



Peggy Yingst/The Columbia Press

Gov. Brown visits Seaside

BY PEGGY YINGST
The Columbia Press

The Seaside Rotary Club gave Gov. Kate Brown an opportunity Jan. 24 to review her recent State of the State address with local business people.

About 50 business leaders attended the gathering at Angelina's Pizzeria and Cafe.

While acknowledging that Oregon is enjoying the lowest unemployment rates in its history and that Oregon's economy is one of the fastest growing in the nation, "prosperity hasn't been inclusive," she said. "A lot of families have been left behind."

She outlined her goals for the new legislative session:

- Health care is a fundamental right.

"The good news is that 94 percent of adults and 98 percent of children are covered by medical insurance," she said. She'd like the collective number to reach 99 percent.

- Addressing the lack of affordable housing in coastal communities by building affordable units.

She specifically would focus on providing for children and families, the chronically homeless, and veterans. She noted that 1,300 to 1,500 veterans spend each night unsheltered and set a goal for her work as governor in the next 18 months to get them all housed.

- Improving education.

"Since the economy is good right now, the time is now to begin asking the legislature to make significant improvements to the early childhood development program, improving high school graduation rates, and making higher education affordable for all families," she said.

The Oregon Promise program, which drastically reduces the cost of community college tuition for student achievers, is one of her favorite programs, she added.

The governor's plan for the future includes addressing the effect global warming has on the state.

"We can see the impact of climate change in the Rogue Valley, where that area endured eight weeks of smoke late last year," she said. "Ninety percent of the state is in a drought and 2018 was the warmest year since 1895. That's 1895. And crab season was delayed until earlier this month."

Addressing her audience, Brown commented, "Rotarians do the good work that changes the world."

Pageant: Miss winners announced

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Other winners in last Saturday's competition were Lilly Boothe, 15, of Clatskanie, who was named Miss



Boothe

Clatsop County Outstanding Teen; and Sydney Rapp, 16, of Seaside, who was named Miss North Coast's Outstanding Teen.



Sydney

Smart meter installation begins this month

The Columbia Press

Smart meters that can alert the power company when there's an outage will be installed throughout Clatsop County beginning this month.

About 24,000 new meters will go in in Warrenton, Hammond, Astoria, Gearhart, Seaside, Cannon Beach and unincorporated areas.

The project is part of a statewide rollout of 590,000 smart meters by Pacific Power. North County installations begin Feb. 11 and the utility progressively will move south until all are completed by May.

"We're installing smart meters here in Clatsop County as part of an upgrade for the homes and businesses we serve," said Alisa Dunlap, Pacific Power's regional business manager for Clatsop County. "Nearly two-thirds of our customers in Oregon are already enjoying the benefits of a smart meter, and we look forward to bringing this technology now to the North Coast."

Pacific Power's authorized installer, Aclara, will arrive between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. to make installations. Installers will drive vehicles and carry badges that identify them as an authorized contractor of Pacific Power.

Unless an electric meter is inside, they will not need to enter customer homes or businesses. There is no charge for the installation or the meter.

During the installation, Pacific Power technicians will remove the old meter, install the new meter, restore service and verify the new meter is working properly. The process requires a brief power outage (less than five minutes).

The technicians will leave a door hanger to let customers know they were there, and successfully installed the new smart meter.

The meters will instantly

track outages, meaning faster service response and shorter outages overall; allow customers to view their power usage hour-by-hour; provide businesses with detailed usage reporting that can help them cut costs; and update the power grid to work more efficiently and better integrate renewable power sources.

Nationwide, more than 70 million smart meters are installed at homes and businesses.



Get Heart Smart

It's American Heart Month and CMH reminds you to focus on your heart. Here are three heart-friendly actions you can take today.

1

Get moving

2

Skip the salt

3

Phone a friend

CMH is here to help you make new, heart-healthy habits. Check out columbiamemorial.org/events/.

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