

CORONAVIRUS

Network hopes to prevent childhood trauma



Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

An alternative school program is based at Gray School in Astoria.

Resilient Clatsop County envisions coordinated outreach

By NICOLE BALES
The Astorian

A network of more than 20 organizations in Clatsop County, including schools, hospitals and social services agencies, hopes to prevent childhood trauma through increased education and outreach.

The Columbia Pacific Coordinated Care Organization began laying the groundwork for Resilient Clatsop County in 2018 after identifying community resilience and trauma-informed care as one of eight regional health improvement strategic priority areas. The coordinated care organization is part of CareOregon and oversees the Oregon Health Plan in Clatsop, Columbia and Tillamook counties.

The organization hired Angel Escobedo, a senior program development specialist, to establish networks in Clatsop and Columbia counties and develop a five-year strategic plan for implementing trauma-informed policies, programs and best practices.

RESILIENT CLATSOP COUNTY

A virtual launch of the Resilient Clatsop County network is planned for 1 p.m. on Tuesday.

For more information online visit bit.ly/3cRuTUb

Escobedo said the goal is to eventually embed the network into the community and make it self-sustaining.

“We’re a collection of organizations and we have a single goal, but we’re working across sectors and coming together to do this because it’s the kind of issue that if school districts go at it alone, it’s not solvable by one sector or by one organization,” Escobedo said. “This kind of issue requires that we work across sectors in order to really address this issue.”

“Because children are touched by all these different systems, so it’s important to have all of these

different systems involved.”

Amber Bowman, a school counselor at Astoria High School and Gray School, is looking forward to expanding education about adverse childhood experiences and reducing stigma.

According to the coordinated care organization, adults who were exposed to four or more categories of adverse childhood experiences are seven times as likely to experience alcoholism, three to five times as likely to experience depression, 13 times as likely to attempt suicide and 10 times as likely to use intravenous drugs.

The most common types of adverse childhood experiences reported by Oregonians are emotional and physical abuse, household substance abuse and parental separation or divorce.

Bowman said many of her students have high adverse childhood experience scores, and she sees and hears about the impacts of family trauma on a daily basis.

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Parks prepare for busy summer

State takes steps to handle large crowds

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Astorian

Expecting another busy summer despite coronavirus pandemic concerns, the state has installed permanent “no parking” signs along U.S. Highway 101 ahead of popular state park sites on the North Coast.

Parking lots at Hug Point, Arcadia Beach and Oswald West State Park filled up quickly on nice days last summer. People then made use of highway shoulders. The state tried to curb illegal parking using concrete barriers and warning tape along the highway with mixed results. State parks, facing budget shortfalls and reduced staff, struggled to keep up with all the garbage left behind.

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Professor questions High Point option in Gearhart

Doubts raised on resiliency station

By R.J. MARX
The Astorian

GEARHART — Where’s the best place to put a resiliency station and firehouse?

University professor Stewart Schultz, a former Gearhart resident and author of “The Northwest Coast: A Natural History,” wants the city to reexamine the plan to put the station on North Marion Avenue near the Palisades.

“The High Point site is not in the running as a good assembly area, let alone the best or the ideal,” Schultz said in a four-part, 50-minute YouTube video series. “Why would you settle on a location that’s wide open to a big hit from a high-energy western wave?”

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Seaside fire marshal takes new role

Dugan named as state deputy for the region

By NICOLE BALES
The Astorian

SEASIDE — Chris Dugan never envisioned himself as a firefighter until he experienced a house fire.

It was Christmas Eve and Dugan’s wife was due to deliver



their son. He was working at Reed & Hertig when he received an emergency phone call.

“I thought, ‘Oh, we’re going to have a baby,’” he said. “No, ‘It’s your next door neighbor. You have smoke coming out all the ends of your house.’”

When Dugan got to the scene he was stunned.

“When you’re that age and you got a fire, you’re thinking, ‘How am I gonna pay for this?’” he said. “I mean, I lost everything. I got a family, two kids and one on the way, it’s Christmas and our house is on fire. What am I going to do?”

He remembers watching the firefighters. Most of them were his age and he recognized them from different businesses around town, but did not associate them with the fire department. After the fire was out, he asked the chief who he had to pay.

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Nicole Bales/The Astorian

Chris Dugan is a deputy state fire marshal.



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