

Coast Rehabilitation awarded employment grant

In late February, Coast Rehabilitation Services was awarded an Employment First Grant for \$62,000.

The purpose of the grant is to expand Clatsop County's capacity to provide individual integrated employment services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. CRS, a nonprofit, was one of 12 organizations statewide to receive such a grant.

The majority of Oregonians with developmental disabilities are underemployed or unemployed, despite their demonstrated ability to become valued employees.

Some surveys, such as the National Snapshot of Adults with Intellectual Disabilities in the Labor Force, conducted by the University of Massachusetts in Boston, place the unemployment rate as high as 75 percent.

People with disabilities continue to face significant barriers and challenges

in obtaining and maintaining integrated competitive employment.

Part of Coast Rehabilitation Services' mission is to seek and support employment opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities. This grant will provide funds to hire and train an employment specialist to provide integrated, community job services for Clatsop County. In addition, the grant will provide Coast the opportunity to further explore high school transition services to better support young people in finding meaningful work.



Hoppes says schools could get shortchanged

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

Legislators have talked about deciding 2015-17 school funding within two weeks, and their current figure of \$7.235 billion for the 2015-17 biennium means a reduction for Astoria, said Superintendent Craig Hoppes Wednesday.

"The bottom line is this: State School Funding must be at least \$7.5 billion for the 2015-17 biennium and preferably at \$7.875 billion," wrote Hoppes in a letter emailed March 6 to parents and guardians in the Astoria School District. "Since 2003, the percentage of state's budget allocated to K-12 education has gone from 44.8 (percent) down to 39.37 (percent); this is not acceptable."

The reduction to \$7.235 billion could cost the Astoria School District \$220,000, wrote Hoppes, and it falls \$300 million short of covering the additional costs of full-day kindergarten, a state mandate as of next year.

Administrators have estimated the equivalent of about 28,000 additional students will be added with full-day kindergarten, which currently is only funded for a half day.

Superintendent Mark Jeffery said the Warrenton-Hammond School District would be all right with that funding, but it would nix his ability to fund any improvements. Warrenton and Knappa school districts are two that already voluntarily offer full-day kindergarten.

Ascending budgets

Ex-Gov. John Kitzhaber's budget, released in December, included \$6.914 billion for education, including \$240 million for the statewide introduction of



Craig Hoppes

full-day kindergarten and a special focus on early learning and helping kids read proficiently by third grade. School leaders said it would have left schools with budget, staff and program cuts.

School leaders have pointed to \$7.235 billion as still inadequate; \$7.5 billion as keeping the status quo with increasing costs and full-day kindergarten; and \$7.875 billion as an investment budget that allows districts to restore various programs, electives and student services.

The Quality Education Model was created to show what funding schools needs to realistically meet the Oregon Legislature's ambitious 40-40-20 goal, created by Senate Bill 253.

The goal states that by 2025, 40 percent of Oregonians will have at least a bachelor's degree, 40 percent will have an associate or career certificate and that every Oregonian will have graduated high school.

For the 2013-15, The Quality Education Model estimated \$8.755 billion as the proper amount of funding to reach that goal. For 2015-17, the estimate was \$9.613 billion.

State Sen. Betsy Johnson, a co-vice chairwoman on the Joint Committee on Ways and Means crafting

the budget, attended a legislative forum in Astoria in mid-January, just after her group's proposed budget came out, with the \$7.235 billion funding figure for education.

Moving quickly

"It is the May revenue forecast that is the north star against which the final budget is put together," said Johnson at the forum.

Administrators have implored legislators to wait until the May revenue forecast to decide how schools should be funded.

In his email to parents, Hoppes asked them to contact Johnson and state Rep. Deborah Boone (see box).

CONTACTS

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County seeks applicants for human services committee

Clatsop County is seeking applicants to serve on the Human Services Advisory Committee.

The committee advises the Clatsop County Board of Commissioners on services for local residents with developmental disabilities, mental illness and drug or alcohol addictions.

The committee identifies needs, establishes priorities for publicly funded services and assists in selection of service providers, evalu-

ates services and provides a link to the public through advocacy and education.

The opening on the committee is for an unexpired term ending in February 2016.

The Board of Commissioners will appoint the member to the position.

Application forms are available online at www.co.clatsop.or.us, from the office at 800 Exchange St., Suite 410, or by calling 503-325-1000.

Benson Beach cleanup slated

ILWACO, Wash. — The GrassRoots Garbage Gang is holding a community beach cleanup Sunday at Cape Disappointment's Benson Beach. The group is meeting in the parking area across

from the restrooms at the Waikiki Beach entrance at 1:45 p.m. The cleanup runs till 4 p.m., and bags will be provided.

Those who want to participate, but who don't have

a Discover Pass for entry into the park, can stop by the park office near the entrance to get a free volunteer day pass.

For questions, contact Shelly@ourbeach.org

Celebrate CCC's Veteran's Center Wednesday

Clatsop Community College will hold an opening ceremony for its new Veteran's Center, located in the former Student Services Building at 1717 Lexington Ave. in Astoria, at 11 a.m. Wednesday.

The Veteran's Center is designed to be a place where veterans, active duty military

and their families can come to study, meet with veteran's services representatives and gather with other veterans. CCC Board member Paul Gillum is the main speaker. Josh Corder, a nursing student and a veteran, will also speak at the event.

"As a designated Military-Friendly College, CCC is

pleased to add this modest Veteran's Center in support of our student-veteran population," said CCC President Lawrence Galizio.

The opening is public, and light refreshments will be served.

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Clatsop County Historical Society presents **Roaring 20's Speakeasy**

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Saturday March 14

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6:30 PM

Roulette, Craps, Poker & Black Jack

3 GAMES OF TEXAS HOLD 'EM

6:30, 7:30 & 8:30

*10 PERSON LIMIT PER GAME. Buy-ins of \$30, \$40 and \$50 respectively. Buy-in is in addition to entry ticket. The chip leader at the end of 50 min. wins a Visa Cash Card valued at 50% of the total buy-in per game. Maximum potential prize money is: 1st Game \$150 • 2nd Game \$200 • 3rd Game \$250

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503-325-2203 or cchs@cumtux.org

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