



THE DAILY ASTORIAN

145TH YEAR, NO. 203

DailyAstorian.com // THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 2018

ONE DOLLAR

SCHOOLS SEEK CAREER PATHWAYS FOR STUDENTS



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Rebecca Sprengeler works in the fish hatchery at Warrenton High School.

Wood shop, fisheries, printing as job options

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

With a new infusion of interest in career-technical education, local high schools are busy organizing hands-on courses into state-certified career pathways to help students move into college and the workforce.

The goal is to help close a growing skills gap in the United States and guide students toward higher-wage, high-demand career tracks.

Oregon began creating career pathways in colleges in the mid-2000s and now counts more than 600 such programs. Clatsop Community College includes nearly 20 programs of study in welding, maritime sciences, fire-fighting, business, medical and other subjects leading to industry certification and associate degrees.

The state Legislature in 2015 established a funding stream to reimburse school districts that create career pathways for high schoolers. Students must complete several credits in the program before districts can be reimbursed. Students who complete career pathways can also earn college credit and industry certifications.

"There's more funding, but we're also seeing that youth involved in (career-technical) programs are more successful," said Mary Jackson, a career-technical education coordinator for the college who is helping high schools create their career pathways.

Astoria, Warrenton and Knappa high schools already share a health occupations program that sends students to classes at Columbia Memorial Hospital. Astoria and Seaside have business-related career pathways, while Seaside offers a program in construction.

Warrenton and Astoria have two of the only student-run fish hatcheries in the state. Both are trying by next year to create distinct natural resources career pathways that will feature fisheries and expand into related subjects.

Warrenton's fisheries program, dating to the 1950s, is student-operated and supported by nonprofit Warrenton High Fisheries Inc., founded by alumnus and Warrenton Mayor Henry Balensifer.

"We've been doing this for years," Rod Heyen, principal of Warrenton High School, said of fisheries. "Now it's checking the boxes with the state to qualify for programs of studies."

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600

Career pathways programs in Oregon.

20

Programs through Clatsop Community College.

1950s

Start of Warrenton's fisheries program.

2015

State Legislature established funding to reimburse school districts for pathways programs.

'There's more funding, but we're also seeing that youth involved in (career-technical) programs are more successful.'

Mary Jackson
career-technical education coordinator

County balks at fund for homeless

Sale of property would have raised money for help

By JACK HEFFERNAN
The Daily Astorian

A new Clatsop County fund to help the homeless is on hold.

County commissioners, in a 2-2 vote Wednesday, did not approve the suggested sale of a 14-acre parcel in Hammond acquired by the county in 1926 via tax foreclosure. County management estimates the land could sell for more than \$500,000 due to development in the area, and about 12 percent of the proceeds could have been used to create the homelessness fund.

"Currently financial resources are lacking to address either short or long-term strategies to reduce homelessness," County Manager Cameron Moore wrote in an agenda item summary presented to commissioners. "Clatsop County has an obligation to support and assist in addressing community needs such as homelessness with whatever resources we can make available."

As an example of what could come from the fund, Moore listed an effort by nonprofit Helping Hands to remodel a boarding house in Uniontown into a dormitory for 50 to 75 homeless people. The county was considering pitching in for some of the \$350,000 project.

Moore first thought of the idea for a fund during a meeting about homelessness with law enforcement officials and Helping Hands late last year, he said.

"I guess I was struck when I was sitting there when I realized that even for some of the simple things that people are trying to do, they lack the financial resources," Moore said.

Commissioners Scott Lee and Sarah Nebeker, who voted in favor of the proposal, argued it would set a precedent for one way to tackle the county's nagging homelessness issue.

"I think it's a great idea. Commissioners have been talking for such a long time about, 'What can we do about homelessness?' and we go around and around," Nebeker said. "It shows that the county is looking at this issue. We are not ignoring it. We are supporting it and trying to move forward."

Commissioner Kathleen Sullivan said she had several concerns, though the proposal was not a bad idea. Among them were the lack of specifics about the fund, along with her view that a decision should be delayed until a \$100,000 countywide housing study is completed.

"We're not going to be making more land. I would like to see us

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Music boosters support Astoria strings teacher

School board might restructure program

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

Droves of music supporters packed an Astoria School Board meeting Wednesday night to protest a proposed restructuring of the school district's music program, which they say would lead to the downfall of orchestra.

Angela Calvin-Pederson, who spends about half of her full-time position teaching orchestra and the other half teaching general music at Lewis and Clark Ele-

mentary School, recently put a call out to her students and orchestra supporters expressing her concerns and calling on people to attend the meeting.

She was given the choice between teaching full-time general music at the elementary school or taking the part-time orchestra position, losing hours, income and the opportunity for medical benefits, she said.

"I personally feel that it will be a challenge to bring in a string specialist for less than full time that is qualified and committed to staying in this community long term," Calvin-Pederson said in her email.

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Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian

Orchestra students and supporters came out in force to Wednesday's Astoria School Board meeting in protest of a proposed restructuring of the music program.

