

Consultant hired for county manager review

By KYLE SPURR
The Daily Astorian

At the request of County Manager Scott Somers, the Clatsop County Board of Commissioners selected a third-party consultant to conduct a 360 performance evaluation of Somers.

Kennedy Consulting, a Portland-based firm with more than 25 years experience, was selected out of a crop of three candidates Wednesday by the Board of Commissioners at its regular meeting.

The firm, led by consultant Michelle Kennedy, was recommended by Association of Oregon Counties Executive Director Mike McArthur,

who said Kennedy previously helped the AOC.

Kennedy Consulting's 360 review will collect input from county staff, department heads and possibly community members and other people who surround Somers.

"She did a great job for AOC. Really good work," McArthur told the Board of Commissioners. "She works all across the country on these kinds of projects. She came to me recommended by Marion County."

Since Somers became county manager in 2012, his employment contract states the county must perform a "facilitated review," or third-party review. Howev-

er, Somers and the Board of Commissioners decided to forgo such reviews deeming it not necessary and a way to save money. The Board of Commissioners held its own annual performance review at essentially no cost. Each review concluded positive feedback of Somers.

Hiring Kennedy Consulting will cost the county between \$10,000 and \$12,000.

The third-party review is necessary this year, according to Somers and the Board of Commissioners.

In recent months, Somers had been the focus of complaints in anonymous letters sent to the Board of Commissioners and The Daily Astori-

an that question his management style.

He has admitted a large number of changes have occurred in his time as manager.

Since March 2013, at least six department heads have left the county.

Former County Clerk Maeve Kennedy Grimes was fired in December after errors were discovered on the general election ballot. In addition, half the county staff were moved to higher deductible health plans and the Juvenile Detention Center closed.

Somers believes the 360 review may put the concerns to bed.

Because of the concerns raised, Chairman Scott Lee

said, the Board of Commissioners felt it is appropriate to spend the money on the 360 review. The Board of Commissioners can choose not to do a third-party review in future years, and go back to its regular review.

A review from the Board of Commissioners will be included in the 360 review this year.

"This is not something we are signing onto each year," Commissioner Sarah Nebeker said.

In other business:

• Clatsop Care Center Social Services Director Mindy Stokes was appointed to the county's Human Services Ad-

visory Council.

• The Board of Commissioners appointed a Project Advisory Committee for a Tsunami Hazard Overlay Project. The project will develop a plan for a Cascadia event and increase public involvement.

• The Board of Commissioners approved an agreement with the Oregon Judicial Department for \$100,000 to fund improvement projects at the county courthouse. The total project cost is \$198,320 to replace the roof, install a new backup generator and add exterior video surveillance cameras. Under the agreement, the OJD will cover 50 percent of the cost of the projects.

County Fisheries Project seeks fin-clippers

By The Daily Astorian

Clatsop County Fisheries Project is seeking residents for temporary employment with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to clip fins of salmon fingerlings.

The work will be done at the Clatsop County Fisheries Astoria Yacht Club net pen facility and South Fork Klaskanine Hatchery.

Fin clipping involves utilizing scissors to clip various fins from juvenile fish.

The position requires good eyesight, dexterity, ability to stand in one spot for long periods of time, ability to handle small fish, good hand-eye coordination, ability and willingness to work in damp and cool environments, and ability to enter and leave premises without assistance.

The job runs about eight weeks begin-

ning around April 6.

Starting pay is \$12.17 per hour, hours are Monday through Friday, daytime shifts of up to eight hours, with biweekly paychecks, according to the Fisheries Project

For more information contact Clatsop County Fisheries Project at 503-325-6452 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays (closed from noon to 1 p.m.).

ASD thanks the Kiwanis Builders Club

The Astoria School District Board of Directors recognized Kiwanis Builders Club at its Wednesday meeting.

For several years, the district and the Builders Club have worked collaboratively to provide educational opportunities for students. The Builders Club is working with students in sixth through eighth grade at the Astoria Middle School. The club meets after school on Thursdays to promote service learning and giving back to the community. The projects the AMS Builders Club has accomplished throughout this time include:

- Collecting \$120 during the trick or treat season to assist with UNICEF's immunizations for infants and mothers in countries with need.

- Holding a canned food drive each holiday season with the students of AMS, this year bringing in more



EDWARD STRATTON — The Daily Astorian

From left, students Emily Bergerson and Julia Norris, from the Kiwanis Builders Club, show off the \$150 they raised for Doernbecher Children's Hospital through plant sales. Astoria School Board Chairman Martin Dursse, second from right, honored the Builders Club, also represented by Robert McClelland from Clatsop Community College.

than 150 items to Clatsop Community Action's Regional Food Bank.

- Participating annually in the Autism Society of Oregon's Clatsop Autism Walk. The first year of the

district's participation, it painted faces and sold buttons. Last year, the team was able to donate \$100 dollars to the cause.

- Helping prepare Camp Kiwanilong, where many

district students have camped, for the summer season one weekend in May.

- Supporting the Kiwanis/Doernbecher pediatric cancer fellowship program for oncologists to advance the research in finding treatments and cures for pediatric cancers. The Builders Club fundraises by making flower baskets in the late spring, as well as selling vegetable plant starts. This year, it has added flower baskets made by the students.

"Students in the Astoria School District have the unique opportunity to serve their community through their own learning and growth," wrote Superintendent Craig Hoppes in a release. "Astoria School District staff, students, and parents appreciate the opportunity the Kiwanis Builders Club provides all students at Astoria Middle School. The district looks forward to continuing this partnership for many years."

CCC Foundation artwork on display Saturday

The Clatsop Community College Foundation will preview some of the original artwork available for auction at the Arts & Experience Dinner and Auction during Astoria's Second Saturday Artwalk. The exhibit is from 5 to 8 p.m. Saturday at Old Town Framing, 1287 Commercial St.

The Arts & Experience Dinner and Auction Takes place Wednesday. Work from approximately one-third of the artists participating will be present at the exhibit. Bidding on these works will begin at the Preview Exhibit with the final determination of the winning bidder determined at next week's event.

"The quality of work to be presented at this year's auction made the preview selection extremely difficult," said Pat Lehman, chairwoman of the CCC Foundation Board of Directors. "We only wish we were able to show all of the outstanding pieces we've received."

Each year, the CCC Foundation invests more than \$100,000 in scholarships and support for state-of-the-art equipment and facilities.

This investment is made possible through the auction, its annual fundraising event.

Pacific Power returns as the signature sponsor of the event this year. Presenting sponsors include The Lehman Family Trust and P&C Construction Company.

Contact Patricia Warren at 503-338-2306 or pwarren@clatsopcc.edu for additional information regarding event tickets (\$75), sponsorship opportunities

or donations of artwork or participatory experiences.

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