

Annual Tip-a-Cop event raises money for Special Olympics Oregon

Police officers work with servers at Mo's

By **BRENNA VISSER**
The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH — For one night only, people at Mo's Restaurant got their cup of chowder served by the police officers of Seaside and Cannon Beach.

Police officers shadowed the servers of the seafood restaurant Thursday evening for the second annual Tip-a-Cop, an event that raises money for local and regional Special Olympics programs.

Special Olympians from Clatsop County also worked beside the police officers, acting as hosts and greeters. After getting drinks and taking orders, part of the job for the officer was to ask for extra tips to support the program.

The fundraiser started in the county two years ago after Cannon Beach Police Chief Jason Schermerhorn talked with a representative from the Special Olympics at a police chief's conference. A phone call and two emails later, Mo's Restaurant was on board and officers had Mo's hats on their heads and cups of clam chowder in their hands.

"Doing this is just another way to be involved in the community," Schermerhorn said. "It brings light to the Special Olympics. Sometimes I think people here don't know we have athletes here, and it's nice to highlight their stories."

Special Olympics Oregon provides year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children, youth and adults living with intellectual disabilities, said Adam Kau, the director of programs at Special Olympics Oregon.

Kau said the statewide fundraiser has already raised \$90,000 so far, with more expected to come in.

"The contribution is enormous. All the proceeds pay for the buses the athletes can



Special Olympians Cheyenne Valenzuela and Selah Bryce work as hosts at Mo's Restaurant as a part of the Tip-a-Cop fundraiser for the Special Olympics.

Brenna Visser/The Daily Astorian

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CANNON BEACH POLICE CHIEF JASON SCHERMERHORN

take to competitions, uniforms, programs and the overall athlete experience," Kau said.

There are about 100 Special Olympians in Clatsop County. Steve McAloney, who was at the event as support while his son greeted people at the front, said they became involved a few years back. He started as a parent who would drop off his son at basketball practice. Eventually, he became pas-

sionate enough to become the regional coordinator for the county.

"For most of these athletes, the chance of competing on a high school sports team is slim," McAloney said. "It keeps these kids physically fit, sure, but also they make so many friends through this. And so many are gifted athletes — you just have to give them the right environment. These kids are some of the

hardest workers you could ask for."

To show how hard she worked, Selah Bryce wore all of her medals around her neck as she walked patrons to their tables.

"I do aquatics and track. I've won a lot," she said with a smile.



Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian

A new retail building going up north of Panda Express in Warrenton will include a Domino's Pizza and T-Mobile.

Domino's, T-Mobile coming to Warrenton

The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — Domino's Pizza, T-Mobile and other stores are planned for a new building going up next to Panda Express at the North Coast Retail Center.

CFT NV Developments LLC owns the lot at the corner of Ensign and Discovery lanes where the Chinese food restaurant opened last year.

Charlie Shen, director of construction with CFT, said the new building will have four storefronts, with Domino's and T-Mobile so far the only confirmed tenants. The building is expected to be

complete before Christmas.

"CFT NV Developments is a real estate development company," Shen said. "We develop retail centers to lease to all potential tenants, including Panda Express. While we are affiliated, Panda Express is a separate company."

The area west of Costco has been filling up in recent years, with new arrivals including Panda Express, Taco Bell, The Human Bean, Wauna Federal Credit Union, Mattress Firm, Ben's Computer Store and Sweet Scoops. Across Ensign Lane, crews are building a new Walmart.

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