

27th Annual CASA Auction Raises \$780,000

Funding provides support for children in foster care in Multnomah, Washington, and Columbia counties

CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) for Children of Multnomah, Washington, and Columbia Counties hosted their 27th Annual CASA Auction: *Singing in the Rain* at the Portland Art Museum on April 6. The evening's presenting sponsor was Fred Meyer, and the event raised more than \$780,000 in support of CASA's mission to advocate for the rights, safety, and well being of abused and neglected children who are under the protection of the courts. This is CASA's highest grossing auction to date, and their largest single source of fundraising revenue in support of CASA's mission.

The auction achieved its most successful year to-date with support from generous donors like Fred Meyer— the event's Presenting Sponsor, and the Maybelle Clark Macdonald Fund— the event's lead Challenge Match Sponsor. The audience was comprised of over 500 guests, including: Governor Kate Brown, former Multnomah County Presiding Judge Nan Waller, leaders from Portland's corporate and philanthropic communities, CASA volunteers, CASA's Board of Directors, and CASA's Ambassador Board.

The honorary guests were a foster family who shared their story of adopting two biological siblings and the critical role the children's CASA played in making

the adoption possible. The foster parents expressed their gratitude to the children's CASA volunteer who worked tirelessly for six years to help finalize the adoption. This touching story encouraged the evening's guests to raise their paddles during the special appeal, which raised over \$271,000. CASA greatly appreciates the generosity of each attendee, and would also like to thank Sheila Hamilton and Kelly Russell, the emcee and Auctioneer for the evening; the event's success could not have been possible without them.

All proceeds raised from the auction directly impact the ability to serve more children with a CASA volunteer. A CASA passionately and tirelessly works to guide a child through the trauma of the court system. Oregon law gives CASAs unusual authority as a 'party to the case' so that they are able to ensure that the system does not ignore a child's needs and that the judge has the information to act in the child's best interests. A CASA is trained to work with judges, social workers, teachers, foster parents, and family members to guarantee that the safety and well-being of the child is front and center. This annual auction ensures the continuation of CASA's advocacy work on behalf of our community's foster children.

If you are interested in learning more about how to become a CASA volunteer, upcoming trainings, or future fundraising events, please contact Anne Marie Johnson, Director of Development and Communications, at (503) 988-4170 or ajohnson@casahelpskids.org.

School Board Discusses Facility Safety *continued from front page*

help the District address security concerns.

Webb also suggested the District may want to see if they could share live security video with local law enforcement to help them better understand the nature of any threat during an active security incident. Miller said the District needs to make sure they are not breaking any privacy laws when this is considered.

Board member Melissa Zavales suggested that, while it is important to secure entry by an outside threat, how could the District protect itself from a threat posed by a student already inside the building? "Statistically it's been shown that incidents in schools have involved students," said Zavales. "At this point, how do we insure that our kids aren't bringing weapons to school? That's more my concern than intruders."

Costley asked how the Board felt about the idea of arming teachers and staff inside the building. Several Board members, including Brittany Roberts and Stacey Pelster, raised concerns about how, and to what level, those teachers would be required to be trained. "If we ever considered this I would really demand extremely high training to be effectual in that manner," said Pelster. Miller said he would prefer teachers spend more time training to teach, since that is their job. "If they

need to have that level of training, that should be a police officer, and not a teacher," stated Miller.

Webb, who lives adjacent to the school property, noted that in watching the staff and students practice safety drills, one thing he would suggest is having the SRO block access by outside vehicles to the parking area.

Webb said his concern is that, in a rural community, law enforcement may be a long time arriving to provide help. "I know it's a scary thought to have firearms in here, besides with an SRO, but we're on our own out here and we have to understand it."

Webb also raised concerns about bullying and social media, since many shooting incidents in schools involve students who have been bullied and disenfranchised from the school community and their peers. Webb said suicide rates among youth is a big concern. "Maybe we can try to corral that a little more," suggested Webb. Zavales said she thinks the Administration is doing a good job addressing bullying in the school.

Pelster and Costley both commended staff and the administration for their commitment to holding regular safety and evacuations drills and instructing students how to act in the case of a security situation.

Columbia County to Hold Second CPAC Election

Columbia County will be holding Citizen Planning Advisory Committee (CPAC) elections for the second time, for positions that are vacant and positions who received less than 5 votes in the first election.

CPACs provide advice and recommendations to the County Land Use Planning program, including applications being considered by the Planning Department, the Planning Commission, and the Board of County Commissioners. Each CPAC has seven members who serve for two-year terms.

Each CPAC area is divided into neighborhoods. Members represent the neighborhood in which they reside or own property. The residents and/or property owners within their neighborhood elect a

CPAC member to represent them. To become officially elected a person must receive at least five votes from the neighborhood in which they reside or own property. In order to be eligible to vote you must show either picture identification proving you are at least 18 years old and that you live in the CPAC neighborhood where you will cast your ballot, or a tax statement proving that you own property within the neighborhood where you are voting. You may only vote once in your CPAC area.

The second CPAC election will be held in the following locations, and at the following times:

- Scappoose-Spitzenberg, May 24, 2018 at 7:00 pm County Courthouse Rm 351
- St. Helens-Columbia City, May 24, 2018 at 7:00 pm

County Courthouse Rm 351

- Tide Creek, May 24, 2018 at 7:00 pm County Courthouse Rm 351
- Rainier-Fernhill, May 23, 2018 at 7:00 pm Clatskanie PUD, Community Mtg Rm
- Clatskanie-Quincy, May 23, 2018 at 7:00 pm, Clatskanie PUD, Community Mtg Rm
- Upper Nehalem, May 23, 2018 at 7:00 pm, Clatskanie PUD, Community Mtg Rm

For more information about the boundaries of the CPAC and the elections process, please contact Glen Higgins, Planning Manager, Land Development Services, County Courthouse, (503) 397-1501.

If you are from the Mist-Birkenfeld CPAC area please get hold of Glen Higgins for instructions.

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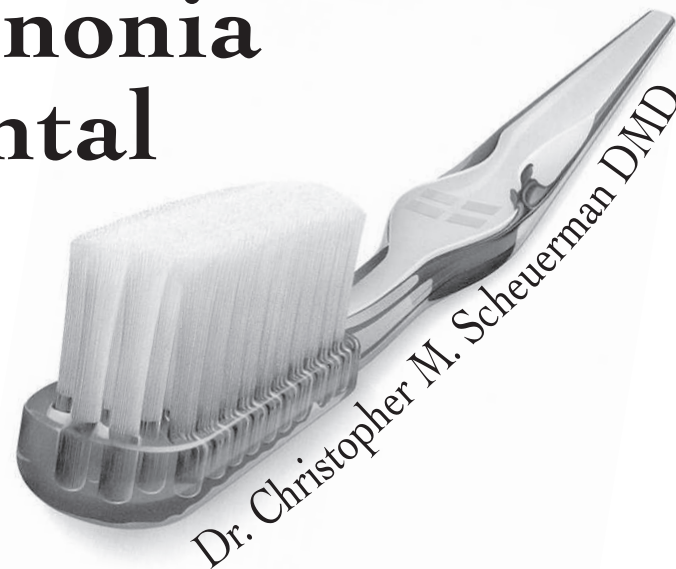
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