

Family honors Warrenton Grade School teacher

Hartley volunteered for children's charity

By NICOLE BALES
The Astorian

WARRENTON — Dee Hartley, a second-grade teacher set to retire from Warrenton Grade School, got a surprise on Tuesday at the school's year-end assembly.

Alexis Joseph, Wade Chosvig and their grandmother, Gail Antilla, honored Hartley in front of faculty, students and their families for her longtime service to Ronald McDonald House Charities in Portland.

The recognition was especially personal, as Hartley spearheaded an effort to support the family after Chosvig was born with spina bifida and hydrocephalus on June 10, 1999.

From then on, Hartley turned Ronald McDonald's pull tab program into a math project for her students. The program invites schools and other groups to collect pull tabs from aluminum cans and deliver them to their local Ronald McDonald



Nicole Bales/The Astorian

Wade Chosvig and Alexis Joseph honor Dee Hartley at Warrenton Grade School's year-end assembly.

House. The house melts and recycles the aluminum to offset expenses.

Hartley heard of Chosvig's condition from Joseph, who was in her second-grade class at the time. Hartley was stunned when Joseph told her they were not able to bring her little brother home as he was flown to Portland shortly after delivery at Columbia Memorial Hos-

pital in Astoria. The family spent the following year at Ronald McDonald House in Portland.

"Every year as Wade has undergone multiple surgeries Mrs. Hartley at the end of every June has been there with a car full of pull tabs, a hug and support," Joseph said at the assembly in the school's gymnasium. "Thank you for being a shin-

ing light when the world doesn't seem so bright."

Joseph and Chosvig presented Hartley with a plaque and flowers and she was applauded and given a standing ovation.

"The school year has always been a hard time for me to say goodbye because it's an ending and we were all excited for the birth of her sibling and when she got

back she brought a picture," Hartley recalled. "With all endings come new beginnings and that's what it felt like. This little boy's life was starting and when I saw Alexis in the hall and learned about Ronald McDonald that seemed like a good start to another start to help something."

Her students would use the pull tabs over the school year to help them learn to count to the thousands. Some years, her class collected tens of thousands, and in other years, hundreds of thousands. Over time, surrounding elementary schools and high schools began to collect pull tabs to donate to Hartley's class.

Hartley said in 20 years her classes have collected 3.2 million pull tabs.

"Every year there's always one person in the class who says one of their family members stayed there ... so they already know about Ronald McDonald House and it makes it real," Hartley said.

Every year, Hartley and Antilla lay out all the tabs at the year-end assembly and tell everyone how much they

collected. "It's fun and it's a tradition every second to the last day of school we trot them over there," Hartley said. "At the beginning of the year, it brings everybody into a team process to do that, plus they love helping, that's our nature is to help."

Growing up in a Coast Guard family, Joseph attended several different schools. She said Hartley was the most memorable teacher she had.

With the support of Hartley and other teachers, Chosvig has overcome many of his own obstacles. He wants to teach other kids in similar situations how to do the same. Chosvig helps mentor kids at Shriners Hospital for Children as part of their recreational therapy program. Some of the kids also have spina bifida, while others have cerebral palsy, Down syndrome and Asperger's syndrome.

"Some of them are younger and I have a lot more experience, so I give them a lot of advice that I've gone through when I was their age," he said. "I've helped a lot of kids doing that."

Rates going up in Warrenton

A 5% hike for water, 4% for sewer

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Astorian

WARRENTON — Sewer and water rates are going up in Warrenton again, a combination of escalating operational costs and the city playing catch-up after years of not increasing rates.

The water rate increase is less than it was this fiscal year, noted City Manager Linda Engbretson at a City Commission meeting Tuesday. After next year, the increases will be even less under the city's current schedule.

But some on the City Commission are curious what it would look like to take care of the costs once and for all by raising rates more drastically to get the city up to the level they say it should have been at years ago.

The 5% proposed for next fiscal year "is just enough that most people don't notice it," Commissioner Mark Baldwin said. But the complaint he keeps hearing, he said, is, "Well, you're going to raise rates again."

It's sort of a "death by a thousand cuts," Mayor Henry Balensifer said.

"What I'm saying is this is a Band-Aid," Baldwin said, asking, "Could we look further down the road?"

City staff plans to come back with a report on what an "all at once" type of increase might look like. Past commissions had opted to ease the increases in over time.

The City Commission held a first reading for a 5% increase to monthly water rates and a 4% increase to monthly sewer rates. Both increases would add only a few dollars to the average customer's bill starting in July.

Costs are also going up for recycling by just over 2%, as are costs for the disposal of hazardous household waste. Clatsop County is nearing completion on a permanent facility for hazardous waste and applies a surcharge of \$3.50 per ton to fund the hazardous waste program.

The county requested that Recology, which handles recycling services for Warrenton and garbage and recycling services for other cities, to increase the surcharge to \$5 per ton to help cover the costs of building and operating the facility.

City commissioners noted that, for now, people must travel out of the area to deal with hazardous waste and agreed an increase to the surcharge made sense. But they demanded Recology provide wind latches for recycling bins ahead of any increase to rates for recycling services.

The latches keep the lids closed and prevent recycling from spilling down streets on windy days.

"There's no sense in having recycling if your recycling's on the road," Balensifer said.

A Recology representative at the meeting agreed and said the company could provide wind latches for all the recycling bins in Warrenton ahead of a rate increase.

Cap and trade: Cap would regulate nearly all sectors of the economy

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At about 20 minutes, it was easily the shortest of the 20 hearings the bill has endured.

Business trade groups have long opposed the bill, but individuals working in industry have also made themselves seen in hearings for months.

Wednesday was no different, as log truckers rallied in front of the Capitol before filling the hearing room and overflow room, dressed in their well-worn pants, boots and suspenders. They apparently didn't feel heard in the brief hearing, so they took to their trucks. For an hour and a half after the hearing, they performed an auditory assault on lawmakers, driving around the building blowing their loud air horns to make sure they were literally heard.

Under the cap-and-trade program, a 52 million metric ton cap will be placed over 80 percent of the state's emissions. It would regulate nearly all sectors of the economy, excluding agriculture and forestry.

Entities regulated by the cap which are emitting at least 25,000 metric tons of greenhouse gases per year will have to buy allowances from the state for each ton over the limit. If companies overestimate their need, they can sell

those allowances on a marketplace linked to California and Quebec, Canada. If they don't buy enough, they can likewise purchase some on the marketplace.

The state will make fewer allowances available over time, a mechanism intended to force industry to undertake conversions that reduce emissions. The targets are a 45% decline from 1990s levels by 2035 and an 80% decline by 2050.

It's a wildly progressive proposal. Oregon's plan is in part based on California, but Oregon's economy is much smaller. The hope is to show other states that such a plan can work in smaller and more rural states.

However, Republicans have been staunchly against the idea, saying it will decimate the rural way of life, where people work in mills and factories that would be hurt by cap and trade. They drive longer distances, making the estimated 16 cent-per-gallon increase in gas costs more significant.

To that end, Republicans made a last-ditch effort to change the bill with amendments drafted by industry and one that would remove the emergency clause. Both those proposals failed on party-line votes, as they did the day before in the Ways and Means Natural Resources Subcommittee.

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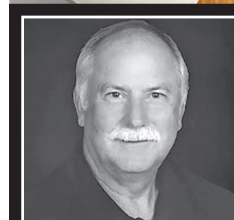
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Q: What are dental sealants, who should get them and how long do they last?

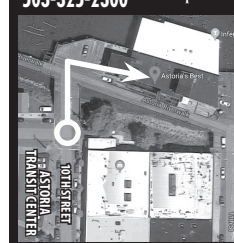
A: Dental sealants are a clear coating place in the deep grooves of teeth, protecting them from food and bacteria that can be hard to remove with brushing. We recommend having your child's permanent molars sealed as soon as they are fully erupted. You can expect sealants to last upwards of 10-15 years and are a safe, inexpensive way to help ensure your child's oral health. Call us today to make your appointment.



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