

Governor appoints 23-member locks commission

Oregon Gov. Kate Brown has appointed a 23-member commission — chaired by West Linn Mayor Russ Axelrod — to oversee the potential re-commissioning of the Willamette Falls Locks.

Reopening the Locks is expected to create millions of dollars in transportation and recreation benefits for Oregonians, return navigational access to the upper- and lower-Willamette River, reduce freight traffic from Portland roadways and increase the region's resiliency to address future disasters such as the Cascadia earthquake.

Located on the Willamette River in West Linn, the Willamette Falls Locks are owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The Locks opened in 1873, but were decommissioned and given a "non-operational status" in December 2011 due to failing gate anchors and expensive repairs.

The governor's appointed commission will work to advise state, local and regional stakeholders on the development and implementation of policies relating to the repair,

reopening, operation and maintenance of the Willamette Falls navigation canal and Locks.

Members of the Commission include elected officials, county and city representatives, community members, business owners, representatives from environmental groups and tourism industry leaders, among others.

Clackamas County Commissioner Martha Schrader and West Linn resident Sandy Carter were named co-vice chairs.

The Commission will meet several times over the next two years to determine the best action plan for repair, reopening, operation and maintenance of the navigation canal and Locks.

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for June 6 at West Linn City Hall.

Learn about mosquitos and how to protect yourself

Clackamas County Vector Control is offering a hands-on workshop for educators on the life cycle of mosquitos.

Serious diseases such as West Nile virus have been spreading into Oregon, and the workshop will help educators understand why this is happening and how to protect themselves and their students.

The workshop is May 17 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. with dinner provided. Find out more at 503-655-8394 or email tmicallef@co.clackamas.or.us.

Support schools and community agriculture

West Linn-Wilsonville's CREST Farm is offering CSA shares for the summer.

The CREST Farm is an educational farm for students and teachers throughout the school year.

The produce that is distributed throughout the summer is grown by students that participate in the farm internship.

While at the farm students are learning cooking skills, teamwork and leadership skills, and what it takes for their food to grow from seed to fruit.

A CSA membership includes a box of vegetables and fruit every week from June 7 through Oct. 25.

All items are grown at the CREST or the CREST Farm — including Asian pears, hardy kiwis, blueberries, table grapes, snap peas, and apples. Each weekly pickup is enough for a family of four.

Weekly pickups are \$700 for the season or every other week is \$350 for the season. Delivery is available. Find out more; contact Helena Krebs, krehb@wlwv.k12.or.us.