

Grad rates: Knappa's up by 20 percent

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"There's a 7 percent discrepancy from my numbers to their numbers," Jackson said, estimating his district's four-year graduation rate at between 70 and 72 percent.

About five students counted by the state as dropouts had graduated last year, while several others had moved out of the school district, Jackson said.

Warrenton-Hammond, the county's third-largest and fastest-growing school district, posted a 76.2 percent four-year graduation rate last year, continuing a steady increase stretching back at least six years.

Warrenton High School Principal Rod Heyen estimated his graduation rate at 80 percent, equating to two or three more students than the state counted, but said overall he is pleased with the district's progress.

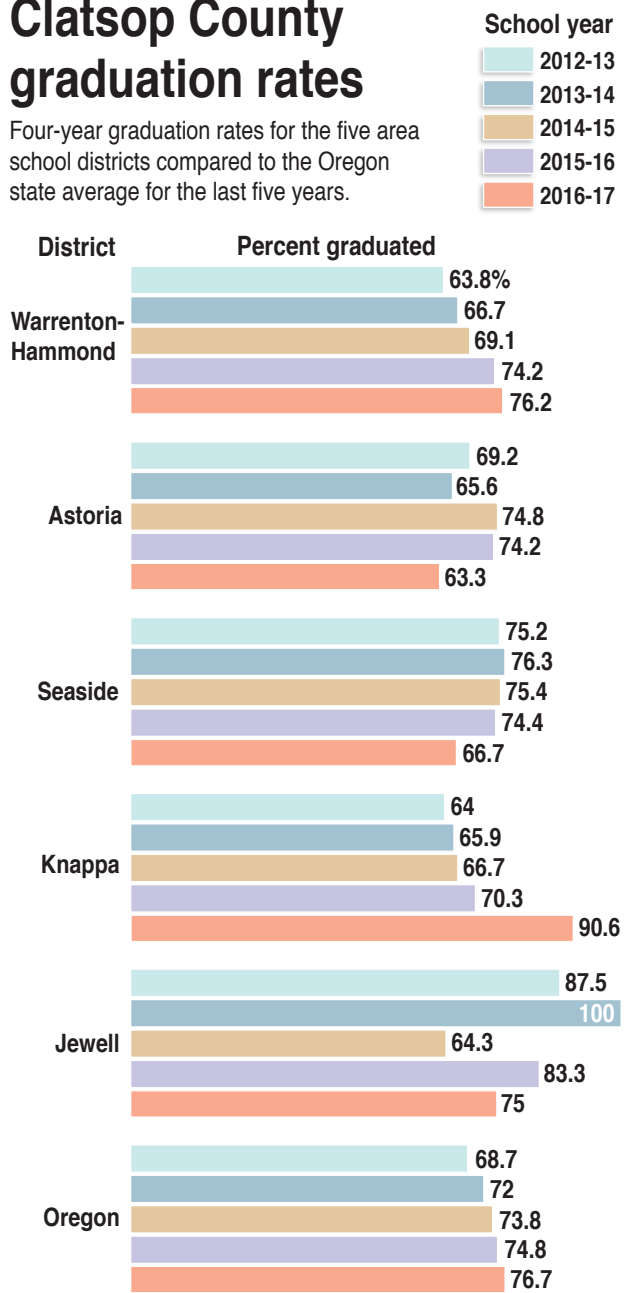
Warrenton regularly averages the highest rate of student homelessness in the county, with many students forced to share housing with family and friends out of economic need. Heyen credited district staff and community partners for providing the necessary support such as food and clothing to keep students going to school.

"I want every kid to graduate and to go through, but sometimes life gets in the way," Heyen said, recounting one student who quit school to get a job and help his mother keep their apartment.

Knappa High School improved from a 70 percent four-year graduation rate in 2016 to 90 percent last year, by far the highest in the county. The district's figures fluctuate significantly with

Clatsop County graduation rates

Four-year graduation rates for the five area school districts compared to the Oregon state average for the last five years.



Source: Oregon Dept. of Education

Edward Stratton and Alan Kenaga/EO Media Group

small class sizes, but have improved five years in a row from 64 percent in the 2012-13 school year. Out of 32 seniors last year, 29 finished in four years with a diploma.

Knappa High School Principal Laurel Smalley said there's no one magic bullet,

but that the district has experienced a culture shift toward valuing education.

"Last year's class was really academically motivated," she said. "They really wanted to graduate."

The graduation figures of Jewell, a tiny rural school dis-

trict in the southeastern corner of the county, fluctuate wildly, with class sizes often below 15 students. The district graduated six out of eight students last year, according to the state.

The state also counts students who earned extended diplomas or pass a GED exam as completers, 10 of whom bumped the county's high school completion rate slightly above 70 percent, compared to slightly more than 80 percent statewide.

For the first time, the state broke out the graduation rates of students who participated in career-technical education programs. The hands-on, industry connected programs have expanded over recent years as an educational carrot to interest students. The graduation rate for such students was 10 percent higher statewide, and even more so in Astoria, where such students had an 80 percent graduation rate.

Career-technical programs are valuable, but not causal to the graduation rate, Jackson said. "One factor is that students attracted to those programs are already very engaged," he said.

Voters in 2016 approved about \$800 per student through Measure 98 to improve dropout prevention, collegiate offerings and career-technical programs. The state Legislature funded the measure at about \$400 per student.

The measure's funding has been used by school districts for freshmen advising. Freshmen who stay on track and average good grades are dramatically more likely to graduate. Schools should start seeing significant dividends from Measure 98 funding by 2020, Jackson said.

Healing: Hospital plans to recruit 20 survivors this spring

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Overseeing the post-treatment survivorship program are the hospital's resource center coordinator Venus Fromwiller and nurse Paulina Cockrum, who stress the importance of healthy lifestyle choices on surviving cancer.

"Survival does depend on comorbidity," Cockrum said. "If you're a cancer survivor but you also have heart disease and diabetes and obesity, the survival may not be as long as if you didn't have those other conditions."

This spring, Columbia Memorial will recruit up to 20 survivors with nonmetastatic breast, lung, colorectal, lymphatic, head, neck and prostate cancers. They will participate in a six-month study similar to Hurley's, with a focus on improving diet and exercise. The post-treatment focus fits in with the art therapy, yoga, qi gong and other support the hospital provides during treatment, Fromwiller said.

At the end of the year, the hospital will review the study's findings and determine how to further develop the program, with the ultimate goal of providing most patients a comprehensive survivorship care plan after treatment.

A 2011 survivorship study by the Journal of the National Cancer Institute found that only 20 percent of oncologists consistently offer survivorship care plans for colorectal and breast cancer patients. Time and cost arose as common challenges.

Dr. Jackie Shannon, a co-director of the Knight Cancer Center's Community Partnerships Program, said OHSU was looking for a way to support community-based cancer programs after raising \$500 million in pledges in 2015 to secure an equal match from Nike founder Phil Knight.

The program has distributed more than \$2 million in startup grants to cancer screening, treatment and survivorship programs in all 36 Oregon counties. Such programs are a step toward having a cancer treatment program certified through the American Society of Clinical Oncology.

The long-term vision of Columbia Memorial's cancer survivorship program is to get cancer patients thinking earlier about healthy lifestyle choices that can aid in their treatment, Cockrum said.

Since her two-month stint in the survivorship program, Hurley has been thinking more about her daily eating and exercise habits. She eats more high-protein snacks after learning she wasn't getting the proper nutrients.

In addition to outings with her dog, Chuchi, she has taken up Nordic walking, while finding videos online showing special exercises to help manage her lymphedema.

"I think the program is very helpful in giving a sense of control that you can help yourself," she said. "I think for many of us breast cancer survivors, it's always in the back of our minds, the possibility of recurrence."

Rentals: 'This is the first time we'll have a short-term rental ordinance'

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"This is, I think, a good first step. I don't think it's perfect," Commissioner Lianne Thompson said. "I think it's a great idea to bring it up, take a look at it. Let's see what happens. Let's gather data."

Concerns persist about the requirement that owners provide one parking space per sleeping area plus one more. Commissioner Sarah Nebeker, who has been the most vocal about parking, suggested that allowing one of the two cars to be parked on the street could be a compromise.

Questions about whether mandatory safety inspections every five years — with renewable permits annually — are adequate will also continue among commissioners.

"There's going to be a wide range of short-term rentals. There's going to be people that are renting out their house for once a year. There's going to be people that are rent-



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Clatsop County has moved to regulate vacation rentals.

ing it out every weekend and, during the summer, during the week," said Commissioner Kathleen Sullivan, who had proposed a three-year window for inspections. "When you are dealing with that number of people coming and going from a structure, there's going to be things that go wrong."

To address those specifics, Nebeker and others want to revisit the issues at some point after the ordinance goes into effect.

"This is the first time we'll have a short-term rental ordinance. I think the first time you put anything into place, you know, we should take

County staff estimates the number of vacation rentals has nearly doubled since 2010, when 93 existed. This type of ordinance is unusual for unincorporated areas, said Scott Lee, the board's chairman.

Staff began discussing a potential ordinance more than 1 1/2 years ago after a fire destroyed a cabin near Cullaby Lake. The cabin was unoccupied at the time, and inadequate safety precautions were the suspected cause.

Commissioners received the first draft of an ordinance in June and have held three separate work sessions on the topic. They tabled the ordinance at a public hearing in September before considering it again this month.

In the midst of that process was a ballot measure in Gearhart where some residents, including Nebeker, tried to repeal the city's new vacation rental regulations. The mea-

sure was rejected 77 percent to 23 percent.

Over the past few months, each commissioner — at various levels — has shared an appetite to address safety issues through an ordinance.

Lee made the first motion Wednesday to adopt the new regulations. The second motion came from Nebeker.

"This was a good conversation," Lee said moments after the ordinance passed. "I think it was a good example of a good way of government."

Co-op: Decision headed to City Council

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Pond neighborhood, compared to the 11,600 square feet worth of retail space, parking lot and loading area the Astoria Co-op plans for its expansion.

"I think the co-op is a wonderful use there, and I think they're as good a neighbor as you're going to get," Commissioner Jan Mitchell said.

Commissioner Sean Fitzpatrick cited a conflict of interest and abstained from both the discussion and the vote.

The commission's decision now heads to the City Council for review.

Most of the people who packed into the meeting room at City Hall on Wednesday, including the entire Planning Commission, are members of the co-op on Exchange Street downtown. People who spoke against the grocery's application emphasized they are in favor of an expansion. Their concerns are about the location.

Several Mill Pond residents questioned a traffic study that predicted the co-op's presence would have little

to no impact. They said traffic snarls on Marine Drive, which peak during the busy summer months, would only get worse, and that the co-op's proposed parking lot entrance off a small street at the north end of the property could create even more traffic issues.

The commissioners shared these concerns, but the majority were in favor of "trying to work it out." Commissioner Jennifer Cameron-Lattek pointed to the economic and social boon of an expanded co-op. The grocery plans to offer even more items for sale as well as open a deli. Matt Stanley, the co-op's general manager, expects to add around 35 employees to the payroll.

City staff recommended approval of the zone change, but commissioners added two amendments that co-op representatives suggested and city planning staff agreed with: If substantial construction hasn't begun within two years of the new zoning being enacted, the zoning will revert back to mixed use. A second condition requires a lot line adjustment

to establish the rezoned portion of the property as its own, separate lot.

Because of the property's location under two of the city's overlay zones, the grocery has a stringent design review process ahead.

"The building (design) as it is — as far as we're aware — if it's not quite there, it's very close," Stanley said. "We've looked at the design criteria, the architectural guidelines for the overlays and it actually hearkens to the historical nature of the buildings that were there such as the old mill."

He believes the grocery still has some work to do to address neighborhood concerns. In pursuing a signoff from the Mill Pond homeowners association, the co-op is looking at how it could potentially widen the narrow street at the back of the property that residents identified as a potential traffic issue.

"We are willing to flex within reason to make this happen," Stanley said. "We want to be good neighbors."

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