

NEWS IN BRIEF

Seaside AAUW receives scholarship gift

A Pacific Power grant will provide \$6,000 to the Seaside AAUW Scholarship Foundation in scholarship funds for women seeking further education.

As part of this commitment, the PacifiCorp Foundation, a nonprofit arm of Pacific Power, is donating \$630,000 in new grant funding across the six states it serves to support education and science, technology, engineering, the arts and math learning projects.

Some of the grants will also go to help community organizations continuing to respond to COVID-related needs. This latest round of funding is one of the four grant cycles offered by the foundation annually.

Pacific Power and its employees has also launched and participated in STEAM programs and fairs, provided hands-on mentorship inside and outside classrooms and has helped fund virtual education opportunities to keep students connected during COVID.

As part of this latest funding, Seaside AAUW Scholarship Foundation was awarded \$6,000 in grants to support scholarships and promote educational opportunities for women. From the grants, \$4,000 will be used to support scholarships for women returning to school after a five-year absence and \$2,000 will be used to provide scholarships for first generation college students.

Applications for returning students after an absence are open now through



The last farmers market in Seaside this year is Sept. 29.

R.J. Marx

the organization's website. Scholarships for first generation students will be open in spring 2022 at Warrenton and Seaside high schools through each school's counseling office.

Volunteers needed for SOLVE beach cleanup

Volunteers are needed for SOLVE's annual Beach & Riverside Cleanup, in partnership with the Oregon Lottery, on Saturday.

Meet at the Gearhart Beach access off 10th Street.

Community members across the state will be hosting nearly 100 volunteer projects along Oregon's beaches, parks, and neighborhoods. SOLVE

encourages any Oregonian who wants to join the collective cleanup and restoration effort to sign up.

SOLVE's Beach & Riverside Cleanup began in 1984 as a coastwide beach cleanup event. In 2010, SOLVE expanded the event to become statewide. Since the Beach & Riverside Cleanup's inception, volunteers have removed 1.8 million pounds of litter and marine debris from Oregon's natural areas and neighborhoods.

Volunteers are encouraged to bring reusable work gloves and bags or buckets to cut back on the number of disposable items used.

Community members who would like to learn more about the Beach & Riverside Cleanup and register should visit solveoregon.org.

Hood to Coast: 'This is ... a world-class event'

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the state had put into place for Hood to Coast," he said.

Dogged by complaints

Hood to Coast first moved the finish to Seaside in the late 1980s. Throughout the years, the event has been dogged by complaints about the impacts on residents. In 2015, concerns from residents and businesses about unruly behavior, traffic and poor organization brought angry crowds to City Council meetings and threatened to end the relationship.

In 2018, the city and Hood to Coast renewed the agreement, with an initial payment of \$25,000 to the city that increases each year through 2022, when the relay will pay more than \$30,000. The city provides police, fire and public works services for the event, which raises funds for the Providence Cancer Institute.

Despite the changes, Sandy Rea, a resident and longtime critic of the event, said problems linger.

"Although Hood to Coast offered lip service regarding wearing masks and social distancing, they made no effort to enforce either, while claiming on television to have done so," Rea said.

Dan Floyd, Hood to Coast's chief operating officer, said the relay followed state outdoor mask requirements.

"People not wearing masks were either running/walking, eating, drinking, speaking onstage, or performing," he said after the City Council meeting. "Others not wearing masks were not within the fenced area of our party. That does leave a small group of individuals, or teams, that were not in compliance."

Floyd said this resulted in the disqualification and 2022 ban of 12 teams.

Jason Plamondon, the chief nursing officer at Providence Seaside Hospital, said he didn't see a big increase in virus cases after Hood to Coast.

"We were tracking our ER pretty carefully and I didn't see it," he said. "We didn't see a bump in that."

Judy Geiger, the vice president of patient care services at Columbia Memorial Hospital in Astoria, said the virus caseload "stayed steady" for the week to 10 days following the event.

While there had been discussions earlier this year of canceling the party at the finish, Floyd said, organizers met with the city in advance to get approval for a modified party.

"Traffic was the smoothest it has been in 39 years of Hood to Coast," he said. "Our post-event participant

survey indicated the 97% of respondents would like to participate in Hood to Coast in future years. However, we did have some delays on Highway 30. We identified the problem immediately. Although it took a couple hours to resolve, we are confident that our 2021 remedy will mitigate traffic in future years."

Montero said, "I don't care how you feel, positive or negative, about Hood to Coast. This is actually a world-class event, as world class as the Boston Marathon, as the New York Marathon, as any of those other large races

throughout the world. We know that wherever we go, 5 to 10% of the people don't follow through, and don't do what they're supposed to do. But that's not a reason to condemn everything."

'Keyboard warriors'

Rea started a Facebook group last week called Cancel Hood to Coast at Seaside. By last Thursday, they had 286 members. "Amazing response so far," she said.

Seaside's Tiffany Pedersen sees a need for improvement in outreach and traffic management from Hood to Coast organizers. But she

supported the relay.

"It was almost embarrassing to see our locals on social media going onto the Hood to Coast page and making all of the tourists feel unwelcome," she wrote in a letter to the City Council. "With tourism being our highest industry for Seaside, we don't want to become the town that made an entire event of people feel unelcome."

"Keyboard warriors would much rather complain about debris left behind by Hood to Coast than pick up a phone and call Hood to Coast headquarters, or better yet, go outside and just pick it up."



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