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ONE DOLLAR

'WELLVILLE' JOURNEY BEGINS



JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian

Esther Dyson, the founder of the Health Initiative Coordinating Council (HICCUP), speaks to the crowd at Seaside High School during the official beginning of "The Way to Wellville."

Crowd gathers to kickoff 5-year, \$5 million health challenge

By KYLE SPURR
The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — A wide range of more than 50 community members gathered inside the Seaside High School library Tuesday night to officially begin on "The Way to Wellville," a five-year challenge to promote health across the county.

New York City-based venture capitalist Esther Dyson, the founder of the Health Initiative Coordinating Council (HICCUP), which sponsors the Way to Wellville, introduced herself to the crowd. She encouraged the community to focus on itself and on how it can become the healthiest county in the nation.

Clatsop County was chosen in August as one of five communities nationwide to compete in the nationwide challenge.

"We are facilitating. We are not coming here from the East Coast to tell you how to live," Dyson said. "We want to work with you and with the four other Wellville communities."

Although only one Wellville community will be awarded \$5 million at the end of the challenge, Dyson insists the five-year journey will benefit each community through connections with investors and overall improvements to health-related programs.

"The truth is nothing we are doing is new. There is no magic, but you have to do it," Dyson said.

WAY TO WELLVILLE STRATEGIC ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

- **Steven Blakesley** — Clatsop County Public Health District;
- **Justin Cutler** — Sunset Empire Parks & Recreation;
- **Dan Gaffney** — Clatsop Kinder Ready, pre-K-grade 3 alignment coordinator;
- **Jeff Hazen** — Sunset Empire Transportation District;
- **Chris Holden** — Baked Alaska owner;
- **Nancy Knopf** — Columbia Pacific Coordinated Care Organization (CCO) coordinator;
- **Mark Kujala** — Warrenton mayor;
- **Paula Mills** — NW Regional Educational Service District;
- **Debbie Morrow** — Columbia Pacific CCO board member;
- **Jill Quackenbush** — Clatsop County Juvenile Department;
- **Bonnie Thompson** — Providence Seaside Hospital;
- **Nicole Williams** — Clatsop Care Health District.



JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian

An idea board kept track of common themes the group discussed when it came to what health means.

Members of the newly formed Way to Wellville Strategic Advisory Council — made up of 12 local people in business, preven-

tion, social services and education — hosted the kickoff event along with HICCUP CEO Rick Brush and Dyson.

FOR MORE INFO

Website: www.hiccup.co
Twitter: @WayToWellville

The group will host another kickoff event at the Warrenton High School library from 5:30 to 7 tonight.

The Strategic Advisory Council will lead the community over the next five years by gathering the public's input on health-related ideas and partnering with other local agencies and organizations. The public can contact any member of the council with ideas.

Bonnie Thompson, chief operating officer at Providence Seaside Hospital and member of the Strategic Advisory Council, said the town hall event Tuesday was the first opportunity for the community to share their thoughts on health in Clatsop County.

See WELLVILLE, Page 7A

True blue or review?

Columbia Bank, historic landmark group are at odds over roof

By DERRICK DEPLEDGE
The Daily Astorian

Friction between corporate branding and historic protection has Columbia Bank's new two-story branch downtown caught up in a dispute over a blue, standing seam metal pyramid roof.

The Tacoma, Wash.-based bank wants the architectural feature on the new Duane Street branch for corporate branding that is common to other branches. The city's Historic Landmarks Commission approved the project in November, but rejected the proposed roof as incompatible with the downtown historic district.

Columbia Bank has appealed, so the City Council will decide next week whether the blue metal seam roof stays in the project or not.

See ROOF, Page 10A

Kujala now 1st elected mayor

Warrenton leader also first to serve more than a year

By DERRICK DEPLEDGE
The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — Mark Kujala has been mayor for three of the past four years. But when he took the oath office Tuesday night at City Hall, it was different.

The 44-year-old owner of Skippanon Brand Seafood became the first mayor in city history elected to a four-year term by voters in November. In the past, the City Commission chose a fellow commissioner to serve as mayor for a one-year term.

"Obviously, we're all accountable as city commissioners," Kujala said afterward. "But, I think, this one makes you accountable directly to the public in that position."

"I like that change. And I think it's a healthy one for a growing community."

Rick Newton, the owner of NAPA Auto Parts in Warrenton, was also sworn in as a new commissioner after winning in November.

See KUJALA, Page 10A

Homeless Connect offers help in Clatsop County

One-day, one-stop event brings many services to area's homeless

By KYLE SPURR
The Daily Astorian

For the sixth consecutive year, the Clatsop County's homeless and near-homeless population are invited to an event at the Seaside Civic and Convention Center to receive services ranging from free haircuts to housing assistance.

The sixth annual Project Homeless Connect Jessica Maclay Memorial will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Jan. 29 at the convention center.

Project Homeless Connect, organized by the Clatsop Community

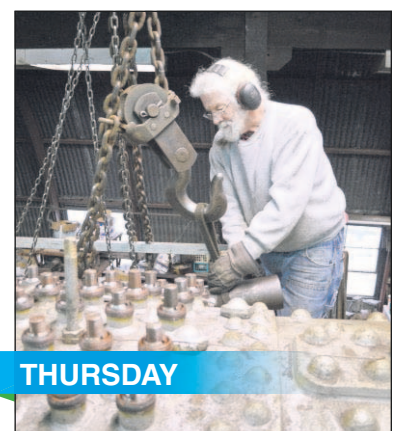


Daily Astorian file

Yellow-shirted volunteers help guide participants at 2014's Project Homeless Connect to different services covering health, education, housing, employment, food and more.

See HOMELESS, Page 10A

coast weekend



THURSDAY

Working on the railroad

