

COASTAL NOTES

CHOCOLATE CLASSICS IS SATURDAY, JAN. 30

The 25th annual Chocolate Classics is set for 5 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 30, at the Pacific Maritime & Heritage Center, located at 333 SE Bay Blvd. in Newport.

This is the main fundraiser for the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) of Lincoln County. Attendees get to sample all the chocolate they can eat along with milk and coffee, plus a no-host bar provided by Rogue Ales. There will also be oral and silent auctions and live entertainment. In addition, there will be a raffle for a heart pendant with baguette diamonds, donated by Diamonds by the Sea.

Tickets are \$35 each or \$60 for two, if purchased in advance, or \$40 at the door. They can be purchased online at <http://rsvpofbl.org/events/chocolate-classics/>. For more information, call 541-812-0849.

RELAY FOR LIFE GARAGE SALE FUNDRAISER

A Relay for Life garage sale fundraiser will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 30, at ABC Preschool in Newport, located at 2350 N Coast Highway (next to Sizzler restaurant).

WALDPORT, NEWPORT NAMED IN 'BEST HIGH SCHOOLS' RANKING

Waldport and Newport high schools were named in the recent "Best High Schools" ranking by U.S. News & World Report. Both schools attained a bronze level ranking. In Oregon, 114 schools made the ranking, with three gold medals, 25 silver and 86 bronze.

The methodology used is based on the thought that a great high school must serve all students well, not just those who are college bound. Also, the selected schools must be able to produce measureable academic outcomes to show they are successfully educating their respective student body across a broad range of performance indicators. The three-step process is based on students' performance on state math and reading tests, how disadvantaged students are performing compared to others in the state, and which schools produced the best college-level achievement for the highest number of students.

This is the first time Newport High has received the ranking, while Waldport High has been rated at the bronze level several times and at silver once.

"Our congratulations to Waldport and Newport high schools," said LCSD Director of Secondary Education Eric Clendenin. "We are pleased that a respected organization like U.S. News & World Report recognizes the great work happening in our schools. We look forward to getting even better in the future."

BRIDGE REFRESHER CLASS OFFERED

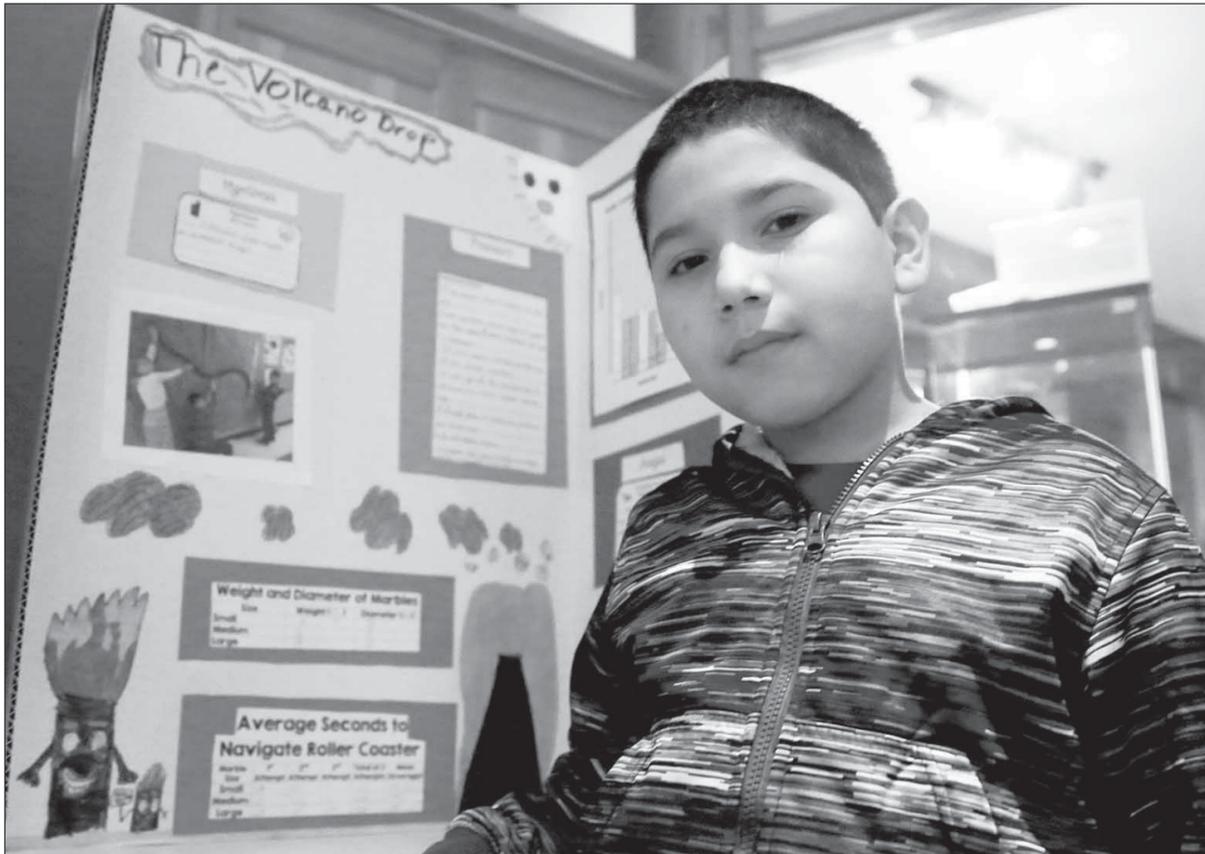
Starting on Friday, Feb. 5, Mike Rickus will be teaching a free bridge refresher course at the Newport 60+ Activity Center for people who are experienced players, but who want to review and expand upon their knowledge of the game.

This course will be held on Fridays, from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m., for six to eight weeks.

For more information, call Rickus at 541-574-1938.

For a listing of the current activities, exercise classes, trips and events at the Newport 60+ Activity Center, go online at www.newportoregon.gov/sc, call 541-265-9617, or stop by the center, located at 20 SE 2nd St.

STUDENT PROJECTS



Angel Hernandez, 9, of Newport, browsed the work of his classmates before locating his project, "The Volcano Drop," during the Newport Schools Science Fair on Thursday, Jan. 21, at the Hatfield Marine Science Center. (Photos by Luke Whittaker)

Science fair draws crowd

BY STEVE CARD
Of the News-Times

More than 1,000 people attended the Newport Schools Science Fair on Thursday, Jan. 21, where 150 student displays — representing the work of more than 800 students in kindergarten through fifth grade — filled the visitor center and staff lounge Hatfield Marine Science Center in South Beach.

"I thought it went great," said Cait Goodwin, who coordinates the annual science fair. "I got a lot of positive feedback from all different types of folks, from mentors to teachers, the kids, and just people who stopped by to see the exhibits."

The science fair has been held at Hatfield since 2011. Before that, the events were held at participating schools.

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Kaden Raever concentrates before releasing his LEGO robot. Raver, a fifth-grade student at Sam Case Elementary School, is part of a 4-H team that has participated twice in the state LEGO Robotics competition.

GEORGIA-PACIFIC

Olalla Reservoir set to reopen on Feb. 1

Georgia-Pacific has announced that its Olalla Reservoir east of Toledo will soon reopen to public use.

While the reservoir's primary purpose is to provide water for operations at GP's containerboard mill in Toledo, many members of the public use it for boating, fishing, hiking and other recreational pursuits. Due to safety concerns created by low water levels last year, GP closed the reservoir to the public in October.

Since then, the company has replaced several vandalized signs, which remind visitors to use the reservoir responsibly. Specifically prohibited are hunting, discharging firearms, overnight camping, tobacco and alcohol use, open fires and gas-powered boat motors. Dogs must be kept on leashes in the parking and swimming areas, and all waste must be carried out or placed in the trash cans available. No lifeguard is present, and the reservoir is to be used at one's own risk during daylight hours (the site is closed at night). Now that the new signs



A Georgia-Pacific worker looks at the low water level of the Olalla Reservoir in October of last year, when the decision was made to close it to public use. The reservoir will reopen to the public on Feb. 1. (Courtesy photo)

are in place and water levels have returned to normal, the reservoir will reopen to the public at sunrise on Feb. 1.

GP reserves the right to close the reservoir to the public for safety or other reasons, and company officials encourage

visitors to comply with the rules of usage so that this privately owned site may serve the public for years to come.

HEALTH

Free heart screenings offered at hospitals

In recognition of American Heart Month, Samaritan Heart & Vascular Institute will offer free heart health screenings in Lincoln County.

The heart screenings are set for 8 a.m. to noon on the following dates:

- Jan. 30: Newport, at Samaritan Pacific Communities Hospital's Center for Health Education;

- Feb. 20: Lincoln City, at Samaritan North Lincoln Hospital's Health Professions Education Center.

Tests take approximately 15 minutes, with the appointment lasting about 30 minutes. Screenings include a full lipid panel with total cholesterol, glucose and blood pressure checks. Copies of test results will be provided so participants may follow up with their primary care provider.

Eight hours of fasting is required for accurate test results, and no food or beverages other than water should be consumed after midnight the night before the test. Heart-healthy refreshments will be provided at each screening for people to enjoy after their tests.

Registration is required, and space is limited. To schedule an appointment, call toll free 1-855-543-2780.

Samaritan Heart & Vascular Institute serves patients in Benton, Linn and Lincoln counties, as well as parts of Polk and Marion counties. The institute provides comprehensive heart and vascular care including cardiology, electrophysiology, cardiothoracic surgery, vascular surgery, interventional radiology and cardiac rehabilitation.

AARP

Tax help is available for middle, low-income individuals

The local AARP Tax-Aide Program provides free electronic filing of federal and Oregon state income tax returns for middle and low-income taxpayers.

Started in 1968, AARP Tax-Aide is the nation's largest free, volunteer run tax preparation program serving millions of taxpayers. Tax-Aide volunteers are available to prepare current year, prior year or amended returns, determine whether or not you need to file a return, or answer any other tax questions you might have. AARP membership is not a requirement to receive assistance and no appointment is necessary.

Assistance is available at three locations in Lincoln County:

Newport — Newport 60+ Activity Center, 20 SE 2nd St., from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday, from Feb. 2 through April 14.

Waldport — Washington Federal Savings Bank, 325 NW Hemlock St., from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Tuesday and Wednesday, from Feb. 2 through April 13.

SCIENCE FAIR

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"I've been involved with the science fair since 2006," Goodwin said. "Although the Newport Schools Science Fair began years ago as an activity coordinated entirely by community volunteers, for the past few years my time as coordinator has been supported by Oregon Sea Grant, and is part of my job as special projects coordinator for Oregon Sea Grant Marine Education."

Goodwin added that school principals and teachers are very supportive of the science fair, and in three of the past four years, "100 percent of the teachers in the targeted grade levels have participated."

While this year's fair involved students in kindergarten through fifth grade, next year it will feature those in grades six through eight.

"That's typically what we've been doing, alternating years, because we only have so many mentors and so much room at Hatfield," said Goodwin. "It was kind of maxed out (Thursday) night. It was a good problem to have."

The mentors involved with the science fair work in the classroom to help students with their projects.

"Our final count was 44 mentors," Goodwin said. "Some of them have been doing it for years." Mentors come into the classroom on a weekly basis for about an hour over six to eight weeks.

"I'm the Oregon Coast STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Hub communications coordinator, so one thing I do is keep lists of people and what their interests are and try to match people up," explained Goodwin about the mentor program. "We had somebody who came to the science fair because he lives in the area and thought it would be interesting. And he said, 'I'm a

retired chemist, and I want to be involved in this kind of thing.' Another guy stopped by my office who's a mentor for this science fair and he said, 'Keep me on your list for next year.'"

With the number of mentors growing, their participation with the students has become part of the school culture. "We have a lot more mentors now," Goodwin said. "It's moved to a lot more classrooms."

She said the teachers are also sometimes working together within grade levels. "Especially for the younger groups, there's a lot more classroom projects, so it's not like every first-grader has to come up with a testable hypothesis," said Goodwin. "The emphasis, especially in the younger grades, is on how science works and what kinds of things to scientists do, so they're making observations, they're asking questions, and they're using special tools. It builds a foundation."

Over the years, teachers have also started allowing more class time for students to work on projects. "There's a lot of the time to work on science fair projects in the classroom ... so that it's not just the kids who have help at home who come up with great projects," said Goodwin. "The other thing is it's not a competitive fair. It's more celebration of science, and everyone's included and so there's no judging or anything of that nature."

Goodwin said she would like to see this program expanded into other areas of the county. "It's hard because not everyone has a Hatfield sitting in the middle of their city. But I'm sure we can use this model as a way of trying to expand it to other areas. That's where I want to go with it."

Goodwin said she is always looking for mentors interested in working with students,

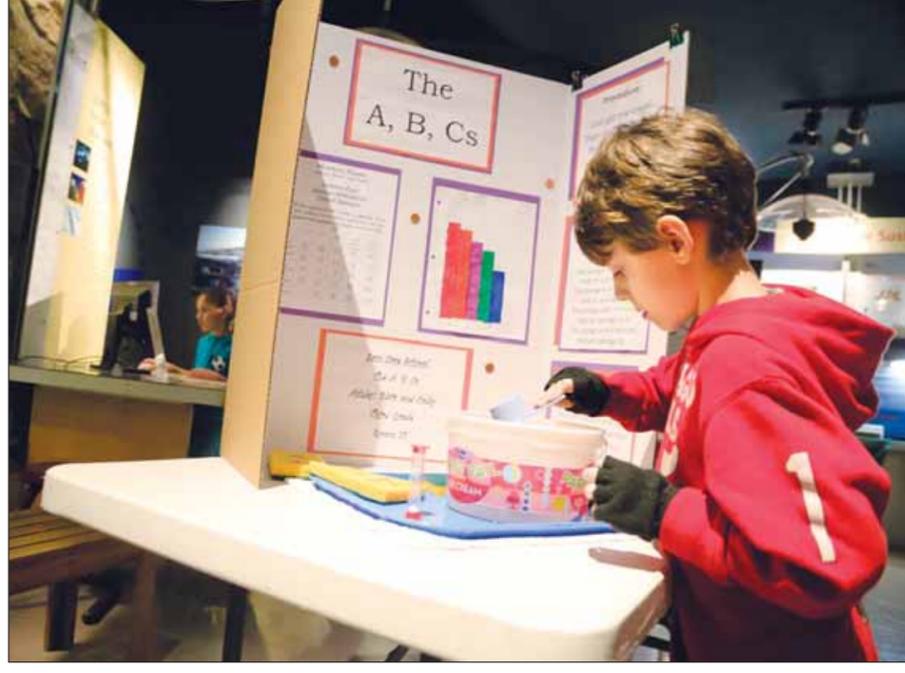


Eager students and proud parents filled the lobby and hallways of the Hatfield Marine Science Center during the Newport Schools Science Fair on Thursday, Jan. 21. (Photos by Luke Whittaker)

and she said it doesn't have to be a science fair. "There are a variety of different mentoring opportunities through the Oregon Coast STEM Hub. They could be a judge at the ROV competition, or the renewable energy challenge," she said.

To find out about more STEM events, competitions and opportunities to get involved, visit the Oregon Coast STEM Hub website at <http://oregoncoaststem.oregonstate.edu/> or email OregonCoastSTEM@oregonstate.edu The Oregon Coast STEM Hub office is located at the Hatfield Marine Science Center.

Contact reporter Steve Card at 541-265-8571, ext. 224, or scard@newportnewstimes.com



Jayden Vollman, 8, of Newport, tests buoyancy as part of his science fair project. The science fair included 150 student displays — representing the work of more than 800 students in kindergarten through fifth grade.



Nayeli Howell, 5, of Newport stands next to her project. It was her first experience participating in a science fair.

60+ ACTIVITY CENTER

Free tech help for seniors

Would you like to learn how to find information on the Internet? How to find people on Facebook? Are you frustrated with your laptop? The Newport 60+ Activity Center will be hosting free tech-help sessions Monday through Friday, from 2:45 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. The schedule may change depending on the availability of the instructor.

The simple, fun sessions will be led by Cameron Davis, the center's youth intern. Davis is a junior at Newport High School and attends several clubs, including debate,

Junior Optimist club, Club Med, International Club and will soon to be president of Interact, which works closely with Rotary. Davis also keeps herself busy with many other activities, such as a lot of volunteering, school plays, crafting, sewing, strength training, babysitting and much more. She will be providing general office support, along with lending a hand in current technology through her internship program.

People in the tech class will learn how to use the Internet to find all sorts of

interesting information, YouTube videos, etc.; set up an email account and check email; set up and use a Facebook account; use Skype; and much more.

This tech help session will be an open lab. People can bring their laptops, iPads, smartphones, etc., or use one of the six desktop computers available in the lab.

Space is limited to eight people per session. For more information, or to reserve a spot, come by the Newport 60+ Activity Center at 20 SE 2nd St., or call 541-265-9617.

TAX HELP

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Lincoln City — Lincoln City Community Center, 2150 Oar Place, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday, from Feb 2 through April 14.

What to bring with you:
 • New this year: 2014 Oregon tax liability to determine amount of "kicker" refund;
 • Form 1095-A, if you purchased health insurance through the Marketplace;

- Photo identification for taxpayer and spouse (mandatory);
- Social Security cards or ITIN letters for every person on the return (mandatory);
- W-2 forms from each employer;
- W2-G if you had gambling winnings;
- All 1099 forms (SSA, INT, DIV, MISC, B, G, R, etc.) and all 1098 forms;
- All forms indicating federal or state income tax paid;
- Dependent care provider identification;
- Itemized deductions for

- Schedule A;
 - Routing and bank account numbers for directly depositing refund;
 - Copy of last year's tax return;
 - Any other paperwork that you think might be helpful.
- For answers to tax questions visit, go online at www.irs.gov and www.oregon.gov/dor
- For more information the local AARP Tax-Aide Program, call Darlene at 541-265-8298.

Open a checking account now through March 4, 2016 and get up to \$150 to spend on that special something that makes your special someone happy.

- Get \$100 for setting up a qualifying direct deposit.²
- Get \$50 for making 10 monthly debit card purchases for 2 months.³
- Then enjoy the ease and convenience of mobile banking and our award-winning service that's sure to put a smile on your face.



For details, visit a branch or bankofthewest.com/happy

¹Student Checking and Premier Checking excluded. All offers valid for any other consumer checking account opened at a branch or account application submitted on bankofthewest.com between 01/23/16 and 03/04/16 with a minimum opening deposit of \$100 or more with funds new to Bank of the West (Bank) received and posted to the account no later than 03/11/16.

²To receive the \$100 bonus, customer must have a direct deposit of at least \$250 (two or more direct deposits that add up to \$250 do not qualify) posted to the account by 05/31/16. Direct deposit must be payroll, Social Security, pension or other government benefits.

³To receive the \$50 bonus, customer must request, receive and use a new Bank of the West Debit Card linked to the new checking account for 10 or more debit card purchases all of which must post to the account by the last business day of the month for each of the first two full calendar months immediately following the month in which the opening deposit posts to the account, for a total of 20 or more transactions. Each purchase must be \$3 or more. ATM transactions are excluded. All required purchases must be posted by 05/31/16.

Offer is not available to existing Bank of the West customers with an open checking account as of 01/22/16. If the customer or other individuals residing at the same address received or may receive any other consumer checking bonus from the Bank between 01/01/15 and 06/29/16, then no one at that address is eligible. Limit of one consumer checking bonus per individual and per mailing address. Employees of Bank of the West and its affiliates are not eligible for this offer. Account must be in open status and have a positive balance as of 05/31/16 to be eligible to receive any bonus. Bonus will be credited to the open checking account by 06/30/16.

Offer does not apply to second or multiple checking accounts. Bank will classify the bonus as interest paid to the checking account. Any applicable taxes associated with this offer are the responsibility of the account holder. To the extent required by law, Bank will report total value of the offer to the IRS on Form 1099 for tax year 2016. All accounts are subject to the Bank's standard terms and conditions and Schedule of Fees and Charges. There is a Monthly Service Charge that ranges from \$8 to \$30 depending upon which checking account you open. Visit your local branch or bankofthewest.com for additional details and options to waive the Monthly Service Charge. An early closure fee of \$25 will apply if an account is closed within 91 days of the account opening date.