

Homeless: Warrenton has the highest number of homeless students

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The state experienced a 9 percent increase in the number of homeless students, with more than 20,500 last year compared to less than 20,000 in 2013-14. Much of the increase has been attributed to a lack of affordable housing.

Over the same period of time, Clatsop County's overall number of homeless students has dropped by nearly 5 percent from 2013-14 to last school year. The overall change does not reflect in the percentage of enrollment considered homeless, as enrollment levels fluctuate.

Camping in Warrenton

Warrenton, which often serves about half of the county's homeless students, counted 117 students homeless last year, 12 percent of its enrollment,

down from 126 in 2013-14.

Warrenton's percentage of homeless students is by far the highest in Clatsop County, and the 12th highest rate of any school district in the state, just below Lane and above Multnomah school districts' rates. But Warrenton's situation is a far cry from Butte Falls School District near Medford, where a third of students are considered homeless.

"I don't think the economy has improved a great deal in our area," Mary Suever, a counselor and homeless liaison at Warrenton, said of the economy's effects on students.

More than 60 percent of Warrenton's homeless students were doubled up. And 35 percent — or 41 students — were considered unsheltered, nearly six times as many as in any other district.

"Maybe because our weather is kinder to people, we have a

higher number of folks willing to live in campgrounds," Suever said.

While Fort Stevens said there is a two-week limit on staying in a spot on state land, officials there said places like Kampers West RV Park are popular monthly options for families needing a cheap place to stay. The owner of the RV park could not be reached for comment.

Unaccompanied in Astoria

Astoria had the second-highest number of homeless students, with 64 identified last year, up from 46 in 2013-14 but only a 1 percent increase in terms of the percentage of enrollment.

More than 70 percent of Astoria's homeless were staying temporarily with friends or family. Nearly a quarter of Astoria's homeless population,

Student homelessness in Clatsop County

(Statistics by school district, 2014-15)

Circumstance	Warrenton				
	Astoria	Seaside	Hammond	Knappa	Jewell
Unaccompanied minors	15	NA	0	NA	0
Sheltered	NA	NA	0	NA	0
Doubled up	46	22	71	7	NA
Unsheltered	7	0	41	0	0
Hotel/motel	7	21	NA	0	0
Total	64	46	117	8	NA
Percent of enrollment	3.5%	3	14.1	1.7	2.2
Percent change from 2013-14	1.1%	-0.5	-2	-2.7	—

NA = Amounts of five or fewer students are redacted for student privacy. Sources: Oregon Dept. of Education; Warrenton-Hammond School District Edward Stratton and Alan Kenaga/EO Media Group

or 15 students, were unaccompanied by adults, three times more than in any other district.

Melissa Linder, curriculum director at Astoria and its homeless liaison, credited the quality of Astoria's program for all the students finding a way to stay in the district.

"When we find out a student is leaving, we try to work creatively with the resources in our county to give them the best shot at being successful," she said. "Maybe a student close to finishing, without a strong home life. The goal might be for them to stay, because the chances of them finishing will be higher."

Linder said the district gets money to buy students county bus passes, clothes, food and other needs. But the district only gets about \$2,000 federally to help more than 60 designated homeless students, she said.

Other districts

Seaside experienced a nearly 0.5 percent drop in student homelessness, with 46 reported last year. The vast majority of homeless students there were also doubled up with friends and family, while nearly a third were staying in local hotels and motels, three times as many as in Astoria.

Less than 1.7 percent of enrollment, or eight students, were considered homeless in Knappa. The district experienced an exponential drop in homelessness from 2013-14, when 22 students, or 4.5 percent of enrollment, were considered homeless.

Jewell, whose enrollment pings at about 150 students total, had fewer than five homeless students, the exact amount suppressed to protect student privacy but representing more than 2 percent of the district's enrollment. But the figure is an increase from 2013-14, when the district reported no homeless students.



Skipanon: This is the company's first recall

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The U.S. Food and Drug Administration flagged the potential contamination during a routine inspection, according to the company, citing a lack of documentation and possible underprocessed products. The company said the inspection is ongoing and that the recall is a precautionary measure.

"At this point we are determining the best course of action to remedy the situation," the company said in a statement Friday afternoon.

"We're working with the FDA and the Oregon Department of Agriculture to figure out the next steps," Kujala said.

He didn't know when the recall will be over. "It's day by day right now."

UNDER RECALL

According to the company, affected production codes include any codes starting with "OC" and the code can be found either at the bottom or on top of the can. Products are packaged in metal cans with net weights ranging from 5.5 oz. to 66.5 oz. The full list can be found at www.skipanonbrand.com.

This is the first recall for Skipanon Brand Seafood.

Customers with questions are encouraged to contact Skipanon Brand Seafood at 503-861-8277 or send an email to recallskipanonbrand@gmail.com.

Dursse: He hopes to fight again by the end of the year

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years, and that technique is finally there to where I can actually wrestle with wrestlers, and box with boxers."

At 5-foot-7, 155 pounds, Dursse competes in the Lightweight division.

After winning a second fight (a split decision over Kenji X at the Roseland in Portland), Dursse suffered two straight losses, both at the Roseland.

"It was hard mentally for a while to get over that," he said.

Since then, he has rebounded with a victory, a split decision over previously undefeated Ed Baitey, Sept. 12 in Roseburg, at the "Battle in the Burg III."

"To get that last win was huge for me," he said.

And who knows? It may eventually help Dursse on the road to becoming a professional cage fighter.

"Hopefully I will fight again by the end of the year, and turn profes-

sional in the near future. That's the plan," he said.

"It's really just about when you're ready. Amateur is all about getting as much experience as you can and feeling comfortable. My coach will tell me when he thinks I'm ready."

Currently, Dursse spends time working out with Nick Gilardi at Impact Jiu Jitsu in Portland, while "I train with Ira Evansen at Valhalla (in Gearhart). Ira has been my head coach for the last three years."

Turning professional would be a whole new ball game, so to speak. It requires more than just talent in the ring, Dursse said.

"You really have to promote yourself nowadays. The guys who are in the title fights are obviously the best fighters in the world."

"But a lot of the guys climbing the ladder, it has a lot to do with promotional skills and selling the fight."

"You have fighters like Conor McGregor (an Irish mixed martial artist)—he's a stud, but he's got-

ten a lot of attention from talking smack. That gets him more publicity, and in turn it helps him climb the ladder faster than the guy who just goes out and fights."

In the end, Dursse said, "it's really not about the money. If you want to be a fighter, you're going to go broke if you put everything into fighting."

"So I keep my job ... I still make a good living doing that, and I'm able to do what I want to do when I have time off."

Besides, Dursse has received help with expenses from local sponsors, and he has plenty of moral support from his hometown fans.

"I have always been so fortunate to have all my friends coming to the fights," he said. "When I fight at the Roseland in Portland, we get quite a few people from Clatsop County. It's always a lot of fun."

"The promoter said on the mic, 'Man, you've got the crowd here tonight!' You know how Clatsop County likes to get loud."

— Gary Henley

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The Northwest Oregon Housing Authority is accepting applications for PT Program Assist.
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Please apply at 147 S. Main Ave., Warrenton, OR 97146.