

13th Annual Scoop-A-Thon to Prevent Youth Homelessness

Nonprofit celebrates with free Ben & Jerry's to raise awareness and funds

On Monday, April 3rd, local nonprofit New Avenues for Youth held the 13th annual Scoop-A-Thon at its Ben & Jerry's PartnerShop. All of the proceeds helping fund their programs for youth experiencing or at-risk of homelessness.

In effort to provide tangible job training skills, New Avenues operates two social purpose enterprises in the Portland Area. Their screen-printing shop, New Avenues INK, has been printing high-quality items for businesses and individuals in our community for more than 8 years providing internships to young people. Their Ben & Jerry's PartnerShop on Yamhill opened its doors in 2004 and remains the only non-profit owned and operated shop in the country. Through these enterprises hundreds of young people gained skills and work experience they need to thrive.

Additionally, our Promoting Avenues to Employment (PAVE) program supports young people seeking professional guidance. This one-stop-shop provides opportunities for job exploration, resume development, career coaching, and connections to internship and job opportunities. An



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astounding 118 youth have received job training and employment services from PAVE this program year alone!

Scoop-a-Thon takes place on Ben & Jerry's annual Free Cone Day providing joy and celebration to the community for more than 40 years. Ice cream lovers can get in line as many times as they would like. Flavor fanatics can try any flavor they prefer whether that is a classic like Choc-

olate Chip Cookie Dough, which Ben & Jerry's invented over three decades ago, or a brand-new flavor, like Lights! Caramel! Action!, which the company just unveiled in 2023 with award-winning director, filmmaker and TV producer Ava DuVernay.

"Bank of America is honored to partner with New Avenues for Youth in their efforts to combat homelessness in our community by empowering disadvan-

tagged youth," said Roger Hinshaw, Bank of America President for Oregon and SW Washington. "New Avenues helps homeless and at-risk youth in ways that go beyond providing basic needs and nurtures growth and independence by providing paid positions and on the job support, training the next generation of employees who will contribute greatly to our economy, and the Portland community."

Electric Vehicle Rebates Halted

Program running out of money due to demand

(AP) — Oregon will temporarily suspend rebates for buying or leasing an electric vehicle for a year starting in May because too many people are applying and the program is running out of money, The Oregonian/OregonLive reported Thursday. A growing number of Oregonians are buying or leasing electric vehicles, with over 60,600 registered in the state.

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality announced Wednesday the suspension of the Clean Vehicle Rebate Program that has disbursed more than \$71 million over five years to help people buy or lease roughly 25,000 of those vehicles. A fifth of the rebates went to low- and moderate-income households, state data shows.

Since the end of 2018, the state has offered two cash rebates for Oregon drivers who buy or lease electric vehicles or plug-in hybrids under \$50,000. The standard rebate of up to \$2,500 is available regardless

of income and can be received at participating dealers. The "charge ahead" rebate of \$5,000 is aimed at low- or moderate-income households and must be accessed via a mail-in application. The two rebates can be combined for up to \$7,500 cash back.

"Even though we're announcing a temporary suspension, it really shows the program is a victim of our own success," Rachel Sakata, senior air quality planner with the environmental quality department. "We're one of the top states in the nation in terms of the percentage of EV sales."

Oregon's Department of Transportation estimates that people will be driving 1.5 million electric vehicles in the state by 2035. About 3.2 million passenger vehicles are registered in Oregon today.

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A line of electric cars and newly installed charging stations sit in front of the Portland General Electric headquarters building on July 28, 2015, in Portland, Ore. Oregon will temporarily suspend rebates for buying or leasing an electric vehicle for a year starting in May. The Oregonian/OregonLive reports the suspension comes because too many people are applying and the program is running out of money. (AP Photo/Don Ryan, File)