the right thing with respect to banning single-use plastics in Lincoln City.

A LAST WORD FROM OUR READERS

I'd like to say thank you to Lincoln City Homepage! I went head over heels for them today! Laughed so hard, made my eyes sparkle! :) Seriously though, your perseverance to provide the information we citizens need, without a fee, is commendable.

by BECKI HOYDIC

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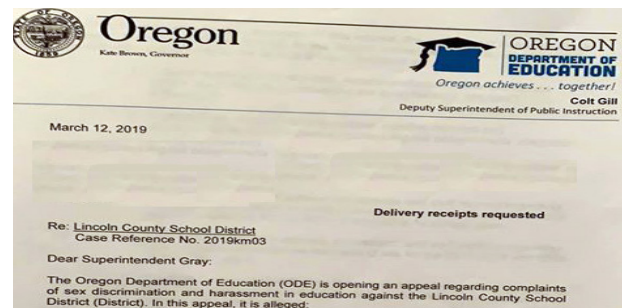
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LCSD under investigation



A letter from the Department of Education to Lincoln County School District Superintendent Dr. Karen Gray dated March 12, 2019

by JUSTIN WERNER & JIM FOSSUM

The Oregon Department of Education is investigating the Lincoln County School District over the handling of an incident involving alleged sexual misconduct last year at Oceanlake Elementary School.

The Oregon Department of Education is opening an appeal regarding complaints of sex discrimination and harassment in education against the Lincoln County School District. In this appeal, it is alleged:

- District and building administrators did not conduct timely, fair and impartial discrimination, harassment, bullying and intimidation investigations.
- District and building administrators did not remedy a hostile environment when complaints were made alleging discrimination on the basis of sex and/or on the basis of race and color.

"The Lincoln County School District is aware of the appeal

through the Oregon Department of Education," Gray said. "We have been working closely with the families involved and we fully support the process that ODE will follow."

LCSD Communications Specialist Kristin Bigler said Oceanlake Principal Sandy Mumme is on spring break and unavailable for comment.

The incident reportedly occurred after three kindergarten students left Oceanlake physical education teacher Joshua Vrendenburg's class on March 12 of last year and went unsupervised for approximately 20 minutes in a school bathroom, where sexual misconduct allegedly took place.

Vrendenburg has not responded to Homepage's request for comment.

An incident report filed by the gym teacher stated all three students snuck out of the gym, and went to the bathroom and exposed

themselves to each other. While in the bathroom, other inappropriate sexual behavior allegedly occurred.

A fourth student who walked into the bathroom and witnessed the incident, told a teacher, who notified office staff.

Laurie Porter, mother of one of the children involved, said her son asked to go to the bathroom and had to write his name on the board before leaving. Tiffany Hill, mother of another of the children, said her son also asked to go to the bathroom.

Porter said she was notified around 4 p.m., approximately four hours after the incident occurred. The reason given, Porter said, was that police and the Child Advocacy Center were called in and "were handling it in the order deemed necessary."

INVESTIGATION/PAGE 4

Highway 101 safety corridor no more

by HOMEPAGE STAFF

The fatal and serious injury crash rate on the nine-mile stretch of Highway 101 between Depoe Bay and Newport has declined enough to eliminate its designation as a safety corridor.

Beginning April 10, all safety corridor and doubling of fines signs will be removed, the Oregon Department of

Transportation said in a news release.

It is one of four remaining Safety Corridors, and becomes the 15th corridor to be decommissioned since the program began in 1989.

"The decommissioning of this corridor, in effect since 1996, reflects the successful coordination and hard work

of the Oregon Department of Transportation, Lincoln County, Oregon State Police, and citizens committed to safety," Nicole Charlson, ODOT traffic safety coordinator said. "It has been our experience that fatal and serious injury crash rates do not increase after a safety corridor is decommissioned."

READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE

Man abandons beached, swamped truck before fleeing scene on foot

by JUSTIN WERNER

A man abandoned a beached truck borrowed from his boss and fled the scene to elude police recently near the 15th Street access after he crashed into some rocks, got high-centered and swamped the vehicle.

"I was just out here doing cookies," the driver, speaking on condition of anonymity, said before fleeing once he learned police had been called. "The truck is toast, man. It's not going anywhere. Water got in the engine."

Before leaving the scene, the man, who said he was from Seattle and asked to be identified by the pseudonym Juan Martinez, said he was certain to lose his job over the incident and didn't want to be arrested for a second DUII.

"I'm not going to have a job tomorrow as soon as my boss finds out," he said.

Asked how he felt getting the borrowed truck hydrolocked, the man, approximately 25 to 30 years old, replied, "Stupid... I feel like an idiot."

A group of beach-goers sitting around a bonfire said the man "came down at least four separate times and drove into the deepest parts of the surf."

"He got stuck on the rocks, so we called the police," they said.

The witnesses, calling themselves the "15th Street Jeepers," said waves from the rising tide were hitting the truck, but they towed the vehicle to safety with a Ford Ranger before police joined the scene.

"We surfed him out," one witness said. "I was waiting for the waves to hit and I'd tell our guy, go, go, go."

The man — animated but ap-

preciative — thanked the group for pulling the truck out of the surf. Soaked from the ocean after sitting in the driver's seat with water above his knees, the man said he had to get his hotel key out of the center console, "but it was full of water, so I had to fish it out."

"I tried to start it a bunch of times, but it's not happening," said the man, who said he was in Lincoln City to spend time with his buddies at the casino. "If I could get it started, I'd be out of here."

Police said they ran the license plates on the truck and searched for the driver, but were unable to locate him.



Ocean water is seen dripping out of a Chevrolet Silverado at the 15th Street beach access

NOTABLE QUOTES

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The Summers family



Summers and his kids, Daniel and Trenton

Lifelong local resident Daniel Summers, a beloved and respected youth coach who many say cared for all children like his own and united a community in a common cause, lost his battle with cancer Friday at age 30.

Summers, whose courageous fight was fueled by area and outside interests, local media support and fundraisers inspired by his players, died from osteosarcoma, a form of bone cancer, while surrounded by friends and family at his Otis home.

"He grew up here and knew so many people," said Hannah Maben-Best, whose 12-year-old son, Ryan, staged a citywide car wash that generated \$2,500 to help ease the financial burden on the family from the many chemotherapy and radiation treatments and long-distance hospital visits and inpatient stays Summers endured. "He has many kids in the community who looked up to him and loved him as

a coach."

Summers, who loved playing mushball and coed softball, "was definitely a fighter during this whole battle with cancer and had a great outlook and positive attitude until the very end," Maben-Best said.

A graduate of Taft High who served in the U.S. Navy, Summers leaves behind his wife, Abbie, and sons, Trenton Battle, 11, and Daniel, 7.

Area residents and friends paid tribute to Summers on social media throughout the night Friday, but his story reached far beyond the borders of Lincoln County. The Willamette Valley Cancer Foundation and employees from Oregon Mutual Insurance of McMinnville contributed to his lengthy fight with Christmas-time donations of goods and money.

Summers was diagnosed with desmoid tumors on his spine and sciatic nerve in 2011. He

was referred to Oregon Health & Science University in Portland, where radiation treatments

to stunt the growth of the tumors began.

Following radiation, Summers enjoyed years of what his family referred to as "normal living," but began experiencing more pain at the beginning of last year.

In May, scans revealed more abnormalities and a biopsy determined it was bone cancer. Half of his sacrum and a third of his pelvis were removed.

Summers underwent an 11-hour surgery on Oct. 18. When he woke, his doctor asked how it felt to be cancer-free. However, on the day he was to be released, he was informed cancerous cells remained.

After enduring aggressive chemotherapy, he had another operation to remove more of his pelvic bone. Prognosis improved and Summers expressed encouragement late last year before his health took a turn for the worse.

Beloved youth coach Summers dies at 30

by JIM FOSSUM

A SERVICE WILL BE HELD AT TAFT HIGH SCHOOL SATURDAY AT NOON

Siletz area target of enhanced patrol by Sheriff

by LINCOLN COUNTY SHERIFF

Prompted by citizen complaints over suspected drug and criminal activity, the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office conducted a saturation patrol in the Siletz area of Lincoln County last Monday from approximately 1-4 p.m.

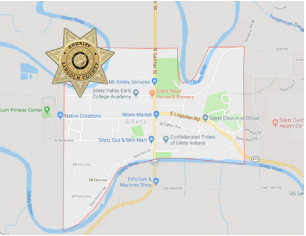
The saturation patrol, conducted with the assistance of Lincoln County Parole and Probation, Newport Police Department and Toledo Police Department, was designed to enhance response to suspicious activities.

During the three-hour saturation, law enforcement officers conducted numerous traffic stops, "knock-and-talks" at specific residences and field interviews of rural Siletz citizens.

Law enforcement collectively issued three traffic citations for Driving While Suspended and made three criminal arrests.

Two of the criminal arrests were drug related and are under investigation.

The third arrest was on Kayla D. Borden, 27, of Siletz. Borden had a Felony warrant out of Linn County for probation violation and was transported to the Lincoln County Jail without incident.



New Elks Lodge holding ceremony

by HOMEPAGE STAFF

Efforts continue in the movement to reopen a local Elks Lodge following the closure of the Oceanlake Elks Lodge about five years ago.

Saying its members have "helped make their communities a better place to live," Elks Lodge No. 1886 organizing committee chairman H.E. "Topper" Gamester is spearheading the cause with an institution ceremony set Saturday, May 11, at Chinook Winds Casino Resort.

National and state Elk's Club officials will participate in the semi-formal event, which will be followed by the initiation of candidates for membership and the election and installation of officers.



Investigation

FROM PAGE 1

Porter was contacted by ODE investigators and said a detective from the Lincoln City Police Department will interview her son in April.

Porter said she can't afford homeschooling or to send her child to private school. She said her son feels safe at the school, but expressed concern about being bullied by one of the kids from the bathroom incident last year.

Hill said Gray contacted her and apologized for the "terrible incident" and assured her nothing like this would happen again. Hill said Gray told her failure to supervise was a serious violation of protocol.

In excerpts from an email to Hill, Gray said:

[Oceanlake Principal] Sandy [Mumme] did address the unsupervised time with the staff involved. The children were unsupervised. It was wrong, it is against district standards, and it was dealt with to the full extent of our personnel procedures. Those details cannot be shared with you. It is against the law and breaks HR [human resource] confidentiality rules by sharing discipline of staff with parents. Because it caused a terrible incident to occur the school could not be more sorry that it happened. Failure to supervise is very serious to all of us. Earlier in the year a teacher was let go

in another school because of several incidents of poor supervision demonstrating how serious this is.

Sandy instituted a restroom procedure of sign outs and put signs on the doors to stop kids from leaving. The staff have shown much improvement since the incident and there have been no incidents of this nature again to date.

In an unedited Facebook post, Hill said:

I have decided that I need to share our experiences with oceanlake elementary school it was not easy my son went through a lot so please don't be rude

My name is Tiffany Hill I would like to talk to you about my experiences with Ocean Lake Elementary school administration. I would like to take the time to say that I have never had any bad experiences with any of the teachers at this school. All of my child's teachers have always gone above and beyond. I am writing this to explain the experiences I have had while trying to manage a situation my child experienced with Ocean Lake a principles and how they handled the concerns and complaints I brought forth on more than one occasion...

READ THE FULL STORY ON OUR WEBSITE

MEET OUR LATEST SUPPORTER

Pronto Pups is a familiar name in Otis, seeing as how the business featuring the famous corn dogs has been around since 1946 in the same 1252 Salmon River Highway location in the heart of the small Oregon town. Recently, the business was rebranded Otis Pizzeria with online ordering and local delivery to Otis and Lincoln City, increasing its customer base.



Homepage celebrates 500,000 hits

Lincoln City Homepage is growing at an exponential rate. We continue to attract new users every day, and our engaging social presence is outperforming the competition.

We racked up over half a mil-

lion hits in the past year. Our projections say that number will be more than one million by the same time next year.

With that many eyeballs on ads for your business, you are getting the best return on your investment possible.

By supporting us, you give us the ability to increase our coverage, and you get a return on investment that will grow long into the future.

THANKS FOR THE SUPPORT!