

Community steps up for kids through Wishing Tree

By SUE CODY

For The Daily Astorian

When a child opens a gift on Christmas, she might not know that the whole community came together to bring her some cheer. Around 300 children were served by the Astoria Knappa Wishing Tree Program this year.

Almost everyone has seen the little yellow bells on trees in banks and businesses around Astoria and Knappa. Each bell represents a child in need of a gift for the holiday season. Volunteers, led by Denise Cleveland, work behind the scenes for program.

Request forms go home with children from school and are available at Clatsop Community Action (CCA) and Department of Human Services in early November. It is a need-based program, Cleveland says. Before Thanksgiving, the trees go up, so people can take advantage of the Black Friday sales.

Changes

Until last year, the entire county was served with food baskets and the Wishing Tree Program at the Clatsop



Denise Cleveland poses with gifts for children at the Clatsop County Fairgrounds. She took the helm of the Astoria Knappa Wishing Tree Program last year.

County Fairgrounds, but it got to be too much. Organizers decided to divide the county by ZIP codes. Because of that, Seaside and Warrenton now have their own programs.

Organizations were overwhelmed by the work involved in filling food baskets and dis-

continued that service. Food is now available at the CCA Regional Food Bank, where people can choose their own ingredients, including many fresh and frozen vegetables.

For 26 years Barb Roberts ran the whole county-wide program and when she retired,

Cleveland offered to step in to keep the Wishing Tree going.

Following the bell

Volunteers gather the request forms and create a bell for each child, listing his or her age, gender, request, clothes and shoe sizes. Requests range

from something as simple as a blanket, to a high-flying drone.

Shannon Ross chose a couple of bells off the tree at the North Coast Fred Meyer. She has a teenage son and says, "I always try to pick an older girl and a boy. Everyone seems to choose the little kids."

She likes the idea of strangers being able to help others. "It nice to teach kids to be generous and for kids to have access to fun stuff at Christmas."

Unwrapped gifts are left under the Wishing Tree, where volunteers pick up the packages and deliver them to the fairgrounds.

Geri Fick and Kathy Sasso, along with others, have organized tables so each child has a number that corresponds to the Wishing Bell. Gifts are grouped by family. When the bell is returned to the fairgrounds, volunteers can set gifts on the assigned tables. This year, Sasso created a database, so when someone walked in with baby clothes, she easily found the families who had a child the right age for the gifts.

"This is a good team," says Fick. "It is nice to have one chief, but the whole commu-

nity is involved. Lots of businesses and organizations contribute and volunteer. Twenty people from Rotary brought gifts. Businesses combined to sponsor 65 kids." Others sponsor entire families. This year, 75 to 80 percent of the bells were returned in time for delivery Dec. 19. "That is a great return," says Cleveland.

There are plenty of donations to supplement areas that might be a little sparse. Because of the generosity of the community, all the families will have something for the holidays.

On pickup day, bikes line one wall and donations from a clothes drive by the Astoria School District classified union line tables with coats, hats, gloves, etc. The gifts are hidden in black plastic garbage bags and Air National Guardsmen line up with shopping carts to assist people outside.

"This is an awesome tradition," Guardsman Wayne Doyle says.

After many, many hours of volunteer work, Fick says, "This is very gratifying. This is the payoff."

"It's nice to put a smile on someone's face just by giving a gift," says Cleveland.

Cybersecurity workshops to be held Tuesday at Clatsop College

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

The Clatsop Community College Small Business Development Center is hosting cybersecurity workshops Tuesday in Seaside and Astoria.

Skip Newberry, president and CEO of the Technology Association of Oregon, will moderate a discussion with Lewis Howell, founder and CEO of Hueya, Inc., a social media and digital security company; and Leslie Golden, who has worked in technology for nearly 20 years as a computer information security officer. The panel will include audience participation.

They will cover the latest

threats and vulnerabilities targeting small businesses, mitigating risks, remedial measures, free resources for small businesses and initiatives in Oregon to develop a more informed workforce and safeguard small businesses against cyber threats.

The Seaside workshop is from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. in the college's South County Center at 1455 N. Roosevelt Drive. The Astoria workshop will be from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in Towler Hall Room 310 on the main campus at 1651 Lexington Ave.

The cost is \$20.00. To register, visit <https://tinyurl.com/ydavmcsj>, email sbdc@clatsopcc.edu or call 503-338-2402.

AAUW hosts presentation about health care Measure 101

The Daily Astorian

The Astoria chapter of the American Association of University Women Astoria hosts Erik Thorsen and Andy Davis at 7 p.m. Wednesday in the Flag Room of the Astoria Library, 450 10th St., for a presentation on why the passage of health care Ballot Measure 101 is important to Clatsop County. A question and answer period follows, and brochures are available.

The public is welcome. Thorsen is the CEO of Columbia Memorial Hospital and has worked in health care for more than 25 years, with 15 at CMH.

Davis is a data analyst for Greater Oregon Behavioral Health Inc., which provides services to Oregon Health Plan (OHP) Medicaid clients in Clatsop County and throughout rural Oregon.

For more information, contact Sara Meyer at 503-325-7969.

RELIGION BRIEFS

Pacific Unitarian Universalist

The Pacific Unitarian Universalist Fellowship holds a service at 11 a.m. Sunday at the Performing Arts Center, 588 16th St. The program is "Stories of Justice." Members of the fellowship are reading the stories. Religious education for the children is available each week following the "Moment with the Children" near the beginning of the service.

For information, call 503-325-5225, email pacuuf@gmail.com, or go to www.pacuuf.org

Common Ground Interspiritual

A Celebration of Spirit, sponsored by Common Ground Interspiritual Fellowship, meets from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Sunday in the Wesley Room at the Astoria First United Methodist Church, 1076 Franklin Ave. Use the 11th Street building entrance. This morning gathering is not defined by any particular belief system, and is intended for the "spiritual but not religious," as well as those who draw from more than one faith tradition. For information, go to cgifellowship.org

St. Catherine Episcopal

NEHALEM — St. Catherine Episcopal Church, 36335 U.S. Highway 101 in Nehalem, holds a Labyrinth walk from 3 to 5 p.m. Sunday, and the first Sunday of every month. All are welcome. For information, go to saintcatherineoregoncoast.org

Community HU sing

SEASIDE — A Seaside Community Eckankar HU Sing takes place at 3 p.m. Sunday at the Seaside Public Library, 1131 Broadway. Regardless of one's beliefs or religion, anyone can sing HU (pronounced hue), an ancient name for God; it is for the spiritual upliftment of those who come, and is not directed to any other purpose. For

information, call Seann Valen at 503-717-5485, email access49@gmail.com or go to eckankar.org

Religious Society of Friends

ILWACO, Washington — The Lower Columbia Quakers, also known as the Religious Society of Friends, meets at 3 p.m. Sunday in the Ilwaco Community Center, 158 First Ave. N. All are welcome to visit and participate. For information, go to lowercolumbiaquakers.org

Cannon Beach Community

CANNON BEACH — Cannon Beach Community Church, 132 E. Washington St., holds an Evensong service at 6 p.m. the first and third Sunday of the month. All are welcome.

Evensong features Wes Warhmund (guitar, flute and clarinet) and meditative songs, Psalms, readings, candlelight and time for quiet reflection.

For information, call the church at 503-436-1222.

Crossroads Community

SVENSEN — Crossroads Community Church, a Friends Fellowship, at 40618 Old Highway 30, is holding a Free Family Film Friday at 6:45 p.m. Friday. Come enjoy a film and fellowship. This event is always held the second Friday of the month. All are welcome. For information, call Shawn Leonard, pastor, at 503-949-5033.

Roe v. Wade Memorial and March

The annual Roe v. Wade Memorial and March is held at 2:30 p.m. Jan. 14 at Pioneer Square Courthouse Square in Portland to commemorate the 45th anniversary of the Supreme Court decision

to legalize abortion. Speakers include Students for Life Regional Director Nichole Bentz, Archbishop Alexander Sample, and Oratory winner Karli Olson.

A van has been donated by Sundial Travel, and it will leave from the Columbia Memorial Hospital rear parking lot at 11 a.m. The cost is \$15 per person for a sack lunch (indicate any dietary restrictions), water, and gas. The van returns at approximately 7 p.m. Checks need to be given to the St. Mary, Star of the Sea parish secretary, Amy Russell, who can be reached at 503-325-3671. For questions, or to sign up, call Kathleen Hudson at 503-861-2802.

Church of Christ

The Church of Christ, 692 12th St., hosts Ken Tippas as its guest speaker at the 10:30 a.m. Sunday service. His topic is "Why Did Christ Come to Earth?" based on Isaiah 51:10. All are welcome.

For information, call 503-791-3235.

First Presbyterian

The First Presbyterian Church of Astoria, 1103 Grand Ave., meets Sunday at 10 a.m., and features a communion service. Rev. Bill Van Nostran's sermon topic is "What Now?"

Guided meditation is offered every Thursday night in the Marcotte Room, led by Sumedha Murdock. Those new to meditation have an instructional session at 6:30 p.m.; meditation begins at 7 p.m.

Fellowship Hall is the site of the "Second Saturdays Market" from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Jan. 13. Arts, crafts and specialty food are being offered. There is no cost to attend.

For information, call 503-325-1702, email pastorbill@fpcastoria.org or go to fpcastoria.org

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

4-H — Looking for 4-H leaders. For information, call Sandra Carlson at the Oregon State University Extension at 503-325-8573.

American Red Cross — Needs registration volunteers (donor ambassadors) in Clatsop County to provide customer service and enhance the blood donor experience. For information, call Angela Basurt to at 503-528-5430.

Astoria Column — 1 Coxcomb Drive. Volunteers needed to welcome visitors, provide information and answer questions about the Astoria Column and the city of Astoria. For information, call the Friends of the Astoria Column Visitor Center at 503-325-2963.

Astoria Riverfront Trolley Association — 111 W. Marine Drive. Needs conductors/motormen to operate trolley and narrate points of interest. One or more three-hour shifts per month. For information, call the 503-325-6311.

Astoria Veteran Van Drivers — Volunteer drivers needed for the Disabled American Veterans van for one or more trips per month. The van leaves Astoria at 7 a.m. for the Portland Veterans Administration Hospital and returns in the early afternoon. To volunteer, contact Dick Lang, Astoria DAV van coordinator, at 503-298-8757 or dicklang@charter.net. Drivers receive free breakfast and lunch vouchers for the hospital canteen on every trip.

Astoria Warming Center — 1076 Franklin Ave. Winter overnight emergency shelter for homeless persons needs volunteers for three-hour shifts from evening through the night to help with welcoming guests, serving dinner, cleaning the kitchen, monitoring the sleeping area overnight, and closing the shelter in the morning. Volunteers also needed for weekly litter patrols in the neighborhood. To volunteer, email astoriawarmingcenter@gmail.com

Cannon Beach Academy — 3781 S. Hemlock St., Cannon Beach. Volunteers needed for breakfast or lunch preparation and cleanup, reading groups, math groups, lunch/recess duty and housekeeping. Shifts are 1.25

hours or longer. For information, call 503-298-5245.

Caring Adults Developing Youth (CADY) Mentoring Program — 800 Exchange St., second floor. Needs mentors for youths ages 10 to 17 at risk of school failure. Time commitment: one year, about eight hours per month. For information, contact Laura Parker at 503-325-8601 or lparker@co.clatsop.or.us

Clatsop Care Center — Volunteers needed daily for all three meals to provide one-on-one assistance to dining dependent residents. Volunteers must participate in a 16-hour training program. For information, contact Mandy Brenchley at 503-325-0313, ext. 209.

Clatsop Community Action Regional Food Bank — Volunteers needed to help hand out fruits and vegetables at the weekly produce pantries for two hours on Thursdays, from April to October, in Seaside and Warrenton. Warehouse attendants are needed for food packing or processing, picking orders for agencies, light janitorial and housekeeping, or lawn and grounds maintenance. Three to four-hour shifts are available Monday through Friday. To volunteer, call 503-861-3663.

Columbia River Maritime Museum — 1792 Marine Drive. Volunteer opportunities for those with an interest in maritime history. For information, call the volunteer coordinator weekdays at 503-325-2323.

Columbia Senior Diners — 1111 Exchange St., Astoria Senior Center. Volunteers needed weekdays to serve tables and for kitchen help. To volunteer, call 503-325-9693.

Community Emergency Response Team — CERT volunteers needed for community events and disaster response with local police, fire and emergency medical service agencies. Training includes fire safety, first aid, traffic and crowd control, communications, damage survey, disaster planning and civic events within city limits. For information, contact CERT coordinator Kenny Hansen at khansen@astoria.or.us or leave a voicemail at 503-325-4411.

Volunteer Pick of the Week

Toby

Senior American Short-Hair Male
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(More on <http://Petfinder.com/>)

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