

U.S. Rep. Herrera tours Astoria hospital



EDWARD STRATTON/EO MEDIA GROUP

U.S. Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler, R-Washington, on April 3 toured Columbia Memorial Hospital, speaking with staff such as Kendra Gohl, manager of the hospital's care management department

Coverage change threatened to deny access to enrollees

By **EDWARD STRATTON**
For CRBJ

ASTORIA — U.S. Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler, R-Washington, toured Columbia Memorial Hospital on April 3 after helping continue a partnership with health insurer Premera Blue Cross to provide services in Astoria for residents in Pacific County.

Several hundred Premera customers in Washington, who had been able access essential services in Astoria when Columbia Memorial was part the health insurer's network, this year faced having to travel more than 60 miles each way to providers Aberdeen and Longview for many general services. The health insurers' new state-approved plan no longer included providers south of the Columbia River in its network.

Over the past four years, Columbia Memorial has served 1,108 Pacific County residents covered by Premera, for a total of 6,455 visits. More than 100 people were patients of the hospital's pediatric clinic, making 428 visits; and 142 people were patients of the women's center, for a total of 507 visits.

Herrera heard concerns from several residents when she was working with local crabbers on a fisheries bill, she said, and sent a letter asking Washington state Insurance Commissioner Mike Kreidler to take immediate action.

"It's not their fault there's a political (state) line," Herrera said of Pacific County residents traveling to Oregon for services.

Premera and the Columbia Memorial eventually reached an agreement allowing patients from Pacific County to continue coming for treatment. In addition to handling much of the pediatric care for the region, the hospital also provides the only dedicated coastal cancer treatment center closer than Longview.

CEDR, SBD announce recent hires

Anna Stamper

SEASIDE — Anna Stamper has been hired as the Clatsop Economic Development Resources' coordinator for the Clatsop Works internship program. She started March 12.

The new paid internship program will pair high schoolers with local employers. Participating businesses must be able to host interns for up to six weeks, pay at least minimum wage and provide them an employee mentor and management.



Anna Stamper

Stamper served in the Coast Guard for five years and taught social studies and humanities at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology in Alexandria, Virginia. She holds a bachelor's in government and political science from the Coast Guard Academy and a master's in secondary education from Old Dominion University.

A Coos Bay native, Stamper relocated to the North Coast in 2016 to be near her family. She worked at the Wet Dog Cafe, Downtown Coffee Shop and as an advertising representative at *The Daily Astorian* before joining the city as an administrative assistant.

Stamper's position with the college is funded almost fully by local school districts. She will work under Clatsop Economic De-

velopment Resources and the Small Business Development Center and be based at the college's South County Center.

Jessica Newhall

SEASIDE — Jessica Newhall has been named as the lead adviser for the Clatsop Community College Small Business Development Center. Her start date was March 2, and she is based out of the South County CCC/CEDR Center in Seaside, with an advising office also at the Lexington campus in Astoria.



Jessica Newhall

Newhall has worked for CCC as a part-time small business adviser since October 2017. Previously she owned and operated Events Northwest from 2014 through 2017. Prior to that she worked as a general events manager for Atlantic Media based out of Washington, D.C.

She currently has her own business consultancy company, Adventus, and has a bachelor's degree in business administration from University of Colorado.

Newhall will be replacing David Reid, who has been named as the incoming executive director for the Astoria-Warrenton Chamber of Commerce pending Skip Hauke's retirement.

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