

Program a boost for healthy babies

Families in Clatsop County and seven other areas of the state will be among the first given an option of receiving nurse home visits after the birth of a child.

The new statewide initiative, called Family Connects, is the result of Senate Bill 526, which was passed by the state legislature last year.

The eight “early-adopter communities” are part of the Oregon Health Authority’s debut of a program that eventually will become nationwide. Family Connects is a voluntary, evidence-based model that supports children and families at a critical time: a child’s birth, program leaders say.

Family Connects Oregon identifies what families want from local resources, and then provides an individualized path into an array of community services. The system includes referrals to other, more established home visiting programs that are eligibility-based rather than universally offered to all, as the comprehensive Family Connects program will be.

Services are intended to

Local officers graduate from police academy

Two of Warrenton Police Department’s newest recruits graduate today from the basic police academy in Salem.

The 16-week academy includes survival skills, firearms, emergency vehicle operations, ethics, cultural diversity, community policing, elder abuse, and drug recognition.

Officers Madyson Hanna and Dylan McCoy were hired late last year to replace officers who have retired or moved from the area.

Cannon Beach Officer Jenny Thompson-Kiefer also graduates today.

make improvements in child health, child development, school readiness, family economic self-sufficiency, maternal health, positive parenting, and the reduction of juvenile delinquency, family violence, and crime.

Oregon Health Authority was tasked with overseeing the program of providing nurse home visits to all families with newborns living in the state.

The eight agencies first to begin the program are Clatsop County Department of Public Health,

Eastern Oregon Early Learning Hub, Early Learning Hub of Central Oregon, Four Rivers Early Learning Hub, Lane County Health and Human Services, Early Learning Hub of Linn, Benton & Lincoln Counties, Marion & Polk Early Learning Hub, and Washington County Public Health.

“We want Oregon to be the best place in the country to have and raise a child,” said Cate Wilcox, manager of the Maternal and Child Health Section at the OHA Public Health Division.

For more information, visit healthoregon.org/homevisiting.

City’s new fire rules to cover burn barrels, debris piles

BY CINDY YINGST

The Columbia Press

Before striking that match, make sure you’re not doing something illegal.

Warrenton is poised to adopt new rules regarding outdoor burning.

While barbecues and small recreational fires in backyard fire pits would be allowed without a permit, all other forms of burning within city limits would be regulated.

“Most of our complaints that come are from people clearing their lots ... to prepare it for building,” Fire Chief Brian Alsbury said.

The new rules, which require a public hearing before adoption, would require residents to obtain permits for use of a burn barrel or small debris pile and include a city safety inspection.

City commissioners were concerned about placing too many regulations on responsible residents.

“There have been burn barrels in the city my entire life,” Commissioner Mark Baldwin said. “The ones who do this every year and we’ve never had a complaint against, we’re penalizing them because of the jackwagons on

the other end doing whatever they want.”

He was opposed to the fire chief’s proposal to charge up to \$75 a year, which would cover an initial safety inspection, printed material on fire safety and rules and a year’s worth of allowed burning.

Mayor Henry Balensifer wanted to ensure people could burn branches and other yard debris that falls during winter storms.

“It makes no sense to create a rule that’s unenforceable,” he said.

In the end, commissioners agreed to keep the cost of permits low -- \$25 for burn barrels and small debris piles



Alsbury



Baldwin

and \$50 for larger piles up to 10-feet in circumference. No slash burning would be allowed.

“We’re just trying to eliminate people from taking down trees and burning the whole thing or bringing waste from several areas and doing it all in one location,” Alsbury said.

The burning of industrial, construction, demolition and home waste would not be allowed under the new rules.

A review of the city’s rules arose last year after a developer sent smoke through the city one weekend by burning felled trees in large slash piles.



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