CCC scholarship applications available online

For students planning to attend Clatsop Community College in the 2015-16 academic year, the scholarship application is now available online. Students may apply now through April 24.

A list of more than 50 scholarships currently available is at www.clatsopcc.edu/finaid

The college awards scholarships based on criteria including financial need, academic accomplishments or other institutional or donor requirements.

"Too many people don't think college is an option, so they're surprised when they learn there is financial help to pay for college," said Lloyd Mueller, CCC's director of financial aid. "Students should apply now, even if they're not 100 percent certain they will attend Clatsop."

According to Mueller, the college awarded nearly 600 students around $3.5 million in grants, scholarships, work-study opportunities and student loans this year. The college has support available, Mueller said, but students need to take the first steps, filling their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and applying for admission to the college.

"Then apply for every scholarship you can," he said. "Treat it like a part-time job because it can be more financially rewarding."

Mueller said scholarships available include institutional awards and scholarships made possible by donations through the Clatsop Community College Foundation.

The CCC Foundation holds more than 30 local scholarship funds that will provide approximately $81,500 in scholarships to CCC students next year. Scholarships from annual gifts and endowed funds are awarded based on donor-defined criteria, including support for specific academic programs, for students nearing degree completion or for students who are not eligible for the federal financial aid.

The CCC Foundation receives individual gifts throughout the year as well as grants that support annual scholarship awards. The foundation's annual fundraising event, the Arts & Experience Dinner and Auction that will be held on April 18, is also a major source of support for CCC students. For information about the CCC Foundation and creating a scholarship fund to support local students, contact Patricia Warren, director of college advancement, at 503-338-2306 or pwarren@clatsopcc.edu

Additional scholarship application information and assistance is available from CCC's Office of Financial Aid. Contact the office at 503-338-2322 or finaid@clatsopcc.edu

Assault: 'We are still trying to get our arms around everything that happened'

injuries and taking items from the home, according to police.

The two to three possible suspects fled the scene in a gold GMC Jimmy with pink decals on the back. The license plate is unknown. One of the people in the car is believed to be a possible hostage, according to police.

"There is a possibility that they have taken one of the occupants of the apartment with them," Johnston said.

At 8:48 a.m., a Seaside detective found the suspect vehicle at Arnie's Café in Warrenton, but the vehicle was unoccupied.

Astoria Police, Warrenton Police and the Clatsop County Sheriff's Office found several people believed to be related to the incident, but not the suspects who entered the house and assaulted the victims.

Three people have been detained at this time while police investigate.

Warrenton Police Chief Matt Workman said the suspects may have fled on foot or found another vehicle. Warrenton High School and Grade School are in Lock Out.

"I just know there were possibly two or three (suspects) in the vehicle," Workman said.

Astoria Police is continuing to investigate. The Clatsop County Major Crime Team is assisting in the investigation.

"We are still trying to get our arms around everything that happened," Johnston said.

Oregon Health Board to meet in Astoria

The Oregon Health Policy Board will hold its monthly meeting from 8:30 a.m. to noon Tuesday at Astoria City Hall, 1095 Duane St. The board will receive a brief legislative update and have an opportunity to hear from the local community through a series of focused panels on health system transformation, public health and behavioral health. Public testimony begins at 11:50 a.m.

Members of the public are welcome to attend in person or may attend via the listen-only telephone line at 1-888-808-6929, participant code 604851#.

A link to a recording of the meeting will be posted on the board's meeting page at www.oregon.gov/oha/OHPB/Pages/2015-OHPB-Meetings.aspx

Business applications due Tuesday

The Oregon Technology Business Center, in partnership with the Clatsop Community College Small Business Development Center, is launching an interactive video incubation program for entrepreneurs in Clatsop County. The four-month program, beginning this month, is designed to help startup companies grow quickly by connecting them with experts from the Small Business Development Center, the Oregon Technology Business Center and successful entrepreneurs.

The program is being funded by a grant from the Oregon Community Foundation Fund and will be offered in Pendleton, Klamath Falls, Coos Bay and Clatsop County. Its goal is to grow successful businesses in rural Oregon. This is the second time the program has been offered in the North Coast region. It's been expanded to other rural areas in the state based on the success of the initial program in 2014.

Every two weeks, the Oregon Technology Business Story will host live video training sessions bringing together the entrepreneurs, its staff, college staff and expert guest speakers. Between biweekly video conferences, mentoring by telephone conferencing will be offered.

The program costs $250. Once the business owner completes the four-month program, they receive a $75 refund. The program will be limited to four entrepreneurs in each area.

Who should apply? All entrepreneurs who are building "growth" businesses are encouraged to. The term "growth" is for businesses looking to build and expand beyond their local area.

The registration deadline is Tuesday.

For registration information, contact the Small Business Development Center's Executive Director Kevin Leahy at 503-338-2402 or kleahy@clatsopcc.edu. Information is also available at www.otbc.org
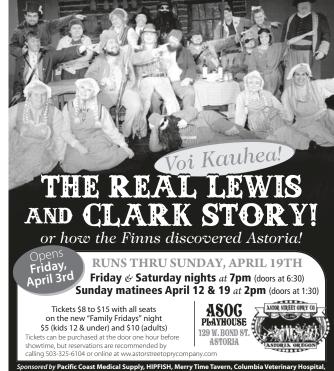
Websites: Problem 'needs to be fixed'

State employees do not know how many websites might have this vulnerability because although some information technology work is centralized at the Department of Administrative Services, many agencies have autonomous IT teams and websites, according to Oregon Chief Information Security Officer Stefan Richards.

The EO Media Group/Pamplin Media Group Capital Bureau tested more than a dozen websites and found several with outdated encryption protocols and other weaknesses. Most of the websites tested were on a list of vulnerable websites that a private web developer sent the Department of Administrative Services in early February.

For example, the Employment Department website still uses the encryption protocol TLS 1.0 that has been known to be vulnerable for years, including at a portal where people are asked to enter their social security numbers to file an unemployment claim.

A web portal for Department of Human Services employees uses another older protocol, SSL 2, although the agency's chief information officer, Kristen Duus, said the site does not contain sensitive information and the agency plans to upgrade it in a couple of weeks.

The EO Media Group/Pamplin Media Group Capital Bureau found two other state websites — the child support payment portal at the Oregon Department of Justice and the vehicle registration renewal portal at the Department of Motor Vehicles — using a newer, but still outdated and vulnerable, encryption technology called SSL 3.

"That does sound bad!" Jacob Hoffman-Andrews, senior staff technologist for the Electronic Frontier Foundation, wrote in an email Wednesday after he learned of the situation. "It's not likely to lead to bulk data breaches, but it means that individual's data is at risk whenever they are accessing these websites."

Stefan Richards, Oregon's chief information security officer, also said the older protocols are known to be vulnerable.

"I'm a little bit surprised there's SSL 2 out there," Richards said Wednesday. He added the problem "needs to be fixed" and "there's kind of no excuse not to get rid of (SSL 2) ..."

Richards and a spokeswoman for the Department of Justice said, in these cases, they need to assess how it would affect the public when they transition off the outdated encryption protocol because many people still use outdated versions of web browsers that would not display websites with newer technology.

For example, Richards said, people with Windows XP, which runs up to Internet Explorer 6, would not be able to use that browser to view websites with updated encryption technology.

"We receive nearly a $1 million a day in child support payments, serving thousands of Oregon kids and families," DOJ spokeswoman Kristina Edmunson wrote in an email. "We are currently in the process of updating our system, and we are always trying to balance security with user needs. Any quick changes to our system can have an immediate impact on Oregonians — especially those who are using older smart phones, iPads, etc. Older computers and processors can't always support the higher security measures."

That issue has not stopped some state agencies from upgrading their website security. For example, the state Department of Revenue website where people can pay their taxes, www.payortax.com, uses one of the more secure encryption protocols.

The EO Media Group/Pamplin Media Group Capital Bureau tested select state websites using a free online tool from the cybersecurity company Qualys.

The Department of Justice actually started to transition way from SSL 3 approximately six months ago, and child support is the last area to receive the upgrades. "It sounds like this has been a slowly rolling process," Edmunson said Thursday.

Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum has identified cybersecurity as an important issue, and is pushing for the Legislature to pass a bill that would expand protections for consumers' personal data. The legislation would also allow the state Department of Justice to pursue civil penalties against individuals and organizations that fail to comply.

David House, a DMV spokesman, said the vehicle registration renewal portal is handled by the Department of Administrative Services and the contractor NIC Inc. The Oregon Department of Transportation where the DMV is housed did make a security improvement on its end Wednesday, when the agency upgraded its digital certificate to replace a certificate that expired March 31.

Richards said even if the Department of Administrative Services where he works decided the entire state government should switch to a newer, more secure encryption technology, it could not order all agencies to make the change. DAS is currently assessing how many people who use old versions of Internet Explorer and other web browsers that would be cut off from state websites if agencies upgrade to technology that doesn't work with those old browsers.

If the state tomorrow stopped supporting old versions of web browsers that still use older encryption, "we'd have to be willing to have as much as 29 percent of our citizens not accessing our sites," Richards said. And despite known vulnerabilities, "You'll find lots of sites running SSL 3," Richards said.

For approximately a month, the state has been assessing the impact that an update would have on people with old web browsers. Benjamin Kerensa, a web developer in Portland, contacted the Department of Administrative Services Feb. 6 and told staff he had noticed encryption protocols were outdated. Richards said Kerensa's calls and emails caused the Department of Administrative Services to look into the issue, but it was also his understanding employees at the state data center were already aware of the outdated encryption on some websites and were working on a solution.

At the Employment Department, Legislative and Public Affairs Manager Andrea Fogue said the agency has been forced to continue using TLS 1.0 because its computer servers are so old. The agency suffered an unrelated bulk data breach in October that affected more than 800,000 people. It is still under investigation by the Oregon State Police and FBI.

The agency is replacing its servers as part of an IT modernization project, but she declined to provide the age of the old servers because that might reveal vulnerabilities that attackers could exploit. Fogue said IT employees have taken additional steps to encrypt the sensitive information entered by people who use their website so even if an attacker intercepted the information, "it would take years" to decipher.

"This points to why this is such a high priority for us that we're taking on this IT modernization project," Fogue said. "It's something that we are not only aware of, but it's a very high priority for us to address."

This story first appeared in the Oregon Capital Insider newsletter. To subscribe, go to oregoncapitalinsider.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Baxter Family Medicine joins CMH Primary Clinic April 20, 2015

Kevin Baxter, DO, and Jan Monroe, FNP, are pleased to be joining the CMH Primary Care Clinic team. They will begin seeing patients at the clinic in Warrenton at 1639 SE Ensign Lane, Suite B103, on April 20.

This change allows Kevin Baxter, DO, and Jan Monroe, FNP, to focus on caring for their patients instead of running a business. Their patients will enjoy the same care and services that they have previously. For more information or to make an appointment, call 503-338-4500.

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