



CAROLYN HOARD

A construction worker carries wood into a new build in The Reserve.



CAROLYN HOARD

Evergreen Construction is working on building several new homes in Clatsop County.

back to the 2008 recession, when students finishing high school or college at that time couldn't get work in the construction industry. That created a gap of new talent entering the market, and that gap continues to be an issue today, Pucci said.

Houck said the lack of manpower has slowed down builds, while crews have been working overtime to try to keep up.

"In this market it's almost impossible to find staff, knowledgeable workers or workers who have a good work ethic," Houck said. I used to have a large crew but I've downsized so I use subcontractors now because there were too many issues dealing with employees."

Jim Vleming, regional labor economist through the Employment Security Department for Washington State, said Pacific County has not seen an increase in construction jobs this year and it usually stays within 400 to 500 jobs.

"We're not seeing a big increase in employment for construction yet," Vleming said.

Shawna Sykes, workforce analyst at the Oregon Employment Department, said in Clatsop County, construction employment for March was at 1,010 jobs, about 10 jobs down from the same time last year.

Sykes noted that some construction companies come from out of the area and many construction workers are self-employed, so the job count does not always reflect the number of people working in construction in the area.

issues and mandates, it's definitely been a struggle with labor to meet the demands the market is requiring of us," Pucci said.





According to Pucci, the labor shortage goes




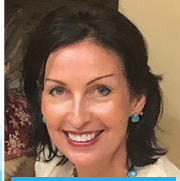

OCEAN BEACH  
**HOSPITAL**  
& MEDICAL CLINICS

**OUR PROVIDERS  
ARE READY TO MEET YOUR  
MEDICAL NEEDS!**

 <b>Dr. Fabiano</b> <i>Internal Medicine</i>	 <b>Brianna Ayers, FNP</b> <i>Family Medicine</i>	 <b>Tracy Ramos, PA-C</b> <i>Family Practice</i>	 <b>Dr. Weaver</b> <i>General Surgery</i>	 <b>Dr. Dawson</b> <i>Emergency Physician</i>
---	--	---	--	--

 <b>Steve Bellinger, PA-C</b> <i>Family Practice</i>	 <b>Kyle Shafer, PA-C</b> <i>Family Medicine</i>	 <b>William Chisholm</b> <i>CRNA</i>	 <b>Joseph Murray</b> <i>CRNA</i>
---	---	---	--

*"To provide  
compassionate  
patient focused  
care for our  
community"*

 <b>Nikki Hartley-Jonason</b> <i>ARNP, Family Practice</i>	 <b>Lori Sharrow, NP-C</b> <i>Family Practice</i>	 <b>Dr. Laurie Belknap</b> <i>Family Practice</i>
---	--	--

**Ocean Beach Hospital** 360-642-3181  
**Ocean Beach Medical Clinic** 360-642-3747  
**Naselle Clinic** 360-484-7161  
**Ocean Park Clinic** 360-642-6387  
[www.oceanbeachhospital.com](http://www.oceanbeachhospital.com)