

CORONAVIRUS

Helping Hands reaches Portland

Facility will start with 72 beds

By R.J. MARX
The Astorian

SEASIDE — Alan Evans and Raven Russell of Helping Hands, a nonprofit serving the homeless and other low-income people struggling with housing, are well known for their work in Clatsop County.

But with the Bybee Lakes Hope Center in Portland, Helping Hands moves to a new stage.

Russell, Evans and facility director Jeff Woodward joined the Seaside Chamber of Commerce in an electronic meeting Wednesday to share the evolution of the former 18-acre, 155,000-square-foot Wapato Jail to a transitional housing facility providing beds for up to 525 people.

‘THIS MODEL IS FRANKLY HISTORIC FOR OUR COMMUNITY.’

Jeff Woodward | facility director

Helping Hands hopes to start housing residents in September, opening a portion of the building with 72 beds, Russell said. They plan to provide 300 beds by the end of the year.

In addition to Bybee Lakes, Helping Hands facilities in Astoria, Tillamook and Lincoln City could provide an additional 100 beds by 2021.

“This model is frankly historic for our community,” Woodward said. “Right now, trying to get services is like trying

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Second virus case at Da Yang

Test results still coming in

By NICOLE BALES
The Astorian

Clatsop County reported Monday that a worker at Da Yang Seafood in Astoria has tested positive for the coronavirus.

The man is in his 50s and lives in the northern part of the county. He is reportedly recovering at home.

The county conducted testing of all 160 workers at the seafood processing facility Thursday after a worker tested positive for the virus last week. The county is still receiving test results.

Da Yang closed processing operations on Pier 2 at the Port of Astoria on Wednesday for deep cleaning, according to the county.

Chang Lee, the plant manager for Da Yang, said operations remain closed. He said the company is waiting for a list of workers with negative test results so they know who can come back to work safely.

The county has recorded 69 virus cases since March 23. Fifty-five have recovered and the others are reportedly convalescing at home.

The Oregon Health Authority reported 17,088 cases and 289 deaths statewide as of Monday morning.

The health authority tracked 3,368 test results in Clatsop County, including 68 of the positive cases.



Photos by Edward Stratton/The Astorian

Cinthia Inzunza and her husband, Gerardo Sanchez, who run the Una Ves Mas Mexican Restaurant in Seaside, received \$5,000 in state relief grants to help them stay afloat during the coronavirus pandemic.

Local virus relief grants help businesses that fall through federal cracks

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Astorian

Cinthia Inzunza, who has run the Una Ves Mas Mexican Restaurant on Broadway in Seaside for three years, laid off her staff as the state restricted indoor dining and leisure travel to stem the spread of the coronavirus.

She tried a to-go service with her husband but eventually shut down for two months, unable to cover her overhead. Inzunza restarted when Clatsop County entered the first phase of reopening. But she has avoided applying for federal aid to rehire her employees, fearful of owing the government money when her business is already struggling to survive.

Clatsop Economic Development Resources identified Inzunza’s and 36 other local businesses and community groups that have so far fallen through the cracks of federal aid, awarding them nearly \$120,000 in state Small Business Relief Fund grants.

The Oregon Legislature and Gov. Kate Brown allocated \$5 million from the state’s general fund and another \$5 million from other Business Oregon programs into the Small Business Relief Fund. The grant money is targeted for people who had not received any federal aid through outreach like the Paycheck Protection Program, a low-interest loan that becomes a grant when used for covering payroll.

Clatsop Economic Development



James Kincheloe, right, and his wife, Vanessa, owners of Kut & Shave Barbers in downtown Astoria, received a relief grant of more than \$3,700 from Clatsop Economic Development Resources to help defer the costs of opening during the coronavirus pandemic.

GRANTS

For more information on grants through the state’s Small Business Relief Fund, email cedr@clatsopcc.edu or visit www.clatsopcc.edu/cedr

Resources — the county’s economic development group, run through Clatsop Community College — received \$120,000, and in less than a month awarded businesses between \$2,500 and \$5,000. The business group recently acquired another \$230,000 to give out to businesses

in need.

“The priority for us going into this was to get the funds in people’s hands as quickly as possible,” said Meyer Freeman, an adviser with the business group, who helped process applications.

The college’s staff spread the money around the county to restaurants, bed-and-breakfasts, retail shops, salons, barbershops, tour guides and others hit by the slowdown. The Lower Columbia Hispanic Council was enlisted to help find Latino-owned businesses, which made up nearly one-quarter

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R.J. Marx/The Astorian

Delores Sullivan is a therapist in Gearhart.

Therapist buoys clients amid pandemic anxiety

New practice in Gearhart

By R.J. MARX
The Astorian

GEARHART — Slip into By the Way and visitors will find cards, coffee and gifts.

But in an area carved out in the rear of the building, Delores Sullivan has redesigned the space to accommodate patients at her new therapy office.

She moved to Gearhart two years ago with her husband and

EVERYDAY people

said she saw a need for therapy options. “A lot of the other therapists told me, ‘Boy, we could really use some good therapists,’” she said. “But I kept thinking there has to be a good space if I’m

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