

Manzanita Holiday Kids Fair highlights local nonprofits

Craft fair for kids back after tornado canceled last year's event

By Brenna Visser
Cannon Beach Gazette

Dozens of families packed into the Pine Grove Community Center on Friday, Nov. 24, to ring in the holiday season at the Manzanita Holiday Kids Fair.

Glitter, markers, paints and other craft supplies were strewn about a dozen tables. Each of the tables were hosted by a different local nonprofit organization, offering activities like ornament painting, printmaking and a photo booth. Santa and Mrs. Claus were there, too, asking what every kid wanted for Christmas.

The event started about three years ago, but it's the fair's first time back since last year's tornado ripped through downtown, said Dan Haag, coordinator of the Manzanita Visitor Center.

"We weren't sure what interest was going to be like since we took a year off after the tornado," Haag said. But after looking around a room packed with people, he assessed it "looked like they were interested."



LEFT: Kids make holiday ornaments at the Manzanita Holiday Kids Fair. ABOVE: Debbie Freeman shows Cameron Whittle the ornament they made together at the Manzanita Holiday Kids Fair.

BRENNA VISSER/CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

The purpose of the event is to offer families a way to get to know different organizations in the area, Haag said, including some from Clatsop County like the Haystack Rock Awareness Program and Cannon Beach History Center & Museum.

Nestled in the corner was Megan Sokol, the arts education director of the Cannon Beach Arts Association. Sokol taught kids how to make "whimsical shrinkies," or more commonly referred to as Shrinky Dinks. Kids can draw on a special plastic that when exposed to heat will shrink the design more than

'Art and play is how children express themselves, how they speak to us. When kids do art, they are developing self-confidence that they bring into adulthood. And that's invaluable.'

Megan Sokol

arts education director of the Cannon Beach Arts Association

50 percent of the original size and harden so they can hang them as ornaments.

"I got the idea when I started making little hands with Shrinky Dink for the arts association — helping hands, I called them. I got requests to make jewelry with them and sold them at the gallery," Sokol

said. "Then the funds went to our summer camp program."

Sokol hoped the presence at the kid's fair would educate more kids and parents about the association's efforts to expand its annual summer arts camps. Sokol, in her first year at the nonprofit art gallery, is working with the as-

sociation's new director, Cara Mico, to expand the camp to offer more variety in classes and scholarships to allow more kids to attend them.

In the past, the association has offered classes like watercolors, spray paint art and printmaking, but hopes to offer music and movement art

classes next July. Sokol also plans to have a pop-up exhibit for the first time at the end of the program, which will feature all of the creations students worked on throughout the week.

In general, most of the kids left the fair with tree ornaments or doodles of reindeer. But Sokol argues there's a larger picture kids are taking home.

"Art and play is how children express themselves, how they speak to us," she said. "When kids do art, they are developing self-confidence that they bring into adulthood. And that's invaluable."

Building relationships is key to helping students prepare for college

By Susan Cody
For EO Media Group

"This is the best job I've ever had," says Jon Graves. "Students I have worked with are now nurses, getting Ph.Ds or in Japan teaching English. They have gone to college, they have succeeded and are giving back. That is really satisfying."

Graves is the director of pre-college programs at Clatsop Community College. For 12 years he has guided students through the maze of college applications and tests to prepare them for a successful future. Two federal programs, Upward Bound and Talent Search, are the main focus of his work.



Jon Graves

Upward Bound and Talent Search are programs introduced by President Lyndon Johnson's War on Poverty in 1965 to get low-income students through high school and into college. The goal was to combat generations of poverty.

Both programs are designed for students who are from low-income households or whose parents have not earned a bachelor's degree, or both. They are guided on a path to finish high school and be the first generation in their family to receive a college education.

The college has embraced the programs since the early 1990s. Around 75 percent of the students begin college and about 40 percent earn a bachelor's or associate's degree, Graves says.

In Clatsop County, 671 students are participating in the Talent Search program that targets sixth- to 12th-graders. Upward Bound has 73 students from ninth to 12th grade. Eight staff members and school counselors work with students at Knappa, Astoria, Warrenton and Seaside.

The sister programs work with the same caseload of students.

"We help get kids through high school, which can be a

crazy time," Graves says.

"Building relationships is huge. One of the best things to help students succeed is to build relationships with them so they know there is always an adult in their corner. Unfortunately, not all students have that support."

Talent Search and Upward Bound host field trips to colleges, throwing together 30 to 40 students from different schools.

"Relationships between the students in the different

schools is just phenomenal," Graves says.

"It is fun to watch kids interact with each other. They have opinions about other schools. When the field trip begins, kids from each school sit together in their own section of the bus. By the end of the trip, everyone is spread out and talking to each other, exchanging phone numbers.

"It is amazing to see how it broadens their support group in Clatsop County and brings down some of the barriers

that are artificially imposed on everyone because of what school they go to. It's just great."

During the school year, Talent Search works with high school and middle school students. Goal-setting is one of the fundamental steps of college preparation. Staff conduct workshops on study skills and encourage students to pay attention to their grades and make sure they get the right credits to graduate. As Graves says, everything matters.

BAD TEETH?
THEN COME TO

THE SMILE STORE

DENTURES • PARTIALS • IMPLANTS

100% Financing Available

Smile now, pay later.
Ask our team for details.

THE smile STORE

A CUNNING DENTAL COMPANY

Call us today to book your free consultation

(833) 900-1050

Same day
relines & repairs!

Visit us in Seaside: 740 Avenue H
Seaside, OR 97138

M-F: 8am-5pm
Sat: By Appointment
Sun: Closed

WWW.THESMILESTOREUSA.COM

DUANE JOHNSON

Active Members of RMLS

REAL ESTATE

Number "1" Office Since 1990

All brokers listed with firm are licensed in the state of Oregon

SALE PENDING

NEWER ARCH CAPE BEACH HOUSE

\$399,999

CANNON BEACH OCEANVIEW LOT

\$485,000

SALE PENDING

CANNON BEACH OCEANVIEW CONDO

\$489,000

SUPER CUTE CANNON BEACH COTTAGE!

\$495,000

75' WIDE LOT

ARCH CAPE OCEANFRONT

\$1,099,000

2.3 ACRES

LAKE FRONT ESTATE/CULLABY LAKE

\$1,350,000

CANNON BEACH OCEANFRONT

\$1,695,000

CLASSIC OCEAN FRONT BEACH HOUSE

\$1,799,000

CANNON BEACH CUSTOM OCEAN FRONT

\$1,895,000

100' Wide Lot!

PREMIER CANNON BEACH OCEANFRONT

\$2,950,000

296 N. Spruce St. • PO Box 924 • Cannon Beach, Oregon 97110

(503) 436-0451 • (503) 436-2913 FAX

www.duanejohnson.com

Hearts for Hospice

Dedicate a Handmade Heart Ornament

Honor or remember a loved one. Help a Clatsop County neighbor in need.

COLUMBIA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

2111 Exchange St., Astoria
(503) 325-4321
www.columbiamemorial.org

Lower Columbia Hospice

A COLUMBIA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AFFILIATE

For a \$10 donation, we will place a handmade heart ornament on a tree in memory or honor of the person you choose.

In Memory of	In Honor of	Name on ornament:	Send acknowledgment to: Name and address
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1. _____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. _____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3. _____	_____

TAX DEDUCTIBLE: Make checks payable to Lower Columbia Hospice at Columbia Memorial Hospital.

Your name: _____ Please mark location of the tree you wish to decorate:

Address: _____ Columbia Memorial Hospital, Astoria

City/State/Zip: _____ Providence Seaside Hospital

Bob Chisholm Community Center

Donate at <http://weblink.donorperfect.com/heartsforhospice>

Or mail form and donation to:
Hearts for Hospice, Lower Columbia Hospice, P. O. Box 1418, Astoria, Oregon 97103