

Seaside schools to pilot college savings awareness program

Be College Ready program to launch this fall

By Katherine Lacaze
EO Media Group

The Seaside School District is one of five districts to pilot a state program to raise awareness about the benefit of families getting a head start on college savings.

The Oregon College Savings Plan, which is part of the Oregon 529 College Savings Network, announced the Be College Ready program just recently. The program will kick off in September.

"We really want to foster a college-going culture in our state and we want to make sure that every kid who wants to should have the opportunity to go regardless of money, or family situation or anything else," said Michael Parker, executive director of the Oregon 529 College Savings Network. "We want every kid to know that they can be college ready, regardless of their situation."

The Oregon College Savings Plan chose Seaside School District because the group was looking for geographic diversity and varying district sizes when piloting the Be College Ready program. Also, the Confederation of Oregon School Administrators suggested Seaside would embrace the program, Parker said.

"It's awesome that Seaside's going to be a pilot, and it doesn't really surprise me because we are

very receptive to anything that helps the kids," said Angela Fairless, a member of Seaside Heights' Parent-Teacher Organization.

With both Seaside Heights and Gearhart elementary schools participating, the program will impact more than 700 students.

"Parents sort of get the idea of college savings at that kindergarten age when they're dropping their kids off for the first time. There's something that sort of clicks in," Parker said. "Our goal is, if that doesn't click in, if you hear about it at your school, it's going to click in. So that's why the

The program starts by schools becoming certified as 529 College Savings Schools. To become certified, the school must share information about the Oregon College Savings Plan on its website, have savings plan materials available in the main office, share monthly updates with students and parents and host an informational session about college funding for parents and the local community.

The schools, in return, will receive homework folders, pencils, pens, bookmarks and posters each year. In the first year, each school also will receive a

"When we visualize ourselves doing something, when we think we can do it, when we talk about doing it, it becomes much more possible and likely to happen," she said.

The program will involve educating parents about how to plan for future college expenses, motivating kids with classroom materials and partnering with local business and civic organizations to reinforce the message that it's important to save for college as early as possible.

What that means for Seaside is "we're going to work with everybody," Parker said. "It's not just going to be a school-based event. We want the community to be involved as well."

"It's totally nonideological, it's totally nonpartisan; people just see the benefit," said John Valley, the outreach director of Oregon 529 College Savings Network.

In addition to Seaside, the Be College Ready will be piloted in the Hermiston, Grants Pass, McMinnville and North Clackamas school districts. The goal is to expand the kindergarten through fifth-grade program every year and ultimately offer it to every school district statewide.

"We do also want to make sure we touch base with those parents of older kids who can get information from us regarding financial aid and scholarship opportunities," Parker said.

For more information about the Oregon College Savings Plan, visit www.OregonCollegeSavings.com, call (866) 772-8464, or go the program's Facebook page.

'We really want to foster a college-going culture in our state and we want to make sure that every kid who wants to should have the opportunity to go regardless of money, or family situation or anything else'

Michael Parker, executive director of the Oregon 529 College Savings Network

elementaries are so important to us at this time."

The state's goal with the 529 program, Parker said, is to have compound interest working for people rather than against them. A family can save about \$35,000 by putting aside \$200 per month for 10 years at a 7 percent rate of return, earning approximately an extra \$11,000 in interest. In contrast, borrowing \$35,000 at a 6.8 percent interest rate and paying it off over 10 years equals \$400 per month.

\$529 donation to its pre-terminated classroom fund and a 529 school certificate. The 529 designation is meant to be a reminder to save for college.

"It's good to give parents and students a goal for the future beyond elementary school, high school," Gearhart Elementary School Principal Juli Wozniak said. "When we have a goal, sometimes we make different choices, positive choices."

Fairless agreed.

Coincidental rescues are 'not common'

Rescues from Page 1A

Next in line is Cannon Beach. "We were toned out because Hamlet didn't have anybody responding," said Frank Swedenborg, Cannon Beach's assistant fire chief.

While Swedenborg remained at the base of the mountain, Gardner and a Cannon Beach recruit, Keaton Walde, hiked up the trail — where Medix technicians had already arrived — to reach the possible stroke patient. And, on the way, they received word of a second emergency taking place on Saddle Mountain, a "fall patient."

Fallen woman

As it happened, patient No. 2, a woman who looked to be in her 30s, had fallen from a point on the same trail almost directly above the unconscious stroke patient. She had tumbled through brush down the embankment, passed the stroke patient, and came to rest about 60 feet below him. Gardner estimates that she fell about 120 total feet.

The original caller "witnessed it with his own two eyes, could have reached out and touched her," Gardner said.

Seaside, Gearhart and Hamlet sent emergency personnel. Having determined the "call within a call" would require a rope rescue, they requested assistance from the Clatsop County High



PHOTO COURTESY OF MATT GARDNER

Cannon Beach Fire and Rescue and other local agencies performed a double rescue on Saddle Mountain the afternoon of March 27. One rescue involved a possible stroke patient, the other a woman who fell a good ways down the mountain in almost exactly the same spot.

Angle Rescue Team. "It was just a team effort, man," he said.

Incredibly, the fall patient, apart from suffering a minor head laceration, seemed fine and ended up refusing transport to Providence Seaside Hospital, where the stroke patient wound up.

"She had to have used up eight of her nine cat lives," Gardner said.

Go figure

It is normal, Gardner said, for Cannon Beach

Fire and Rescue to receive multiple emergency medical calls in a single day. "That's standard." To get them "back to back to back" is a little odd.

But the coincidence of facing two rescue situations — at the same time, in the same remote location, that are completely unrelated — is beyond unusual in Gardner's experience.

"It's not common. Let's put it that way," Fire Chief Mike Balzer said.

Had the woman somehow fallen as result of the stroke patient's ordeal — had she, say, fainted at the sight of the older man's distress — then the double rescue would have made sense. For the rescues to have had nothing to do with each other is downright spooky, in Gardner's opinion.

"If I ever write a book, it's going to go in the book," Gardner said. "You can't figure that out."

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

LAWN & GARDEN CARE

Haystack Maintenance, Inc.
Full Service Lawn & Garden Care
Full Detail Clean-Ups • Black Berry/Scotch Broom/Ivy/Bushes/Bamboo
Light Hauling • Compost • Bark • Crushed Rock
Free Estimates

A Family Owned Company since 1999 • Licensed & Insured
Serving Falcon Cove, Arch Cape, Cannon Beach, Seaside & Gearhart

Call Benjamin at 503-440-1727

PAINTING

Licensed • Bonded • Insured
CCB# 89453

Randy Anderson
36 Years Experience

Anderson Painting

(503) 738-9989 • Cell (503) 440-2411 • Fax (503) 738-9337
PO Box 140 Seaside, Oregon 97138

www.andersonpainting.biz

"Custom Finishing"

CONSTRUCTION

COASTER
construction, LLC

"Helping shape the character of Cannon Beach since 1973"

Residential • Commercial • Remodeling
New Construction • Storm Damage Repair
Full Service Custom Cabinet Shop

503.436.2235

www.coasterconstruction.com • CCB# 150126

HEATING & COOLING

COAST
Coast Heating & Cooling, LLC

Licensed & Bonded
Locally Owned & Operated
Cannon Beach, Oregon
503-440-6975
coastheating@gmail.com

Expert Service,
Repairs & Installation

Residential & Commercial

Gas, Oil & Electric Furnaces
Ductless Systems • Fireplaces
Water Heaters • Heat Pumps & AC
Commercial Refrigeration

Trade Ally of
EnergyTrust
of Oregon, Inc.

CCB# 198205

LANDSCAPING

GARDENER

arcadia organic
landscaping & design

503.440.1491
arcadialandscaping@hotmail.com
lcb 9071

CONSTRUCTION

BOB McEWAN CONSTRUCTION, INC.

EXCAVATION • UNDERGROUND UTILITIES
ROAD WORK • FILL MATERIAL
SITE PREPARATION • ROCK

OWNED AND OPERATED BY MIKE AND CELINE McEWAN

503-738-3569

34154 HWY 26, SEASIDE, OR
P.O. BOX 2845, GEARHART, OR
SERVING THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST SINCE 1956 • CC48302

LANDSCAPING

Laurelwood Compost • Mulch • Planting MacMix
Soil Amendments

YARD DEBRIS DROP-OFF
(no Scotch Broom)

503-717-1454

34154 HIGHWAY 26
SEASIDE, OR

Laurelwood Farm

ADVERTISING

ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS OR SERVICE HERE!

ONLY \$22 PER ISSUE

Call Laura Kaim
503-791-6709
lkaim@dailyastorian.com

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

EGOLA SEAFOODS
RESTAURANT & MARKET
CANNON BEACH, OREGON

FIRST CATCH OF THE SEASON!

Troll Caught Chinook Salmon

Specializing in Fresh Oregon Wild Seafood

"We've been commercial fishing the Pacific Coast since 1977!"

Seafood Restaurant • Market • Smokehouse
2nd + Spruce, Cannon Beach • 503.436.9130

the **Local Grill & Scoop**

Experience Family Dining in a Relaxed & Friendly Environment

Serving Seafood, Pizza, Sandwiches, Espressos, Beer, Wine, Ice Cream and our Homemade Desserts

We have a fabulous patio where you can enjoy the weather and your meal.

"TO-GO" Orders Welcome

156 N. Hemlock • Cannon Beach
503.436.9551

Owned and Operated by the Cleary Family