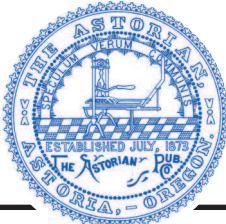


OPINION



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GUEST COLUMN

Grants available for human service programs

Clatsop County is a special place. The quality of life that many who live here enjoy is one of Oregon’s greatest hidden secrets.

Unfortunately, not everyone who lives in Clatsop County has the same experiences. The Clatsop County Commission recognizes this fact and has budgeted funding for grants to local social and human services agencies to close this gap.



LINDA CRANDELL

The purpose is to invest in community programs that target those population groups most in need socially and economically. The county’s Human Services Advisory Council will distribute the grants on behalf of the Board of Commissioners. Dollars that are given to these programs through county grants are matched by dollars from other sources. This matching funding results in the availability of more services and benefits to more people than money provided by the county alone.

More than \$163,000 has been awarded in the past 11 years. More than 20 agencies have stepped up to partner with the county to leverage the money and provide needed resources to county residents. The services have benefited all age groups in every corner of the county.

Among the applicants applying to provide services for the current year, there were 13 proposals for funding — for a total of almost \$50,000. Those applications were categorized into four categories — healthy eating and nutrition, healthy activities for children and adults, mental health counseling, and training for effective parenting. Only six applicants were approved, as only \$15,000 was budgeted.

Examples of the successful applicants include:



Hope House won a \$1,000 grant to offset the cost of counseling for children and families.

Court-Appointed Special Advocates (\$3,000): A collaboration between Clatsop CASA and the Clatsop County Family Treatment Court to sponsor healthy activities for parents who are participants in the Family Treatment Court and their children. The goal of the program is to strengthen the parent-child bond and encourage the physical, social, and emotional development of these young children.

Lunch Buddies Mentoring Program (\$5,000): A collaboration between Lunch Buddies Mentoring Program, the school districts, individual schools, small business owners and community members. The grant request paid for expanding the program to include both Hilda Lahti (Knappa) and Jewell schools.

North Coast Food Web (\$1,000): A collaboration between North Coast Food Web and Bob’s Red Mill, OSU Extension and Astoria Co-op, the grant request partially funded a community cooking class that increased knowledge and skills related to cooking and healthy eating throughout our communities.

Beyond the fiduciary benefits that come from leveraging county funds with outside agencies through this grant process, there is a human benefit. Clatsop County is not the only county that struggles with high incarceration rates. It is a problem with which counties struggle all over the state and country. Research shows that delinquency prevention programs are a good financial investment. Prevention programs save taxpayers \$7 to \$10 for every dollar invested, pri-

marily due to reductions in the amount spent on incarcerations. Early intervention programs like those supported by funding for grants to local social and human services agencies can reduce money spent to imprison individuals. In other words, those monies are instrumental to stop the cradle-to-prison pipeline that so often prevails.

There is \$30,000 total available for the coming year, with individual programs eligible for grants of up to \$10,000. Preference is given to programs which provide services that are available to all county residents, as opposed to residents of a specific geographic area; serve the largest number of county residents; work collaboratively with other groups and receive significant portions of their funding from sources other than the county; address a need not now being addressed by other groups or agencies; and have missions that are consistent with the board’s priorities as identified in Clatsop Vision 2030 Together.

The county’s proposal format must be used to be eligible for consideration and can be picked up from the county offices or downloaded from the county website at bit.ly/human-services-grants.

Applications must be submitted via email to gkorosi@co.clatsop.or.us no later than Jan. 31.

The Human Services Advisory Council grant committee reviews all proposals and then makes funding recommendations to the Board of Commissioners for approval at one of its regularly scheduled meetings.

By investing in community programs, Clatsop County helps ensure that all residents have the quality of life experiences for which our community is noted.

Linda Crandell serves on the board of directors of Clatsop County’s Human Services Advisory Council.

LETTERS

Astoria City Council made right decision on hotel

I am not in favor of any more motels being built in Astoria. I believe they change the character of the town in a way that homestay lodging does not. Most of our visitors like Astoria not just for the views or the Riverwalk, but because our small-town way of life has a peace and authenticity our larger neighbors lack.

But regarding the recent letter to the editor, “A trust broken”, the writer should remember that our city councilors take an oath to uphold the law, and building codes are laws, to all extents and purposes. If the code states that a motel is allowed to be built in such-and-such a location, to such-and-such specifications, then they are bound to uphold the rights of people to build within that code.

They can (and no doubt will) represent their constituents only by changing the code, but they cannot do so retroactively. One has only to imagine themselves in the applicant’s position to realize that denying a legally valid claim may be popular, but it is still unfair. In that case, the Land Use Board of Appeals would just send it back and tell us to think again, anyway.

This seems to me to be a case of equal application of the laws, and I’m glad our City Council has the courage to do what’s clearly right.

CURT YODER
Astoria

Trees are a crop

The Publisher’s Notebook on Dec. 12, “Forests a gift to Clatsop County,” plays reference to Clatsop County forests as our forests, but it is a simple matter to take issue with that. The owners holding the county timber lands are managing primarily for money.

What do we suppose is the net value of logs on a loaded log ship, versus the value of those logs milled in this county? It would make interesting reading to learn of the wealth leaving our local economy, rather than extol the virtues of mechanization, or make comparisons with the labor costs of the mechanized production which produced the wealth. When two men do the work of 12, their annual wages are a real bargain. The name of the game is, and always will be, eliminate labor.

The harvest rotations go by many names, but the mechanical harvests are critical to maintain production in ever-younger plantations. Trees are a crop. Call it by any name, and it is still agriculture. With no time for recovery, the damage this intensive forest management has done to the native flora and fauna of this county remains to be calculated.



For good reason, the ownership has no interest in transparency, or revealing acreage and age class statistics, and so far no governing body has any interest in digging up the facts and making them public. And thus the concerned public is left in the dark, and lulled to sleep with feel-good industry press releases. Yes, our forests are the gift that keeps on giving.

GARY DURHEIM
Seaside

Unload the baggage and travel light

Recently I was watching a ship at the Port, heavy, laden, unloading its cargo. As each load came off the ship, it would rise a bit.

I don’t care who you are, we all are carrying some kind of a load. Family problems, financial problems, health, things we have done that we now regret — you name it.

It seems to me that we need to claim the promise in Scripture that says: “Come unto me all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” It also reminds me of the man carrying a heavy backpack given a ride in the back of a pickup. The driver noticed that the man remained standing, still with the backpack on.

It’s time to unload and know the joy of a

more carry-free life. So for the rest of life’s trip, let’s unload the baggage and travel light.

JIM BERNARD
Warrenton

The fire next time

Astoria has more emergency preparedness to address than just the Cascadia earthquake/tsunami. A wildfire in the region could be devastating, particularly to the Bear Creek Watershed, source of Astoria’s drinking water.

No amount of careful timber management in the watershed can help, because the land surrounding the watershed has been clearcut, replanted and exists now as tightly clustered trees of uniform height. Firefighters have universally proclaimed that such stands burn faster and hotter than more mature stands in a wildfire.

The state’s largest and most destructive wildfires occurred in the Coast Range during unusually dry years between 1933 and 1945. The Tillamook Burn occurred on land considered at low risk of fire in a normal year. But counting on a “normal year” is now off the table as we move deeper into climate change, which could cause a series of dry years that turn the county into a tinderbox.

A fire originating in east county driven

by several days of dry east wind, like we had this past summer, could easily sweep over the Bear Creek Watershed, leaving Astoria without drinking water. The same goes for a fire originating south of the watershed, driven by offshore winds.

Rather than pooh-poohing this scenario, city and county leaders would do well to begin negotiating with the private timber holders, who own most of the land around the watershed, about creating a buffer with thinning and fire breaks on the land surrounding Bear Creek.

ROGER DORBAND
Astoria

Thank you for ‘must love dogs’ story

The story “Weekend Break: Must love dogs” by Ed Hunt was wonderful (The Daily Astorian, Dec. 7). I smiled, and also got tears in my eyes.

Ed Hunt is a master storyteller. I hope he keeps us up to date on his daughter, Grace, and her dog, Lucky, and his dog, Wendy.

I don’t know how this story came about, but if Ed has any more to tell, please publish them.

Thanks for a most wonderful Christmas-type story.

A. DIANE FINUCANE
Warrenton