



One of the Oregon Coast Aquarium's sea otters comes out of its pool to enjoy brain exercise with puzzles. Tasty goodies make the puzzles even more enjoyable.

## Aquarium's Creatures Look Forward to Visitors' Return

**The funds brought in by the various Spring Breaks set for March and April? Gone.**

**Busy Memorial Day weekend revenue? That's gone too.**

It costs \$7 million a year, more than \$580,000 a month, to run the nonprofit Oregon Coast Aquarium in Newport, one of Central Lincoln's largest energy customers. There are more than 15,000 sea creatures living at the Aquarium, and they need species-specific food, veterinary care, sea water that's been filtered to remove any toxins, and clean tanks or enclosures, whether visitors come to see them or not.

Imagine zero revenue coming in while people in the Pacific Northwest, California, British Columbia and



Visitors can see real clownfish nose to nose at the Aquarium. Many think of clownfish as "Nemo fish" since the debut of the movie "Finding Nemo."

elsewhere stayed home to curb Covid-19's spread, and you can feel what Aquarium President Carrie Lewis faces: "The sudden closure of the Aquarium just on the brink of what is normally a joyous start of our season was indescribable. 80% of our Aquarium staff was put on immediate furlough, which was shocking and emotional for all of us. We have been through some difficult times in the past and have come out of them stronger than ever, so we are doing our best to remain strong and united in these uncertain times" she says.

In a normal year, approximately 420,000 visitors come to the Aquarium. But as we all know, this isn't a normal year. Normally in June, the Aquarium would be welcoming a crush of visitors watching ethereal jellyfish float, otters play, and listening to the seals and sea lions barking at each other, while children crowd around the touch pool. Now, Lewis' team is considering how best to keep humans physically distanced from each other, and possibly limiting the number of visitors to support that distance, while vowing to be reopened June 1.

"We miss our public!" says the Aquarium's Curator of Fish and Invertebrates, Evonne Mochon-Collura,



A pair of tufted puffins share fish as they wait for visitors to come appreciate their goofy antics. Their distinctive yellow tufts have grown in for the summer—they will moult off in the fall.

getting emotional thinking about this beautiful facility with no visitors in it. She's proud of the Aquarium's work to 'create unique and engaging experiences connecting people to the Oregon Coast, and to inspire ocean conservation.' "Normally, we have nearly 100 volunteer divers helping us clean the tanks and interact with our curious creatures," she says. "But with people quarantining at home, that's not possible. So my amazing staff of eight has been trying to do the work of 100, keeping our animals fed, safe and alive in clean tanks." The main building at the Aquarium has more than 50 separate tanks, and the Passages of the Deep exhibit, with its underwater tunnel, has 1.3 million gallons of water that needs to be chilled to the right temperatures for the wolf eels, rockfish, and surfperch, as well as for deep sea creatures, including the broadnose sevengill shark, lemon sharks, and well-camouflaged skates,

*continued on back page*

# Electric Car Counts Soar as Charging Station is Installed in Reedsport

The state of Oregon has notified us the number of plug-in electric cars in our service area has increased 34% — to 241 from the end of 2018 to the end of 2019 — pretty exciting!

While many electric car drivers find they do 95% of their charging at home, having options away from home is important, too. Central Lincoln is helping out with a new Level 2 (medium fast) charger behind our office in downtown Reedsport. The cost to charge is the same as the charging

station at Reedsport's Recreation Station on Highway 101 — \$4 for a single charge. We hope the new station will encourage electric car drivers to shop and/or eat at the businesses in the downtown area.

Even with gas prices plummeting, it's still significantly cheaper to fuel up with electricity over gasoline. How much? Our easy-to-use calculator is at [clpud.org](http://clpud.org), click on the "Electric Cars" box, and then to "EV Savings Calculator."

If you have questions about electric



Reedsport's newest electric car charging station is behind our office in Reedsport at the corner of N. 4th St. and Fir Ave. (Umpqua Highway).

cars, federal and state rebates for driving electric, or our charging station rebate for Level 2 charging at home, please email us at [info@clpud.org](mailto:info@clpud.org)

## Can You Help a Struggling Family Member, Friend or Neighbor Anonymously? Absolutely!

We recently received a heartwarming email:

*Hi there, my dear friend became unemployed due to the shutdown. She was turned down for unemployment, and I'd like to help with her electricity bill. May I make a payment for her?*

We've happily taken payments for years to help customers in need while keeping the name of the donor a secret. (We can't share a customer's confidential information, such as if their bill is past due, or how much is owing.)

This is a wonderful way to help someone in need without embarrassment. Simply write a check to "CLPUD," and enclose the check and a note in the envelope letting us know the name and physical address of the customer you wish to help, and your contact phone number—in case we have questions. Mail to: CLPUD, PO Box 1126, Newport, 97365, or drop off at one of our drop boxes in front of our offices in Florence, Newport, or Reedsport.

And **thank you** for wanting to help—we will #PowerOnTogether.



### Aquarium Creatures *continued*

a disk-shaped species of fish related to sharks and rays.

For thousands of fans sheltering at home, the Aquarium provides live feeds from their shark, seabird, and otter cameras at <https://aquarium.org/live-cameras/> And for donors wanting to help, Aquarium leaders have created an emergency operating fund at <https://tinyurl.com/AqFund>

"We are grateful to those who have helped us in our time of need, from our wonderful members to those who have never visited before!" Lewis says. "Stay tuned for special member and community days...we love our community and can't wait to welcome you back. Thank you for your support! We've missed you."

See [aquarium.org](http://aquarium.org) for the Aquarium's latest hours and information.

**Call us** toll free at **1-877-265-3211** to report an outage, pay your bill, speak to a customer service representative and more. *Your call will be answered by the first customer service representative available in Florence, Newport, or Reedsport.*

**Pay By Phone:** 1-877-265-3211, and press "1"

**Report an Outage:** 1-877-265-3211, and press "3"

**Energy Efficiency Programs:** 1-888-883-9879

#### Office Hours: New!

Mondays-Thursdays 7 a.m.-5:30 p.m. (closed Fridays)

Florence: 966 Highway 101

Newport: 2129 N. Coast Highway

Reedsport: 440 Fir Avenue (Closed from 12:30-1 p.m.

Mondays-Thursdays, closed Fridays.)

**Website:** [clpud.org](http://clpud.org)

**Email:** [info@clpud.org](mailto:info@clpud.org)

Outage info, energy-saving tips, and latest news:

 [www.twitter.com/CLPUD](https://www.twitter.com/CLPUD)

 [Central Lincoln PUD](https://www.facebook.com/CentralLincolnPUD)



*Our mission is to ensure our communities have access to reliable and affordable energy products and services.*