



Weld done, everyone

Oregon Coast Community College will launch its new welding program with a ribbon cutting ceremony this Friday, Jan. 31, at Taft High School in Lincoln City.

The program, established in partnership with the Port of Toledo, Northwest Oregon Works and the Lincoln County School District, will see students and adult learners firing up their torches starting in February, with classes in Lincoln City and Toledo.

“Since I arrived at the college in 2014, I have heard from industry and community about the need for welding and maritime workforce training,” said OCCC President Dr. Birgitte Ryslingle. “Through this private-public collaboration we start building, rather than importing, our future maritime-industrial workforce. This means high-skilled, high-wage jobs for Lincoln County residents, and boosts our collective economy.”

Bud Shoemake, port manager at the Port of Toledo, spearheaded the grant-writing effort that secured \$261,285 in US Department of Transportation funding for the project, which will see a welding lab established adjacent to the shipyard.

“This year we partnered with the Lincoln County School District and had high school students from both Waldport and Toledo working as interns in our shipyard,” Shoemake said. “These schools both have industrial programs which have allowed their students to progress into the internship. The vocational welding lab will provide students at the other high schools in Lincoln County the same opportunity to participate in industrial training.”

At the same time as the program gets rolling in Toledo, the college will begin teaching welding classes at Taft High School, thanks to funding support from the school district. The welding courses will be available to both community members and high school students from within Lincoln County.

The Lincoln City ribbon cutting will start at 2 pm this Friday, Jan. 31, at Taft High School, 3780 SE Spyglass Ridge.

The first classes are already full, thanks to online registration forms that have been posted for months on the college website. For more information, call 541-867-8501.

Project Homeless Connect

Service providers will gather at Newport’s Church of the Nazarene this Friday, Jan. 31, for the 12th annual Project Homeless Connect.

The event offers people experiencing homelessness access to immediate goods and services, such as energy and housing assistance, pet and dental care, eyeglasses,

insurance enrollment and a warm meal.

Guests can get a haircut and a hot shower as well as information about medical services, Oregon Health Plan enrollment and access to services dealing with mental health and addiction.

Project Homeless Connect will run from 10 am to 3 pm at 227 NW 12th Street.



Get in the loop

The Yachats Coastal Gems walking group will head to Depoe Bay this Tuesday, Feb. 4, to tackle the Three Loops by the Sea route.

The walk consists of three loops that take in two seaside residential areas as well as the “World’s Smallest Harbor,” which served as one of the backdrops for “One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest.” Walkers



will be treated to incredible views of the ocean, including vessels making the hazardous entry to the harbor through the “Hole in the Wall.”

The three- and six-mile walks have varied walking surfaces including forested trail and a few mild hills. Walking sticks and sturdy shoes are recommended. Dogs are allowed but must be on a six-foot non-extendable lead; and owners must carry and use appropriate cleanup materials.

The group will meet in the back of the bar at Gracie’s Sea Hag, located at 58 N. Hwy. 101, Depoe Bay, at 9:45 am for registration, then start the walk at 10 am.

For more information, email yachatscoastalgems@gmail.com or call Maryann at 541-961-4279. RSVPs are greatly appreciated. Text or call on the day of walk.