

Auction: Unique local experiences draw the most interest

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did such a good job running the bond campaign for the Patriot hall Redevelopment, he's now in Texas running former Gov. Rick Perry's presidential campaign, joked his wife and stand-in Saturday at the auction Janice O'Malley Galizio.

Galizio really is in Texas, but at the American Association of Community Colleges' 95th annual convention in San Antonio.

"There's a ton of issues," Galizio said over the phone Sunday, adding he's on the AACCC's Higher Education Reauthorization Act Task Force looking at such issues as Pell grant availability, collegiate accreditation and a possible federal rating system for colleges and universities.

The auction's results proved the community's support for the community college, Galizio said, as did state Sen. Johnson making CCC's special appeal amid the 78th Legislative Assembly, one of the busiest sessions in Oregon's history.

Adding it up

"He's not in charge of my purse strings tonight," said Janice O'Malley Galizio, who starting live auction bidding with \$500 on a multicourse Latin dinner by the CCC Latino Club valued at \$250 — she eventually paid \$600.

The live auction brought in \$22,825, according to preliminary results, with unique local experiences drawing the most interest. Businesses and community members donated their services, offering chances to brew beer, cooking classes, dining, guided hikes, canoe trips, Timbers tickets, hotel stays, Astoria Music Festival passes and even a membership for at-home fish delivery.

Members of the college's board, faculty and clubs offered up their skills, including the CCC Latino Club's dinner; speech instructor and accomplished singer Deac Guidi's private performance; and a private kayak trip with CCC board member Tessa James Scheller.

"That certainly makes it feel community oriented," said Scheller, who in the past offered sailing sessions on her boat.

The silent auction included art, goods and services, from cooking classes to Mandarin and Spanish lessons. It brought in nearly \$8,000, while the college mystery wine raffle, "Grape Expectations," brought in another \$1,320. Auction tickets for the event added another \$5,790; the CCC Foundation even sold the centerpieces on its tables, making another \$60.



JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian

A roomful of people talk and bid during the silent auction portion of the Clatsop Community College Foundation Arts & Experience dinner and auction.



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Joe Henthorn holds up an art piece for auction during the Clatsop Community College Foundation Arts & Experience dinner and auction.

Better and better

The auction has continually improved its performance, earning about \$73,000 in 2012, nearly \$90,000 in 2013, \$101,000 in 2014 and \$107,000 this year. But the amount raised still doesn't match what the foundation gives out, which its chairwoman Pat Lehman said equaled \$229,000 in scholarships and program support last year and regularly averages more than \$100,000 each year.

"A major focus for the foundation is our support for students, whether they're

pursuing an academic degree, gaining workforce skills, exploring a personal interest or retraining for a new career," Lehman said during her address to the bidders.

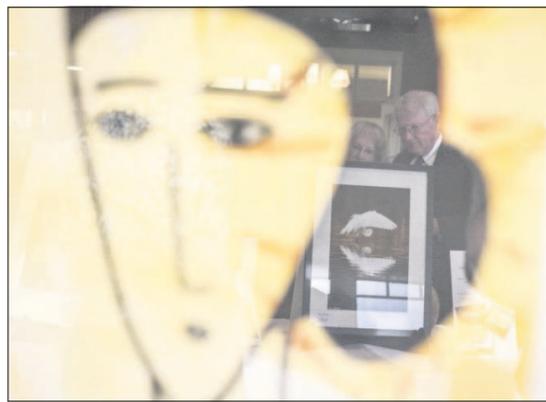
Before the auction, she brought up nursing student Regina Whitaker as an example of who the bidders would be supporting.

A good investment

Whitaker, a self-described "domestic engineer" for 15 years while raising four kids, said she started back to work in 2009, teaching at a private school. She was interested

in teaching as a career but fretted over the cost. Then she came across the nursing program in the college's catalogue. A flood of memories came back, she said, from helping her mother answer phones at the Red Cross and volunteering for a local hospital and working as a certified nursing assistant in a nursing home and spending 15 years researching a disabling medical condition that affects her son.

"It dawned on me that I had pretty much spent my entire life in the medical field without even knowing it,"



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John and Melanie Ryan, from Astoria, are seen browsing the art pieces through the reflection of the piece "Head of a Woman VI" by Vicki Baker at the Clatsop Community College Foundation Arts & Experience dinner and auction. Melanie Ryan donated a stained-glass piece titled Fleur De Lis.

'Your financial investment this evening is not just an investment in a college. But it's an investment in a community.'

— Regina Whitaker
nursing student

said Whitaker, who started at CCC in 2012. "It was just life, and I went along with the flow.

"I saw that this was a degree at the college that I could complete and begin working as a nurse right away."

Whitaker said one of her oldest daughters has nearly completed her first two years,

and her second-oldest will soon be studying for a nursing degree at CCC.

"Your financial investment this evening is not just an investment in a college," she said. "But it's an investment in a community, and in a mother and in her children. And for this, I must say thank you."

Crouter: She began her career with the county in 1994

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is a prevention specialist with the county's Juvenile Department. She has a 20-year-old son Ryan, a 15-year-old daughter Kelsea and husband Brian, who works for the Warrenton Public Works Department.

An Astoria native, Crouter started with the county in 1994 as a staff assistant with the Clatsop County Sheriff's Office. In 2000, she started working with the Juvenile Department.

A few years ago, she started at Northwest Parenting, a three-county partnership in Clatsop, Columbia and Tilla-

mook counties. Crouter said the effort is funded by a three-year grant through the Oregon Parent Education Collaborative. It mainly focuses on children 0 to 6 years old, she said, providing \$100,000 this year (until June 30) and \$90,000 the next two, before funding drastically decreases.

Northwest Parenting focuses on family, parent and child engagement. It offers family events in reading, recreation and home economics; parenting programs and classes for parents of infants to teenagers in middle school; and school-readiness workshops like Clatsop Kinder Ready and

others for preschool.

Crouter said funding for teens is more challenging. Northwest Parenting runs Strengthening Families, a program to improve communication and empathy between parents and their 10- to 14-year-olds.

"Children will challenge at every stage of child development," she said, adding the classes provide a framework to approach the different stages of development.

"One of the biggest requests I get is about classes for adult children, and I don't have any programs for that."

Classes cost \$25, with

scholarships, a sliding fee scale and child care and dinner when needed.

Crouter said Facebook is the best way to keep up on what Northwest Parenting is doing, along with www.nworparenting.org and northwestparenting@gmail.com

— By Edward Stratton

MORE INFO

Registration is required for the free Clatsop Kinder Ready workshops, which are 10 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday at Seaside Library; 10 a.m. to noon May 2 at Warrenton Grade School, 820 S.W. Cedar Ave.; and 10:30 a.m. to noon May 16 at Astoria Public Library, 450 10th St. Contact Northwest Parenting (www.nworparenting.org) at 503-325-8673, ext. 2, to register.

Subpoena: Records from 11 state departments and agencies sought

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The state, meanwhile, has spent \$61,000 in attorney costs so far responding to the federal subpoena. The costs, according to Kristina Edmanson, a spokeswoman for the state Department of Justice, include attorney time for all of the state agencies covered by the subpoena.

The subpoena sought records from 11 state departments and agencies: Administrative Services; Business Development; Community

Colleges and Workforce Development; Energy; Environmental Quality; Office of the Governor; Government Ethics Commission; Housing and Community Services; Justice; State Lands; and Revenue.

In addition to Kitzhaber and Hayes, the subpoena also covered records related to 3E Strategies, Hayes' Bend consulting firm, and Demos, a New York-based public-policy group that had hired Hayes as a consultant.

Federal investigators also

sought records tied to Hayes' associates, such as Resource Media, the Energy Foundation, Rural Development Initiatives, Clean Economy Development Center, Waste to Energy Group, and the Oregon Business Council.

The state Attorney General's Office suspended its probe of Kitzhaber and Hayes in late February at the request of federal authorities.

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