



THE DAILY ASTORIAN

142nd YEAR, No. 207

THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2015

ONE DOLLAR

Filling empty bellies, one at a time



Corri Buck hugs Chris Crone before handing out food and supplies to people in the parking lot at 12th and Exchange streets.

JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian

Astoria woman on personal mission to feed the homeless

By DERRICK DePLEDGE
The Daily Astorian

One morning last November, Corri Buck said she heard a voice from above: God wanted her to make lunch for the hungry.

So she made a half dozen bologna and cheese sandwiches, gathered some bananas, tangerines, cookies and candy canes, and went downtown to find the homeless.

Five months later, Buck, 47, of Astoria, is serving 25 to 30 free brown-bag lunches downtown six days a week. Filling Empty Bellies — her personal mission — has a Facebook page and a GoFundMe account that has raised \$1,000.

She has moved from cold sandwiches to homemade pasta, macaroni and cheese, stews and chili. On Wednesday, lunch was chicken enchiladas and rice.

“The support has been overwhelmingly positive,” Buck said. “It brings me to tears. I’m so humbled.”

Getting help

There are an estimated 1,000 homeless people in Clatsop County, according to Clatsop Community Action, which helps low-income residents find food, housing and other essential services. While there are gaps, such as shelter space for the homeless, food is generally accessible.



Corri Buck hands people towels from the back of her car in the parking lot at 12th and Exchange streets Wednesday. Buck helps provide people with food, hygiene products and clothes six days a week. Filling Empty Bellies — her personal mission — has a Facebook page and a GoFundMe account that has raised \$1,000.

JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian

‘The support has been overwhelmingly positive. It brings me to tears. I’m so humbled.’

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Astorian woman who helps provide people with food, hygiene products and clothes six days a week in downtown

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The Clatsop Community Action Regional Food Bank distributed a record amount of food last year — nearly 1.5 million pounds — with the help of partners such as food pantries, meal sites, homeless shelters and backpack programs for children.

County Career Fair helps students find a path

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

Erin Burgess, a junior at Astoria High School, was looking for her first job Thursday. And she didn’t have far to look.

About 60 local employers and more than 500 high school juniors and seniors met Wednesday at the Clatsop County Fair and Expo Center for the inaugural Clatsop County Career Fair.

Students threaded through the fairgrounds’ exhibit route, surrounded by employer booths from the forest products, health care, law enforcement, government, manufacturing, professional services, retail and tourism sectors.

Some students and employers were there to make an immediate connection, while some looked at training and career opportunities.

“I really like retail stuff,” Burgess said, adding in the early going, she didn’t really have any preferences beyond a part-time job that will last through the school year and help her save for college.

There to pitch such a situation, at least for the busy summer months, was Resort Manager Servando Robledo from Wyndham’s WorldMark Seaside hotel complex. Robledo told Burgess and other teens the benefits, from a \$500 signing bonus for new full-timers to tuition reimbursement.

“We recruit all the way from the Long Beach (Wash.) Peninsula to Cannon Beach and Manzanita,” Robledo said, adding Wyndham sometimes needs to look even farther afield to find enough help during the summer.

Service Sector

Clatsop County’s seasonal economy is especially geared toward employment for high-schoolers.

“They’re essential to keeping things moving in the summer season,” said Shawna Sykes, a workforce analyst for the Oregon Employment Department.



Servando Robledo, the resort manager for Wyndham Vacation Ownership in Seaside, pitches jobs to Erin Burgess, center, and Beth Mathre, juniors at Astoria High School. Robledo said his company offers signing bonuses, tuition reimbursements and other benefits to help attract much-needed help during the busy season.

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Building a better boatyard

Group focuses on practices, placement

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

The Port of Astoria’s ad hoc boatyard committee met for the second time, and had a new attendee: Dave Daggett, the yard manager for Astoria Forest Products on Pier 3.

Daggett joined other boatyard users in talking about how to best operate the boatyard and log yard together on Pier 3 in the short term, and a long-term idea of what options the Port might have.

He said that AFP plans on being in Astoria long-term and wants to be a good neighbor. AFP recently changed its trucking routes, ending the practice of driving through the middle of the boatyard.

Port of Astoria Executive Director Jim Knight trotted out a 2005 conceptual drawing he said best represents the original intent of the boatyard, talking about a previous master plan from 2001 that would have turned Pier 3 entirely into a boatyard.

An amended master plan was approved in 2010, including storage for logs by Westerlund Log Handlers. Now Murphy Overseas USA LLC, which operates AFP, leases much of the land.

“I’m not shutting down,” Knight said, reiterating his stance that the existing boatyard will stay while planning for an improved one, as long as the state doesn’t see an issue and impose fines. “I want to have the best boatyard we can possibly have in the best situation.”

Knight shared a profit-and-loss statement for the boatyard, including its revenue and operating expenses, showing the Port netted an average of \$21,000 annually over the past five years. He said it included staff salaries and boatyard equipment but didn’t include overhead, utility and other expenses.

He said the Port was probably losing \$50,000 a year on the boatyard.

“I’d just be happy to break even,” Knight said, adding that making money on the boatyard isn’t the highest priority, as he’s learned the value of it to the community.

For the short-term, the boatyard committee discussed how to improve the Best Management Practices (BMPs) at the Port’s existing boatyard, and what to charge for its operation for it to break even.

BMPs

Ed Green, a commercial fisherman and committee member, brought a copy of the BMPs from Port of Ilwaco, Wash., which can be found online at <http://bit.ly/1Iijqoc>. Green said the rates, document and procedures were similar to Astoria.

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