

Grad rates: 'It's a myth that education is this linear progression'

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Jackson added he has three or four students attending a fifth year, several going for a GED diploma and two transfer students not on track for graduation. Most high schools face similar situations, except for Jewell, which graduated all nine of its seniors and released another to get a GED diploma through the college.

Highly transient

Seaside High School Principal Sheila Roley said her school can add and drop a quarter of its student population each year.

High schools serve an often transient student population, which administrators say makes it difficult to get an accurate picture from four-year graduation rates. Of the 103 seniors who started the year at Seaside, 95 got their diplomas Monday, one is coming back next year and a few others are pursuing GED diplomas.

"Then there are a few who just leave school and choose not to finish," Roley said. "It's hard to keep them here with us."

The challenges students face and the reasons they drop out are as unique as the students themselves, Roley said.

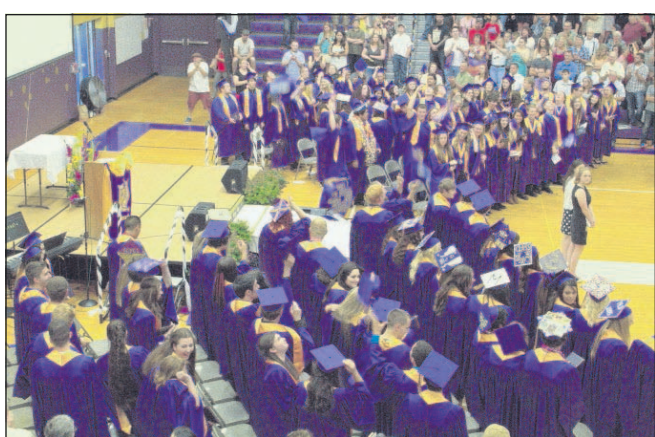
There are often socioeconomic challenges, Jackson said, and it is not uncommon to see students rack up transcripts moving between multiple county high schools.

Warrenton High School Principal Rod Heyen said he focuses more on individual students than on graduation rates, adding he has put kids on the GED route as early as 16 years old after determining they likely would not be able to overcome their challenges to graduate.

He and other principals can also send students to Gray Alternative High School, a program run by Astoria School District



Superintendent Alice Hunsaker, left, of Jewell School tells its nine graduates Saturday to move their tassels from right to left during their graduation ceremony. Graduates, from left to right, are Tristin Alderson, Avery Anderson, Victor Berg, Dylan Cavin, Tony DiMaggio, Moira Hammerberg, Chase Kaminski, Rachel Stahly and Robbie Williams.



Edward Stratton — The Daily Astorian
Astoria High School graduated 116 students Saturday.

where students with children of their own, jobs and other adult demands have more flexibility to study online with the help of district staff. Eleven of the 25 students enrolled in the program finished this year as Astoria graduates.

"As part of our program, we're discovering the population (of) students who come really close, and have a little bit

more to do" to graduate, Alexa Knutsen, the program's director, said of the kind of students her program attracts.

For students who have little chance of graduating before aging out, districts at times look outside their own schools.

"I had a couple kids opt for Job Corps," Heyen said. "They're not counted as completers for us. It really doesn't



Edward Stratton — The Daily Astorian
Warrenton High School graduated 41 students Friday.

matter to us, as long as they're moving on."

The free, federally funded workforce training program helps low-income youth ages 16 to 24 complete high school, earn a variety of professional certifications and be trained for a high-demand career.

Going to college early

More than half of the 58 peo-

ple who earned their GED diplomas at the college this year were from Tongue Point Job Corps.

Several GED graduates and their families gathered Monday in the college's meeting room, where they were honored for earning a high school equivalency.

Each year, the college's GED program takes on teenagers released by their respective districts and those generations older

coming back to accomplish a lifelong dream. The graduates Monday ranged from 18-year-old home-schooler Nora Koch to 24-year-old Sri Lankan immigrant Maria Dineshan Francis Lambert.

Koch has siblings in high school, but said studying in groups did not work for her, nor did the slower pace of studies. Lambert had already graduated high school and earned a two-year college degree in Sri Lanka. But his education did not transfer to the U.S., meaning he has to do it all over again. Both Koch and Lambert are already enrolled in college to study science and civil engineering, respectively.

"This is in some ways, arguably, the most important graduation," college President Lawrence Galizio said to graduates at the Monday ceremony, intoning them to take stock of their accomplishment and plot their next moves. "It's a myth that education is this linear progression."

Tsunami: Rule change will affect different towns in different ways

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"I can not even hazard a guess," Ryan said.

The rule change will have ramifications for private developers, too. Builders are legally required to consult

with the department before planning high-occupancy structures, like a hotel or retirement home, within the inundation zone.

But builders don't have to listen to the state's recommendations, and the

department has no formal method of monitoring compliance.

"Nobody has totally blown us off," Madin said. "But informally, it seems like they are paying attention."

Madin said the department has been asked to consult about seven times in the last 20 years, reflecting the slow pace of development on the Oregon Coast.

No matter when the re-drawing happens, the rule

change will affect different towns in different ways.

In low-lying areas like Seaside, a worst-case scenario tsunami would flood the city hospital, fire department and municipal airport, as well as every pub-

lic school, according to the Seaside Signal. In contrast, Newport's unelevated South Beach is already zoned for flooding under the outdated water line, while houses on the bluffs would remain unaffected by the new rule.

College: 'There's no more important decision that we make'

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Galizio reached out to the Oregon Community College Association for recommendations on interim possibilities, got a list, winnowed it down and relayed his recommendations to the board.

"Three people were given to us in the executive session," Monaghan said. "I suggest we interview any number of those persons."

The board voted 6-1 to hold a closed executive session to go over the questions it wants to ask interim candidates, and to interview three of them. Monaghan, Esther Moberg, Robert Duehmig, Paul Gillum, Patrick Wingard and Karen Burke voted yes. Tessa James Scheller voted no.

"I'd like to be working on this currently," Scheller said, adding she would rather form a subcommittee to begin work immediately. "There's no more important decision that we make."

The board set the closed meeting for 3 p.m. June 24, with a public session at 7 p.m. to appoint an interim president.

In other news:

• The board adopted a 2015-16 budget of more than \$36 million and a tax rate of 77.85 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value. Its general operating fund will be \$10.2 million, including \$4.1 million for instruction and \$5.7 million for support services. More than 40 percent of the budget is \$16 million in state and local bonds earmarked for the Patriot Hall Redevelopment. The entire adopted budget will be posted at

Angela Fairless



Larry Galizio



Rosemary Baker-Monaghan

tinyurl.com/q6cluzd

• It unanimously approved a new associate degree program in computer science starting next year. Kristin Wilkin, dean of workforce education, said faculty tell her the college regularly misses out on students because it does not have such a program. Students in the college's program will also be enrolled at Western Oregon University, which will provide the computer science courses via video conference. College students can then transfer to the university for its bachelor's program.

• The board unanimously approved expenditures for the Patriot Hall Redevelopment. They include \$51,000 for a geotechnical report, foundation observation and testing; up to \$75,000 for consultation services for 23 months; and more than \$50,000 for inspection and testing services.

• It held the first reading of a social media policy and procedures for students and staff, its first such effort. Galizio said the college has mulled over such a policy for two years. The policy

must go through a second reading before adoption. At its June 24 meeting, the board will likely adopt a revised nondiscrimination policy. View the policies in the board's Tuesday board packet, online at <http://tinyurl.com/npl7j>

• Galizio reported the college is close to selling the Josie Peper Building at 1642 Franklin Ave., next to the Performing Arts Center. JoAnn Zahn, vice president of finance and operations, said the closing date is Oct. 30, contingent on a rezoning change from commercial to residential.

• Angela Fairless, a student at the college, a former candidate for Seaside City Council and a community organizer, said she would like to offer her help in restarting the college's newspaper, The Bandit, which went dormant last year. Fairless is a former editor of the Bandit. She also touched on what she said is a socioeconomic divide, pointing out the more than \$140,000 salary for the college president, compared to the median household income of \$44,000 in Clatsop County.

Lawsuit: Grimes was appointed to county clerk position in August 2011

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"Ms. Grimes' procedure was consistent with what other clerks were doing and complied with SOS requirements and had been in use for several election

cycles," Altschul wrote.

Kennedy Grimes started working for the county in the District Attorney's Office in 2007, before being appointed to county clerk in August 2011. She worked as county clerk un-

til March 2012, then returned to the position in June 2013.

Valerie Crafard, former clerk of the Clatsop County Board of Commissioners, was hired as Clatsop County clerk in March.

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