

IN BRIEF

Federal funding helps low-income college students

Clatsop Community College received key funding that will allow the school to continue to serve low-income and first-generation students for the next five years.

The college announced Wednesday it had received a Talent Search \$372,238 grant from the U.S. Department of Education. Talent Search is one of the Federal TRIO Programs. The college has received federal funds for the outreach program for the past 30 years.

The program at the college serves more than 600 local sixth-through-12th grade students annually.

The program builds relationships with students and helps them succeed in school and start college with financial aid and scholarships, according to Jon Graves, the director of Talent Search at the college.

Astoria Sunday Market to accept food stamps

The Astoria Sunday Market will now accept food stamps.

Shelby Meyers, the market's manager, said in a statement Tuesday that the change will allow more food options for a greater portion of the community.

"Farmers market food is often perceived as being too expensive for folks on a tight budget," she said. "The acceptance of food stamps makes the fresh produce and packaged food available to these community members in a way that they weren't before."

People in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program can redeem benefits at the market info booth on the corner of 12th and Duane streets for wooden tokens to be used with local vendors.

The market hopes to qualify for similar programs in the near future to benefit a larger portion of the community.

— The Astorian

CDC issues new eviction ban through early October

The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Tuesday issued a new moratorium on evictions that would last until Oct. 3, as the Biden administration sought to quell intensifying criticism that it was allowing vulnerable renters to lose their homes during a pandemic.

The new moratorium could help keep millions in their homes as the coronavirus' delta variant has spread and states have been slow to release federal rental aid. It would temporarily halt evictions in counties with substantial and high levels of virus transmissions and would cover areas where 90% of the U.S. population lives.

The announcement was something of a reversal for the Biden administration after saying that a U.S. Supreme Court ruling prevented a moratorium.

— Associated Press

DEATHS

Aug. 2, 2021

PLOTKIN, Barry Lewis, 77, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Ocean View Funeral & Cremation Service of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

July 30, 2021

CHAN, Flora, 104, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

FORNEY, Norman R. Jr., 68, of Warrenton, died in Warrenton. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the

arrangements.

July 29, 2021

MCCRAY, Lois, 93, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

July 28, 2021

HOFFMAN, Peter, 80, of Warrenton, died in Warrenton. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

July 27, 2021

SLETTE, Frank, 79, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

ON THE RECORD

Burglary

• Caitlin Claire Kurek, 31, of Newport, was indicted Friday for burglary in the second degree, criminal mischief in the second degree, criminal mischief in the third degree and criminal trespass in the second degree.

Attempting to elude police

• Beau Anthony Marthaller, 30, of Longview,

Washington, was arrested Saturday afternoon on U.S. Highway 26 for attempting to elude a police officer by vehicle and reckless driving.

DUII

• Krysta Marie Criss, 36, of Seaside, was arrested early Sunday morning on U.S. Highway 101 for driving under the influence of intoxicants.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

THURSDAY

Seaside Parks Advisory Committee, 6 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

the Astorian

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GARDEN DUTY

Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

Several members of the Oregon Air National Guard's 116th Air Control Squadron from Camp Rilea volunteered to help spruce up the gardens around the Flavel House Museum in Astoria on Monday afternoon.

Port Commission backs letter of caution on sea otter reintroduction

By ETHAN MYERS
The Astorian

The Port of Astoria Commission voted unanimously Tuesday to urge the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to consider the potential issues for port infrastructure in reintroducing sea otters on the Pacific coast.

A letter was drafted by the West Coast Seafood Processors Association, a trade group. Lori Steele, the association's executive director, appeared remotely at the Port meeting to advocate for the letter.

The Fish and Wildlife Ser-

vice was instructed by Congress to conduct a one-year study that analyzes the cost and feasibility of reestablishing sea otters. The association plans to send the letter to the federal agency prior to a final report to Congress in January.

U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley, an Oregon Democrat, added the sea otter study to a federal spending blueprint.

"We tried to focus the letter on providing constructive input and identifying the real critical issues that the Fish and Wildlife Service needs to address in their study," Steele said over Zoom.

The association reached

out to the Port of Astoria asking for support because they considered the agency a stakeholder.

"There are a lot of considerations and issues for ports and potential impact on port infrastructure," Steele said.

The letter has already received signatures from several ports along the coast, including Coos Bay, Newport and Ilwaco in Washington state.

Steele said it is possible the Fish and Wildlife Service will seek greater protection for sea otters under federal law.

"If that happens we will

run into all kinds of trouble with trying to get permits and things like that for infrastructure, maintenance and repair," Steele said. "Those are largely, I think, the concerns from the port perspective."

Port commissioners supported the letter.

"They realized the dangers involved and looked at it in-depth that the general public does not see," Frank Spence, the commission president, said after the meeting.

"It was justified and very clear, and that is why it was unanimous," he added.

Bike shops: 'We just roll with the punches'

Continued from Page A1

and was steady all through the winter, more than any other winter."

While the increase in sales was slightly more gradual, Prom Bike Shop in Seaside had a similar experience.

"Everybody decided they wanted a bike, or they wanted to fix their bike that had been sitting in their garage, barn or whatever for the last five to 10 years because — I'm assuming, anyway — it was the only thing you could really do," said Debbie Clark, the shop's co-owner. "As a group, you were socially distanced and it was outdoors and fun. Everybody could do it."

While Clark understood why demand was so high last year, she did not expect it to continue into 2021.

"Demand has stayed pretty good. We have been fairly impressed with it," she said. "Honestly, we have been somewhat surprised, we thought it would drop this year because everyone bought bikes last year."

As new and returning customers come knocking for new bikes and seeking repairs on old ones, manufacturers are struggling to ship deliveries on time, leaving bike shops in a tough spot.

Lee said the bikes arriving this month from manufacturers were ordered in May and June of last year.

Ed Jones, the owner of Bike Envy in Warrenton, said he isn't expecting some orders to arrive until the end of 2022.

Clark said there is little rhyme or reason to when orders are arriving at Prom Bike Shop.

"We don't have a clue," she said. "The two suppliers that we use are giving us on-the-water, maybe dates



Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

Bike shops are having difficulty keeping up with demand.

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Scott Lee | owner of Bikes and Beyond

and that is it."

"We just roll with the punches," she added.

Parts are a challenge

Since the availability of new bikes dwindled during the pandemic, Lee said many people came in hoping to repair old bikes.

But a shortage of parts has made repairs slow and often impossible without the right pieces.

"People are repairing their old bikes if they can, but parts are a problem, too," Lee said. "We are two weeks out on repairs right now because we are so swamped."

In addition to the disrupted supply chain, Lee

said, there is a skilled labor shortage.

"Staffing is always an issue, but I have a good crew and we have stuck together and made it through it," he said. "We have good people who are just thankful to have jobs."

Clark's husband, Les, who has owned Prom Bike Shop since 1975, said they loaded up on parts in anticipation of the shortage.

"If you had a good inventory, which we had, it was not really a big deal for us," he said. "Over the winter, I had accumulated a backlog in my parts inventory, so I have not had a lot of shortage problems when it comes to repair work."

But Debbie Clark said for certain bikes, they are unable to take care of chains, derailleurs or cassettes.

Although having to turn interested customers away is difficult, Lee and the Clarks

said people have been considerate of the challenges.

"People understand what is going on and they're fairly patient," Lee said. "Everybody has been inconvenienced and hassled and so we are just used to having to wait for things and have the anxiety that goes along with that."

While they have not had any issues with upset customers, Clark said she recognizes there is some frustration.

"I would say (there is) a frustration level of not having product, but even more so, of not being able to give you a two-month window of when you might be able to see that product," she said. "I would think that in this day and age, you should be able to have a better grasp on when things are coming in."

Bike shop owners are not sure what to expect in the next few months.

Lee, who moved his shop from 11th Street and Marine Drive to a smaller location on 9th and Astor streets in May, has ordered the same amount of bikes as he did last year in anticipation of demand remaining high.

"I don't know what is going to happen," he said. "It is very fluid. We don't know how the economy is holding. It just depends on so many factors, it is hard to predict."

WANTED

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