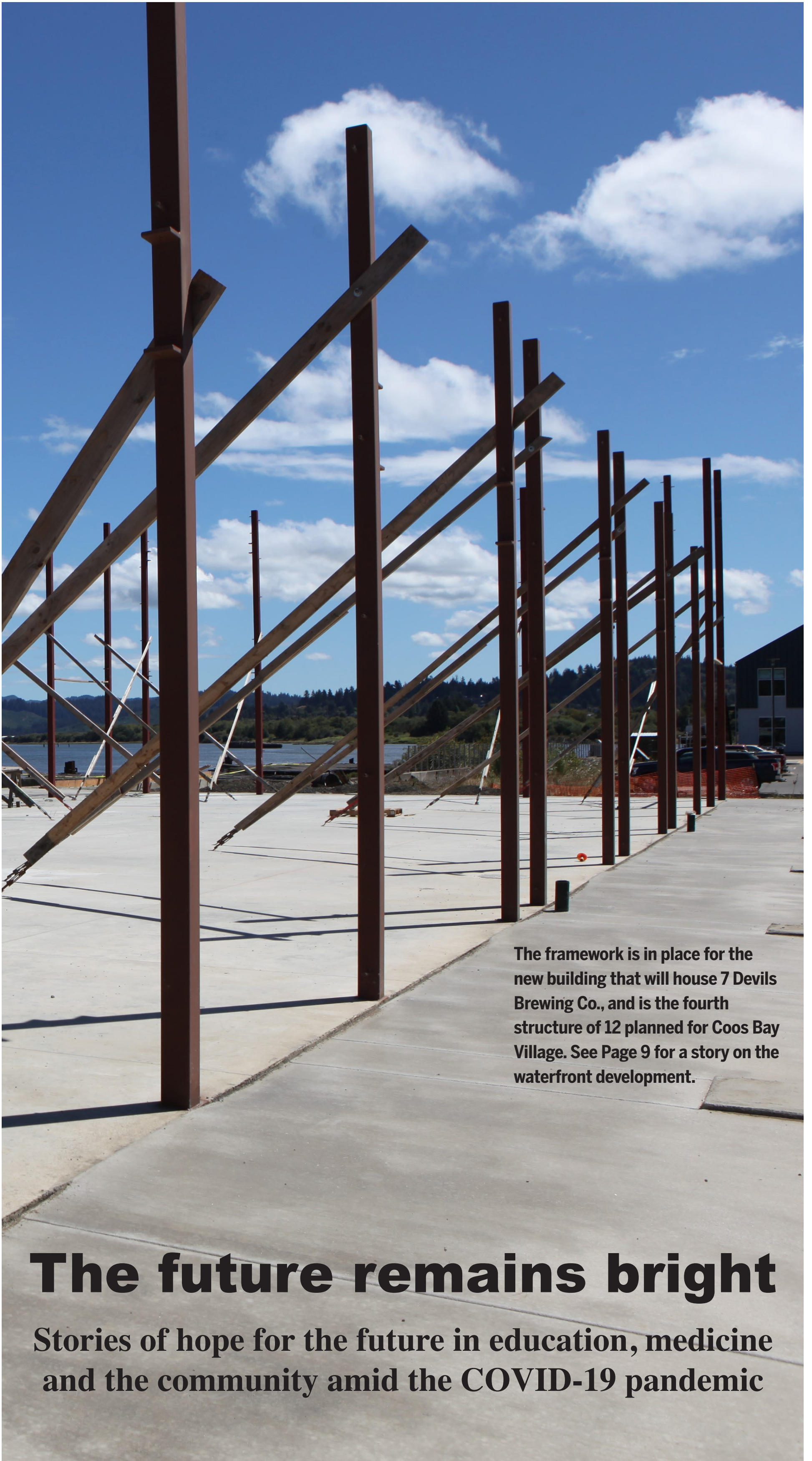


SOUTH COAST STRONG

A special publication of The World

August 29, 2020



The framework is in place for the new building that will house 7 Devils Brewing Co., and is the fourth structure of 12 planned for Coos Bay Village. See Page 9 for a story on the waterfront development.

The future remains bright

Stories of hope for the future in education, medicine and the community amid the COVID-19 pandemic

South Coast history belongs to everyone

Oregon schools will now teach tribal heritage under a program created by a law enacted in 2017

CLARK WALWORTH
Special to The World

SOUTH COAST — You may think you know about the South Coast and its residents. But how much do you know about the indigenous people who lived here first?

Most people don't know much. Bridgett Wheeler hopes a new public school curriculum will change that.

"This is an opportunity to create a dialogue about indigenous people that is steeped in values, survival, and mutual respect," Wheeler said.

In her role as a State Board of Education member, and in her day job as the Coquille Tribe's culture and education director, Wheeler has worked to implement "Tribal History-Shared History." The program was created by Senate Bill 13, the 2017 law that mandated teaching public school students about Native American heritage.

Wheeler wants the curriculum to touch both Native and non-Native students. She hopes non-Native kids will learn to view their indigenous classmates as powerful, brave, kind and resilient. She wants indigenous students to build pride and confidence — qualities she says have been eroded by "institutional bias and one-sided historical narratives."

Wheeler lives in Myrtle Point, surrounded by landscapes that have been home to her ancestors for thousands of years.

She is passionate about improving the lives of her fellow Native Americans in Oregon.

"I will always strive to center my work on ensuring that our Native children are not just left behind, but are offered opportunities for leadership and success at the same rate as other non-Native students," she said.

Under SB13, Oregon fourth-grade lessons will feature a Native perspective on the Lewis and Clark expedition. Students also will learn the harsh history of Indian boarding schools, along with traditional games played by Oregon's Indians.

Eighth-grade lessons will include tribal sovereignty, treaties, and math problems about salmon fishing.

Tenth-graders will learn about land management, Indian law, and former Oregon Poet Laureate Elizabeth Woody, a member of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

These lessons and the rest of Tribal History-Shared History will be mandatory for all Oregon schools. School districts also will have the option of teaching specific lessons about their local tribes.

Wheeler oversaw development of lessons from her own Coquille Tribe. Those lessons will put a South Coast perspective on the statewide curriculum.

For example, fourth-graders will learn about basketry, eighth-graders about local Indian history, and



Coquille Tribal member Bridgett Wheeler serves Oregon as a member of the State Board of Education. She lives in Myrtle Point and directs the Coquille Tribe's culture and education programs.

Contributed Photos

10th-graders about timber harvest.

Ultimately, Wheeler hopes the curriculum will have far-reaching results. By teaching Oregon youth tolerance, compassion and respect for diverse cultures, she hopes the curriculum will help future Oregon adults — Native and non-Native alike — be more successful.

(The COVID-19 crisis has delayed plans to roll out the Tribal History-Shared History curriculum in Oregon's public schools. For now, the lessons can be found on the Oregon Department of Education website.)



Susan Adulsa Wasson, shown here with her children, was an ancestor of many modern-day Coquille Tribal members.

Internal Medicine

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CAROL FRANK, M.D.

ROLANDO GONZALEZ, M.D.
DAVINA L. BLEDSOE, FNP
HEATH GERIG, FNP

Allergy

JAMES TRACY, D.O.

Family Practice

CRAIG JACKSON, M.D.

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SARA BRAKEBUSH, C.P.N.P.

Pediatric Integrated Behavioral Health

SARA FERRELL, CSWA

Adult Medicine Integrated Behavioral Health

TODD DANIELSON, MS, QMHP-C, CRC, CADC II
TRISHA GeDEROS, MSW, CSWA, QMHP-C, ACM-SW



2020 has presented medicine with some unique and unprecedented challenges. Life as we knew it was moving along very normal until mid-March 2020. We in Coos County have been extremely fortunate in facing the many challenges COVID has presented nationwide. Bay Clinic remained open and made it "business as usual" as much as possible. We felt this was a time our patients needed their physicians the most. Changes were implemented to keep our patients safe. With the spread of COVID19, we have added Telemedicine services to all our providers. To keep our patients safe, you can have a telehealth appointment with you doctor whenever appropriate. We know the past will never be the same and the future is very uncharted. But, we know we will be here for our patients and make the changes we need to in keeping our office open and our patients, staff and providers safe.

Bay Clinic has been providing medical services to the families of the southern Oregon coast for 64 amazing years. We take pride in the quality of care we offer and the many services we provide to our patients. Several internal medicine physicians started the clinic in 1957 in a small office across from Blossom Gulch School on S 10th Street. As the practice grew, the location was moved to its current location in 1975 with the advantage of being directly across the street from the hospital.

Times in medicine have certainly changed with the development of computer technology.

Bay Clinic works diligently to recruit additional primary care and specialists to our hometown. This community is considered a medical need area as we have a shortage of physicians in Coos County. It is also a rural area which presents its own challenges in recruiting. We are committed to finding providers that want to live in our town and be a part of this wonderful community. Our Pediatric department includes 4 Pediatricians and Certified

Pediatric Nurse Practitioner. The Pediatric department added an Integrated Behavioral Health Clinician in November 2018. This has been an important service for our young patients. We hope to expand this service in the near future with the addition of another Behavioral Health Clinician. Currently our Internal Medicine department includes 4 Internal Medicine physicians, one Family Practice physician and two Family Nurse Practitioners in adult care. Internal Medicine has 2 Behavioral Health Clinicians for Adult Care. Bay Clinic has a specialist physician in Allergy and Immunology. We also have one Obstetricians/Gynecology and two Certified Nurse Midwives.

Bay Clinic offers full service on site lab. Our Nursing staff performs a multitude of functions which include spirometry, breathing treatments, EKG, IV therapy, immunizations and injections as needed. We have a robust Social Health Department staffed with Traditional/Community Healthcare Workers, who are state certified. We also have an Internal Medicine Care Coordinator that

assists with special or additional needs that patients may have. She is a certified DEEP instructor which teaches our diabetic patients about how manage their condition along condition, starting with the purchasing and cooking of food.

Our Pediatric Care Coordinator works with many displaced children, special care children and coordinating immunizations for those behind schedule. Both of our Care Coordinators assist our patients with any obstacle or immediate need that impacts their outcome to being healthy.

Our staff takes a lot of pride in contributing back and being part of the community. We have had a group of employees participate in Women for Habitat for Humanity, Cancer Awareness, and Stop Smoking campaigns.

We want to not only treat but improve the health of our community. Let's make it a healthier place.



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John Gunther, The World

Lacey Dollins, left, Quinn Myers and Chelsy Davis all are nurses at Coquille Valley Hospital who grew up in the Coquille Valley and love the ability to serve their home community.

Staying home to serve in the Coquille Valley

JOHN GUNTHER
The World

COQUILLE — Most nurses have one common trait, said Chelsy Davis.

“Most of us are nurses because we want to help others,” said Davis, who works at Coquille Valley Hospital.

As part of that, they have to be flexible, especially this year, as they have prepared for the COVID-19 pandemic which, thankfully, has not yet hit the South Coast hard.

“Nurses are extremely flexible and we want to adapt,” Davis said. “We want to take care of people.”

Davis is one of several nurses at the hospital who grew up in the Coquille Valley, graduating from Coquille High School. She started at the hospital as a certified nursing assistant before completing her nurse training. After working two years at Bay Area Hospital, she returned to Coquille Valley Hospital two years ago.

“I like the family environment,” she said of the hospital. “The camaraderie between the coworkers is the best thing.”

Lacey Dollins, who graduated from Myrtle Point High School in 1999 and has been at the hospital for three years, agreed.

“The people we work with are basically family,” she said.

Quinn Myers is another nurse who grew up in the area.

She said people who work in a community hospital like Coquille’s make that choice deliberately.

“We want to work in our community,” she said. “We choose to take care of our community.”

Myers graduated from Coquille High School in 1999, but didn’t rush into the nursing field. She tried college right out of high school, then got married and had kids, trying the stay-at-home-mom gig, before deciding to go back to school.

Initially her interests were education or business, but she wanted something she could do locally and turned to nursing when she learned she could get her education at Southwestern Oregon Community College. She graduated from SWOCC’s nursing program in June of 2012 and started at Coquille Val-

ley Hospital two months later, and has grown to love the job, including helping transition into the new hospital after starting in the original building.

“It really comes down to the fact that I have a customer service mentality,” she said. “I really like people. I can get along with people really well. That’s why I excel at it.”

It’s a vital role in nursing, taking care of patients.

“They need people who can communicate well with them and understand their needs at the same time,” she said.

Dollins also had a delayed trip into the nursing field. She was attracted to the field after being in a bad car accident and treated at the old hospital.

“I decided there were good nurses and bad nurses and I wanted to be a good nurse,” she said.

But she said she had too much residual trauma from the accident to go directly into nursing, and instead went into accounting. She’s glad she finally got the chance to leave the accounting field and get into nursing.

“I wouldn’t trade it for anything,” she said.

Dollins said a positive of her career choice, though sometimes a negative in situations of end-of-life care, is treating people she is familiar with from growing up in the area.

“I get to take care of a lot of people I know and make them better and send them home,” she said.

The normal process for all the nurses changed earlier this year, when the pandemic hit the country, though.

Suddenly the hospital was thrust into adjusting to the developing pandemic, with changes as more and more information became available.

Myers was the driving force for the hospital’s reaction to the pandemic as the hospital’s infection preventionist, in addition to being the clinical educator and employee health nurse.

“Quinn does an awesome job implementing all the changes,” Dollins said.

Those changes, Myers said, were for the hospital staff as much as for the patients.

“From my perspective, the nurses on the floor, they are on the front line,” she said. “They

Pandemic preparation aims to keep staff

JOHN GUNTHER
The World

COQUILLE — Quinn Myers never expected to be planning for a pandemic when she took the role of infection preventionist at Coquille Valley Hospital in January of 2019.

But when COVID-19 hit the world, Myers charged into action helping the hospital prepare.

She also is the hospital’s clinical educator and employee health nurse, and has tended toward the management side of the business.

“It’s a natural progression,” she said. “I’m a natural leader. I wanted to make a change, not just for patients, but for my coworkers as well.”

That has become her role in leading the hospital’s preparations for the pandemic.

“The pandemic hit and I had to dive in deep,” she said. “I’m one of those people, I can’t do anything halfway. I have definitely owned this role.”

She helped Coquille Valley Hospital become a leader in pandemic preparation, though thankfully the hospital and the rest of the South Coast haven’t been impacted with a heavy case load like some other areas.

“We have had a lot of things in the county we’ve done first,” she said.

That includes being the first facility to have greeters at the doors, checking temperatures and taking surveys of everyone who comes through the doors, she said.

Coquille Valley Hospital also was one of the first in the country to provide antibody testing, which is a way to check to see if you have already had COVID-19 without knowing it.

“We got access that we could do it and jumped on the opportunity,” she said. “People want answers. They want to know if they’ve had it. It’s something our community was really grateful for.”

A lot of people had been sick over the winter and knew it wasn’t the flu and they just wanted confirmation that it also wasn’t coronavirus, she said.

rely on me to make sure I have policies ... that are best practices, even if it is above and beyond what is recommended, that we keep them safe.”

The front-line nurses, understandably, hope Coquille never is hit with a big rush of COVID-19 cases. But if it happens, they feel the hospital is prepared.

“As a small-town rural hospital, we are as prepared as we could be,” Dollins said.

“We have plans and systems in place,” Davis added.

The process of preparing has been good, they said.

“It has changed the way of thinking — you have to think ahead,” Davis said. “We kind of understand what it takes to respond to an event that affects the whole world.”

And it has showed the weaknesses the hospital needed to improve on.

“If something else does come along ... I think we will be ready,” Dollins said.

While Coquille Valley Hospital is better prepared for a pandemic in the future, it also is better pre-

pared for regular business.

And the teamwork between the nurses and the

rest of the staff is a highlight, Davis said.

“We all have to work to

gether to help the common goal, which is to make the patient better,” she said.

In fact, the antibody testing was so popular it drew people from outside the area, sometimes even out of state.

“People were coming from all over to have it done,” Myers said. “We didn’t want people coming from all over. But it happened.”

Coquille Valley Hospital did not rush into rapid testing for COVID-19, though, since some of the first tests weren’t always accurate, instead waiting until more reliable rapid tests were available, Myers said.

The hospital had the lab equipment that would work for later rapid tests, once they were available, that are highly accurate.

Myers was responsible for developing the hospital’s policies, which she looked at from two angles.

“I am here to write the policies and provide the guidelines that protect the front-line staff, as well as have policies in place (for patients),” she said.

In addition to being able to test people who are sick to see if they have COVID-19, the hospital provides the testing for all patients who are admitted, whether they have symptoms or not.

“That way, we can limit the (personal protective equipment) use,” she said. “Without wasting PPE, we test them, we know that they are OK.”

And the hospital tests all staff members if they show any symptoms.

“We isolate them right away and test them,” she said. “We do rapid testing so we can put them back to work (if they are not infected).”

Her top priority, she said, is keeping the staff safe so the hospital can provide the best service possible to the community.

Myers has embraced the role.

“I take pride in it,” she said. “I enjoy coming to work every day. I enjoy working with the staff when they have concerns. I get a lot of fulfillment out of my job.”



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World File Photo by John Gunther

The Wild Rivers Center at Bandon Dunes Golf Resort, which opened in 2015, is located near Chrome Lake and houses the Wild Rivers Coast Alliance.

Wild Rivers Coast Alliance shifts focus during pandemic

JOHN GUNTHER
The World

BANDON — For most of the past decade, the Wild Rivers Coast Alliance has helped fund projects that focus on tourism, economic development and conservation, averaging \$700,000 to \$750,000 annually in grants, including \$868,000 in 2019.

But for 2020, the organization created by Bandon Dunes owner Mike Keiser has shifted its focus.

The change was spurred by the COVID-19 pandemic, said Marie Simonds, executive director of WRCA.

“It was recognition that people are hurting and a desire to want to help,” Simonds said.

“We’ve helped for years projects that the benefit might be on the horizon. This was about helping right now. We wanted to figure out how to help in an immediate way.”

Since April, WRCA has provided more than \$275,000 in what Simonds describes as “rapid response funding” to various South Coast groups (see box at right).

The idea came straight from Keiser, though it was supported by Simonds and the 15-member WRCA steering committee.

“He immediately wanted to be responsive to community needs,” she said. “That’s when we went into high gear working with community partners to identify opportunities for Mike’s and Bandon Dunes’ generosity.”

Simonds said it was an opportunity to “build on the relationships we’ve built with other funders, and a way to bring them into the South Coast.”

In her role as Wild Rivers Coast Alliance director, Simonds also is working with many other groups regionally and around the state, including participating in a rural advisory committee for the Oregon Community Foundation, which has “given out a ton of money for COVID-19.”

She’s been helping a CCD program get the

word out about business grants that are available to area businesses and working with the South Coast Leadership Council, as well as a program with the Educational Service District partnering with the University of Oregon to bring trauma-informed training to the South Coast.

Simonds is participating on a governor’s task force for access and quality of child care, with the group planning to present information to legislators on “what is really a child-care crisis.”

She stressed that many people are working on the various projects.

“It’s being able to sit at the table with groups in the area,” she said. “It’s us rolling up our sleeves and

getting the job done.”

Her role in all of that has been made possible by the generosity of Keiser in starting the Wild Rivers Coast Alliance and supporting it through Bandon Dunes.

WRCA’s grant funding comes from all the net proceeds from the 13-hole Bandon Preserve, a par-3 golf course at the resort. The operational costs for Simonds and her staff are covered by the resort.

WRCA has a steering committee, described by Simonds as “all experts in their field” and she pointed out, “We’re still engaged with our partners for the environment.”

Among the projects WRCA is funding now is a wildfire training center in Gold Beach being led

by Tyson Krieger, the fire chief there.

“It’s a great economic development project in addition to being a great training project,” Simonds said.

Other ongoing projects funded in part through WRCA are the Whiskey Run mountain bike trails and Washed Ashore, which turns trash and other debris collected from the beaches into sculptures to highlight the problem of littering. WRCA also will help fund a new fishing pier for the Port of Bandon.

But for this year, the focus has changed, and Simonds said it’s been rewarding.

“People are so appreciative to get funding to do good things for other people,” she said.



Contributed Photo

Marie Simonds is executive director of the Wild Rivers Coast Alliance

COVID-19 WRCA grant recipients

Agencies receiving grants distributed by Wild Rivers Coast Alliance during COVID-19 Pandemic:

ARK Project: Support the purchase of hygiene items and supplies in order to support basic needs of local homeless youth and families.

Bay Area Health District’s Kids’ Hope Center: Support for the center to continue distribution of activity bags to local children containing games, food, hygiene items and safety information.

City of Coquille: Funds to purchase a hand washing station to increase the health and safety of employees, volunteers and members of the community in order to continue serving Senior Meals.

The Nancy Devereux Center: Funding for the center to provide regional homeless with increased transportation assistance in order to meet their basic needs.

Flora M. Laird Memorial Library in Myrtle Point: Grant to assist the library in expanding and refilling its Summer Reading Backpack program. The backpacks are filled with fun books kids want to read as well as other craft and play supplies for children to enjoy.

Food Banks: Good Neighbors in Bandon, Coastal Harvest Gleaners in Bandon, Powers Food Pantry, Brookings-Harbor Food Bank, Bear Cupboard in Coquille and The Common Good in Port Orford.

Knights of Columbus Council 1261: Funding to purchase food which volunteers deliver to local restaurants that prepare and hand out free lunches to children who are unable to take advantage of their school district programs.

Oregon Coast Community Action: Funding for South Coast Food Share to support regional food bank operations by purchasing and distributing food to approximately 50 local food banks on the South Coast.

South Coast Development Council: Financial assistant for SCDC’s operations to conduct outreach and assist small businesses during the pandemic. SCDC also is focused on coordinating regional recovery efforts in support of local business retention and expansion.

South Coast Education Service District: Collaboration with several other organizations to fund a program to provide South Coast school districts with training on trauma-informed practices, social emotional learning and evidence-based approaches to implement in schools and classrooms.

Southwestern Oregon Workforce Investment Board: Support for SOWIB to create and implement an online organization system to track and pair South Coast volunteer efforts to help socially isolated, vulnerable and at-risk populations throughout the pandemic. Funding will also be utilized to assist and incentivize volunteering with gift card drawings related to hours served.

United Way of Southwestern Oregon: Funding for United Way to expand the organization’s regional granting efforts to meet local needs, such as food, shelter and safety on the South Coast, as well as funding to staff a foster parent support line.



John Gunther, The World

The Flora M. Laird Memorial Library in Myrtle Point received a grant to expand its backpack program after the response in town led to more demand than the initial number of available backpacks for students.

We cannot thank our customers and the Engles team enough. We are proud of our community for supporting local businesses like us. In turn, we are supporting our community however we can. We gave away a massage recliner to a local nurse, and we have been buying dinners at local restaurants for their employees along the way. Between virtual sales, appointment-only hours, and free curbside delivery, we have only become more resilient. Now, with all of our team returning upon reopening, we have come back SOUTH COAST STRONG!

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John Gunther Photos, The World

The new Eastside School is just about complete, the first new building to be finished as part of Coos Bay's BEST Bond.

Eastside School is set to open in Coos Bay

JOHN GUNTHER
The World

COOS BAY — The first of two new school buildings that are the signature pieces of the Coos Bay BEST Bond is nearly complete and the other is taking form.

Superintendent Bryan Trendell recently provided a tour of the shiny new Eastside Elementary School on the same day a portion of the foundation for the new Marshfield Junior High was poured (in weeks since, the precast walls for the junior high have started going up).

In a year, seventh- and eighth-graders will be moving into the junior high. Ideally, in a few weeks, students in kindergarten through second grade will be having their first days in the new Eastside school.

"We're on schedule to be open with the caveat that some things will be completed after opening," Trendell said.

The Coos Bay School District is planning to have students in kindergarten through third grade in the classroom in a hybrid model, with half the students in the morning and the other half in the afternoon, something allowable under the current metrics of Oregon Gov. Kate Brown.

That's important, because remote learning is particularly difficult for students in the youngest age groups.

"For our grade level it provides consistency for the kids to be here every day," said Eastside Principal Kara Davidson.

The hybrid model might be a boon for both teachers and students at Eastside, Davidson said.

"It gives us an opportunity to provide real targeted instruction because we are only going to have them a limited bit each day," she said.

"There are silver linings. In our age group, we have an opportunity to change how we teach forever."

When they get to Eastside, the students will find a new building that is up to date in both technology and design.

All the classrooms are identical in shape, 900 square feet with a sink and drinking fountain, space for the teacher, cubbies for the students to put their backpacks in, whiteboards, chalkboards and a flat screen monitor for media.

The commons and cafeteria is on the ground floor and a floor up, overlooking



The new Eastside school features matching classrooms with ample instructional space and technology for the teachers.

the commons, is the library and media room, both well-lit by large windows.

The gymnasium is designed for the age group, but with basketball hoops and volleyball standards.

The hallways include surfaces designed for teachers to tack up the work of their students for display without damaging the walls.

The bathrooms include external hand washing stations so supervisors can make sure the students are properly washing their hands.

And outside is a large playground area Eastside School will share with the adjacent Millicoma School, complete with new playground equipment.

While the building is shiny and new, it does have one significant element from the old Eastside Elementary School, the old bell, which has been freshly painted and will be mounted in the square outside the principal's office.

"Big thank you to Sause Bros. for refurbishing the bell," Trendell said. "It will be a nice piece of history."

Trendell and Davidson both came through Blossom Gulch when they were elementary school students growing up in Coos Bay. But Davidson said she was a cadet teacher at Eastside when she was a student at Millicoma, so she has memories of the bell.

So does Eastside



While the building is entirely new, the Eastside School does feature one piece of history, the old school bell, which will be mounted in the courtyard.

Assistant Principal Carli Ainsworth, who was a student at the former school.

"I have school pictures from that bell from every year," Ainsworth said. "It's going to be neat."

That's the general perception for the whole building.

"It's a beautiful building," Trendell said. "It's going to be a fantastic elementary school. I'll be really happy when it's complete and we have kids here."



The library and media center at the new Eastside School doesn't have its books yet, but when it is filled will still have ample natural light, including from windows overlooking the commons and cafeteria area.

Passion for education drives Hillcrest principal

JOHN GUNTHER

The World

NORTH BEND — Tim Crider's life path took a change when he was working at a YMCA camp in southern California during his college years.

"I grew up in an impoverished area of Southern California," he said, adding that the camp is "where I realized there was a need for children to have positive male role models in their lives."

"I realized especially at the elementary level there weren't a lot of those available."

So Crider changed his direction from studying engineering.

"I wanted to give back to society and do something I would be proud of and would make the world a better place," he said. "I could think of nothing better than teaching."

It didn't hurt that he also learned at the camp that he loved working with kids.

"This would be a much better path for me," he said.

So Crider embarked on a teaching career that eventually brought him to the South Coast, teaching at Hillcrest Elementary School.

His role in the North Bend School District changed. First he became the district's instructional coach, supporting teachers, helping model lessons and using data to drive instruction and student engagement techniques, he said.

Last year, he was the district's federal programs coordinator in the district office, as well as assistant principal at North Bay Elementary School. As programs coordinator, he oversaw the district's homeless program, as well as working with foster care and attendance advocates, English language learning and Indian education.

But he missed being around kids every day. So he's ecstatic to be the new principal at Hillcrest, which serves some 460 kids from kindergarten through fifth grade.

"I am incredibly excited to be back in the building," he said. "Working with kids is my passion. Being able to be here every day to support their growth in every way is what I've gone to school to do and what I love doing."

Crider's philosophy jumped out at North Bend School Dis-



John Gunther, The World

Tim Crider is delighted to be back in a regular school building as principal at North Bend's Hillcrest Elementary School.

trict Superintendent Kevin Bogatin when the two were working side-by-side in the district office during the past year.

"He is a new elementary principal, but not new to elementary education," Bogatin said. "(He's a successful teacher and someone who, in my one year working with him, puts kids first. That's probably the highest praise I could give for Tim.)"

Bogatin appreciates the work Crider has done supporting the district's "most disadvantaged and marginalized kids" and said he will continue some in that role, since the position at the district office won't be refilled.

"He really has been spearheading a lot of support in our county and our region to help a lot of kids who need our support," Bogatin said.

Crider loves working in North Bend.

He and his wife, Deanna Soccio, vacationed on the South

Coast several years while they were still teaching in Southern California.

"We ended up buying a cabin just north of here," he said. "It became more and more of a home to us and it was harder and harder to go back down there. The lifestyle was better here."

Finally, in 2014 they got the chance to make the South Coast their home. Both applied for jobs in the district and were hired.

"We went back down there, sold our house and everything we didn't need and were back up here in two weeks to start the school year," he said. "We never looked back. This was the best decision I've ever made in my life, except for marrying my wife."

Crider got a job teaching fourth and fifth grade at Hillcrest. His wife is a fourth-grade teacher at North Bay.

Crider is excited to be back in the school building in what promises to be a pivotal year in

education in Oregon with the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I'm excited to be here and kind of be part of getting everything up and running," he said. "This is going to be a really important year for our students and our community."

He sees a need to improve from the end of the 2019-2020 school year, when North Bend and other districts around the state had to instantly transfer to distance learning.

"Growing up is hard enough as it is for kids," he said. "So many of our kids have so many adverse experiences. School is really their safe place. To not have had that since March is devastating."

Because of that, he views perhaps the biggest roles of the educators being to support the students social-emotionally.

"To be able to provide some of that consistency and a safe place to them, whether it be in person or

online, I think they need us," he said. "We want to make sure students know that we care for them and are going to be there for them."

"Providing that security to them is that No. 1 priority and when the students do return to campus, keeping them safe and healthy, making sure we can do everything we can to prevent the spread of illness."

He's confident the district is better prepared than it was in the spring, when distance learning was thrust upon all schools in the state.

"Working in this profession, you have to be willing to reflect on your successes and challenges and learn how to adapt to new situations," he said. "We are learning from the parents and other state leaders. We are trying to look at this through multiple lenses to make this experience the best it can be."

"It is going to be very different than the spring and we are going to be as successful as ever."

Tires

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John Gunther Photos, The World

Quadel Industries owner Eric Luckman stands next to one of the new hand washing stations being produced by the Coos Bay company.

Quadel Industries thrives during pandemic

JOHN GUNTHER
The World

COOS BAY — The COVID-19 pandemic hit a lot of businesses across the country hard. It has had the opposite effect on Quadel Industries.

The Coos Bay company that manufactures many different types of products with plastics was actually able to expand one of its lines of production making a product suddenly in demand — portable hand washing stations.

“We’re very diverse in hundreds of different markets,” said Eric Luckman, who runs the company. “If we have a market that goes down, we can focus on another product,” he said.

That certainly became the case with the hand washing stations — the company is selling many of them to the Defense Department and other organizations and has a backlog that will keep it busy a ways into the future.

“We were already making them, just not at the volume we are now,” Luckman said.

The company makes the washing stations in three different sizes, including with two foot pedals or four.

“We talked as a management team,” Luckman said of the early stages of the pandemic. “We figured we were going to have a lull in some areas. We shifted all our sales force into the hand-washing stations.”

“It took about a week and then the floodgates opened.”

In the past few months, Quadel Industries has made thousands of the stations, including for Boeing and Disney World.

“We’ve been running 24 hours a day four or five days a week to meet demand,” Luckman said.

In a time when many companies were laying people off, Luckman has increased his workforce to

help meet the demand.

Quadel Industries is making much, much more than just hand-washing stations.

The company works with plastics in five different methods — rotational molding, extrusion, vacuum folding, injection molding and rubber compression, the latter two methods at the former Beaver State Plastics production center in Drain that Quadel Industries bought five years ago.

At the Coos Bay complex, employees work in several different buildings, using a variety of highly technical machines.

The hand washing stations include five different pieces of plastic that are molded at the Coos Bay production center. The company has to bring in the foot pumps and the soap dispensers, but adds them to the other parts for the complete products, which are then shipped out.

Not far from where the different parts of the washing stations are being molded, several other products also are made, including huge plastic water tanks in sizes of 1,500 or 2,500 gallons and smaller plastic pallets that are used by grocery stores for displaying products.

All of those products are made through rotational molding, starting with plastic powder — the company goes through some 40,000 pounds of the powder a week.

In a separate building, the extrusion process is used for smaller, but no less popular, products, including mesh netting that is used for items like flower bulbs, turkeys in stores, tree sapling protectors or oil boom netting.

“Only a handful of companies in the country do extrusion,” Luckman said.

The greatest volume of anything Quadel Industries makes, in term of numbers, is also in the extru-

sion department in arrow fletchings.

Most of the fletchings are sent directly to arrow manufacturers all over the world — on six different continents in boxes of 15,000 at a time (about 90 of those boxes were awaiting shipping on one day this week).

The company also sells its fletchings to sporting goods stores, where they can be purchased directly by the public — a rarity for Quadel Industry’s products.

“The reason most people don’t know we’re here is we don’t do much local business at all,” Luckman said.

The tiny arrow fletchings are an example of the precision of what Quadel Industries does.

Five different materials are mixed in precise ratios to make the veins and lasers are used to ensure the plastic forms at the right consistency, including measuring the width of the veins to a thousandth of an inch.

“We’ve invested hundreds of thousands of dollars to make the production more efficient — to make a 10-cent vein better,” Luckman said.

Similar precision is used in making the mesh netting, with the netting made to specific sizes, dyed to specific colors and cut to specific lengths, depending on the purpose.

Everything Quadel Industries makes now is a big expansion over the origins of the company, which was started by Luckman’s Parents, Everett “Lucky” and Lorraine Luckman, and his uncle and aunt, Rockne and Trish Luckman, back in 1984.

“All there was was one Quonset hut,” Luckman said. “They were making water tanks and septic tanks and portable toilets.”

Luckman’s uncle died in 1985 and his aunt sold her share of the business to his

Please see **Quadel**, Page 8



Gilberto Lopez inspects arrow fletchings at Quadel Industries to make sure they are of sufficient quality.

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A huge form rotates as it creates a water tank at Quadel Industries.



Contributed Photos by Lon Matheny, Coquille Tribe

The Ko-Kwel Wellness Center is rising on the Kilkich Reservation, above the Cape Arago Highway near Charleston.

Coquille Tribe builds a home for healing

Wellness center will be a holistic medical 'home'

CLARK WALWORTH
Special to The World

CHARLESTON — Just up the hill from Cape Arago Highway, atop a former cranberry bog, heirs of an ancient culture are creating a new approach to health care.

The Ko-Kwel Wellness center will offer primary health care, dentistry, a pharmacy, behavioral health and more — all under one roof. Coquille Indian Tribe families, tribal employees and patients from the surrounding community will come together in a diversified “one-stop shop.”

“Our goal is to be able to take care of the whole person, not just the part that needs a prescription,” said Coquille Tribal Chair-

man Brenda Meade. “If you’re a patient here, we want this to be your home for health care.”

The wellness center will be Oregon’s first tribal health facility to welcome the non-tribal public. Upholding the ancient potlatch tradition of sharing resources, it will serve hundreds of Oregon Health Plan patients in collaboration with Advanced Health, the organization that administers OHP locally.

Ben Messner, Advanced Health’s CEO, described the center as “an innovative, patient-centered, full-service primary care model that is truly of significant benefit for Advanced Health members and our entire community.”

When it’s finished next year, the 22,000-square-foot facility will nearly triple the Coquille Tribe’s existing health-care space. The center’s medical, dental and pharmacy departments will work alongside additional services such as chiropractic, massage and acupuncture.

“We have a lot of opportunities to offer more services,” Meade said. “It’s really going to depend on the needs of our patients.”

Situated amid homes and tribal offices on the Kilkich Reservation, the wellness center will be an up-to-date structure, infused with more than 10,000 years of tribal history.

Reinforced concrete and quake-resistant steel piling will combine with indig-

enous cedar planks and Coquille River rock. The color scheme will evoke the South Coast environment. Indigenous plants will fill an interior courtyard, flanked by corridors tracing the shape of a fishing spear. Showcases will display the tribe’s virtuoso basketry, beadwork and even a cedar canoe.

The facility’s name is another salute to tribal heritage. “Ko-Kwel” is a phonetic spelling of the tribe’s name, based on an Indian word for the Coquille River’s once-abundant lamprey.

“We want tribal members to feel welcomed in a setting that celebrates their history,” Meade said. “And we want to share that sense of history and that feeling of potlatch with others in our community.”

Meade emphasizes that the center won’t aim to compete with existing clinics. Rather, it offers a new option in a community where health care providers can be hard to find.

Construction began in April, led by Medford-based S+B James Construction and aided by several Coos County subcontractors. The job is on schedule despite the economic hardships of a global pandemic.

An innovative financing plan is the reason. A regional nonprofit, Craft3, created a financing package that employs federal lending plus an investment tool called New Market Tax Credits. The investor, Wells Fargo, fronts construction money to the tribe in return for a future tax break.

“Craft3 invests in projects that meet community needs and bring people together — and the new wellness center checks both of those boxes,” said Adam Zimmerman, Craft3’s president and CEO.

“We look forward to seeing this vital community project benefit the local community for years to come,” said Kelly Reilly, a Wells Fargo vice president for corporate communications.



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A triangular interior courtyard at the Ko-Kwel Wellness Center will feature indigenous plants of the South Coast area.

Quadel

From Page 7

parents. They purchased Forest Protection Products a few years later and started making the mesh netting to protect seedlings as a way to expand the business and provide year-round work — the season for water and septic tanks is generally spring to late fall and the season for protective mesh netting is fall to spring.

Luckman moved away after graduating from high school, but he and his wife Connie moved back in 1993 and eventually he and Connie took over the company

from his parents. Eventually, they may pass it on to one of their four children.

The company has expanded its product line vastly over the years, including making some custom products for other companies as well as its own products.

Luckman takes pride in the success of Quadel Industries and how it ships its products worldwide, especially when so many other products are imported.

“I get a lot of enjoyment out of saying that,” he said. “When you can say you’ve got US manufacturing going to all those places, especially out of little Coos Bay,

Oregon, I’m proud of that.” Because Quadel Industries is relatively small, the company strives for better customer service and delivery times.

And Luckman is always looking for new products to manufacture.

“We can make anything,” he said. “It’s whether you can market and sell it. You do research and all your due diligence and try to sue a product.”

Some have been successful, others haven’t. “Hopefully in the end you have more successes than failures,” Luckman said. “We’ve been pretty fortunate.”



Amy Moss Strong Photos, The World

Contractors from Knife River Corp. work on undergrounding utilities at Coos Bay Village on Aug. 20.

Coos Bay Village takes shape on waterfront

AMY MOSS STRONG
The World

COOS BAY — A Starbucks Coffee Company featuring sit-down space and a drive-through window, a Charter Communications store, a Face Rock Creamery retail store and café and a new building for a second 7 Devils Brewing Co. location are all taking shape at the Coos Bay Village development on the Coos Bay waterfront.

The first three buildings of the 73,000-square-foot of leaseable space of the 80,000-square-foot development will be open later this fall, according to Daniel Graham, lead contractor, who, partnering with company president Greg Drobot formed GDDG Enterprises LLC to take on the project.

Drobot and Graham also partnered to create the successful Face Rock Creamery in Bandon, a cheese factory and retail store that utilizes locally sourced milk and other ingredients to make award-winning cheeses that are featured in boutique and major outlets nationwide.

The Coos Bay Village is highly visible from U.S. Highway 101 at its location just north of the Coos History Museum as residents have watched it rise up. The first building on the south end is for Charter Communications, the middle one is for Face Rock Creamery (cheese-making will remain at the Bandon location) and the northern-most building is Starbucks, which will feature a unique design necessitated by its location in the city's Waterfront Heritage Zoning District.

The newest building is for a second location of 7 Devils Brewing Co., with a restaurant planned for 4,000 square-feet of the 6,000-square-foot building featuring an unobstructed view of the bay. A patio with outdoor seating facing the bay is also planned.

"Actually, every building in Coos Bay Village will have bay views," Graham said.

That's the beauty. When Drobot and Graham decided on the location, they knew there would be challenges but the central location and bay views have made it worth the effort. For almost 40 years, the former chip processing plant and dock was an empty concrete lot filled with bunkers, metal cables and other debris. City officials had been planning for years to do something to improve the blighted area, but had no solution on how to fund such a project.

It took more than two years to navigate the permitting process, starting with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as the lead



Daniel Graham, right, who is partnering with Greg Drobot on the Coos Bay Village project, speaks on the job site with contractors from Knife River Corp. who were working on placing underground utilities on Aug. 20. Drobot and Graham built Face Rock Creamery in Bandon and continue to own and manage the business.



A Starbucks coffee shop with a drive-through window is one of the first buildings to be constructed in the Coos Bay Village complex.

agency, due to the project's proximity to the bay. The city also worked for more than a year with the applicants on construction approval once all the state permits were gathered. The Coos Bay Planning Department gave its approval for construction to begin in December 2018.

Since then, the area had to be cleared of its concrete structures and twisted rusted metal and the ground filled and compacted before construction could begin.

"We're hoping to have the three buildings open in October," Graham said. "The parking lot will also have to be done by then. We've had some surprise changes with utility lines and grade issues that we've had to adapt for. It's been a lot to get here and there's

been frustrations, but it's definitely coming along."

The COVID-19 crisis has slowed construction somewhat, due to the availability of materials and workers, but the project is on schedule. Local contractors are doing the build-out and Graham said the project is providing jobs for about 70 contractors and sub-contractors and utilizing local supplies and equipment as much as possible.

When complete, the complex will house 12 buildings with a number of new offices, including four two-story buildings with an elevator, along with more retail shops, ample parking, open space, common areas and walking paths to enjoy.

Two of the buildings at the center of the develop-

ment will be over 6,000 square feet and one building is almost 6,500 square feet. The other buildings are between 2,000 and 5,000 square feet each. There will be 278 parking spaces and 10 RV parking spaces.

The project also includes 17,643 square feet of a 14-foot-wide boardwalk that will run the length of the property along the bay and will be a public space for pedestrians and bikers, a collaborative effort with the City of Coos Bay. A dock will be included, also for public use.

Since the development will cause an increase in traffic to the area, a new traffic light on U.S. Highway 101 at Hemlock Avenue is planned to allow safe ingress and egress into the area. The City of Coos

Bay is using downtown Urban Renewal Agency funds to help build the new intersection.

The signal will stop both north and southbound traffic on Highway 101 at Bayshore and Front Street. Additionally, there will be a railway crossing.

The city's contribution to the traffic signal project is \$1.6 million, paid through Urban Renewal Agency funds. The remainder of the costs associated with infrastructure for the area, which Coos Bay City Manager Rodger Craddock estimates to be extensive, will be paid by the developer.

This month, the City of Coos Bay entered into a formal agreement with the developer and the International Port of Coos Bay for the construction and maintenance of the signal. Graham said before any additional buildings other than the initial three can open for business, the traffic signal must be installed. The signal also required approval from the Oregon Department of Transportation due to the railroad crossing at the site.

The city will be responsible for the maintenance of the traffic signal, along with power costs for illumination.

The area was once dependent on marine-based industries and the developers hope to honor that past. The complex is located

next to the Coos History Museum on Front Street, which was once a bustling industrial area of Coos Bay. Board members from the museum have supported the project since its inception.

Nearby is the Marshfield Sun Museum, highlighting the city's newspaper history. Down the street is Front Street Provisioners, a stone oven-fired pizza and live music venue. Behind that, along Highway 101 is the former Marshfield Bargain House, now Marshfield Mercantile, which has been owned by the same family for generations. Sause Bros. marine transportation has been in this area of the waterfront for more than 80 years.

Coos Bay Village is on the cutting edge of the revitalization of Front Street, which city officials hope will draw more people to the area to share the city's love affair with the waterfront.

"Greg and I are very excited to be working with the City of Coos Bay and the new businesses that are coming in" Graham said.

Leaseable space is still available at Coos Bay Village. Lease rates run from \$1.75-\$2.25 per square foot per month, with spaces available from 2,000 to 12,000 square feet. Those interested can contact Joel Sweet, Pacific Properties in Coos Bay, 541-290-9597.

Southern Coos: Accepting change to meet the future

Bandon's Southern Coos Hospital & Health Center adapts to the 'new normal'

SCOTT MCEACHERN
Southern Coos Hospital & Health Center

BANDON — As changes in how we live, work and play sweep across the nation, the health care industry is faced with many challenges. These challenges are especially acute in rural settings.

Serving Bandon, Port Orford, Langlois and many communities in between, Southern Coos Hospital & Health Center takes seriously the tasks of continuing to provide access to health care to the residents in its service area in an era that poses seemingly intractable barriers to care. SCHHC is a South Coast Strong story because it has the right leadership in place at the right time; provides relevant services to our community; and works closely and collaboratively with local and regional partners to extend health care services and access.

Expert leadership at the right time

Southern Coos Hospital has the right leadership to carry the district into the future. Southern Coos Health District recently hired a new Chief Executive Officer, Eugene Suksi, who brings over 30 years of experience in hospital administration to Bandon. His experience ranges from large system medical facilities to small, rural critical hospitals like Southern Coos Hospital.

"He understands the nuances of health care financials and how we can use resources to carefully grow many areas of our healthcare facility," noted Esther Williams, Southern Coos Health District Board President.

In addition, the district hired Jeremiah Dodrill as the next Chief Information Officer. Dodrill has deep family roots in Bandon: his mother worked at the Bandon School District for many years, while his father, Walt, was



Amy Moss Strong, The World

On Friday, March 20, the hospital's engineering staff put up its critical event tent near the Southern Coos Hospital & Health Center Emergency Department doors in preparation for the COVID-19 pandemic. Although the tent wasn't used, its availability showed the hospital's readiness for the crisis.

a branch manager at a local bank. Dodrill's sister, Mariah, currently works at the Bandon School District. The Dodrill family also has a deep connection to the Southern Coos Health District: Dodrill's grandmother, Barbara, served on the district board for several years and is still active in the community. Like Suksi, Dodrill has extensive experience in healthcare finances and most recently served as the controller at Salem Health system.

Services equal access

Navigating health care in the era of COVID-19 is difficult for any medical facility as it is for patients. For Southern Coos Hospital & Health Center, it is an opportunity for the staff to hone health care delivery practices. It also provides urgency to prepare for the eventuality of a surge of COVID cases in the community while also developing expertise to tackle future pandemics and other health emergencies.

"The health care world is coming to terms with the fact that COVID-19 has changed everything, from the technology we use to serve patients, to how we do business, to the methods by which we prepare for future



CEO Eugene Suksi

challenges," states CEO Suksi. Southern Coos Hospital is also taking the opportunity offered by the COVID pandemic to reinforce existing services while developing new lines of service that make sense to the needs of its community.

- There is a significant gap in primary care services, so SCHHC is in the process of recruiting several new providers in its Multi-Specialty Clinic.

- In an effort to bring health care to patients, SCHHC is building a telehealth network, offering appointments via video and phone conferencing tools. In the next several months, SCHHC plans to work with local partners



CFO Jeremiah Dodrill

to build telemedicine kiosks at crucial high-traffic locations such as the Bandon School District, the VFW, and local businesses.

- SCHHC's Multi-Specialty Clinic will provide healthcare services to the Bandon School District through a newly-created position, Community Health Nurse Practitioner. The CHNP will offer regular onsite hours at the Bandon schools, along with telehealth appointments. This clinician will serve as medical liaison between the students, the staff and the parents.

Partnerships allow for opportunity

In 1955, the residents of Ban-

don voted to form the Southern Coos Health District, a taxable district that would provide annual funding to provide health care services in and around Bandon. Shortly thereafter, the district began hospital operations at a house in downtown Bandon. 65 years later, three hospital moves, and thousands of patients treated, the Southern Coos Hospital & Health Center is an integral part of not only the health care system in Bandon, but also a committed partner to all.

Because SCHHC receives funds from community taxpayers, the leadership is keenly aware of its responsibilities to public health. SCHHC aims to work closely with partners to share and combine its respective resources to benefit the community as a whole. Southern Coos Hospital & Health Center has strong relationships with local and regional medical facilities and continues to develop lines of communication that benefit the patient. SCHHC is also building partnerships with specialty providers in Roseburg, Eugene and Portland to bring specialty care such as cardiology, urology, and neurology to Bandon.

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Our Amazing Staff: (Left to Right) Steven, Richard, Kellie, Charles, Brian, Austin.



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Contributed Photo by Olivia Alley, Bay Area Hospital

Bay Area Hospital staff pose with the new ICU robot, including, from left, President and CEO Brian Moore, ICU Manager Nancy Day, ICU Director Dr. Wendy Haack and Chief Medical Officer Dr. Michael van Duren.

BAH embraces virtual intensive care unit

'Robot' provides better care in cooperation with OHSU doctors

AMY MOSS STRONG
The World

COOS BAY — A collaborative and innovative program through Oregon Health & Science University that was fast-tracked due to the COVID-19 pandemic is helping patients at Bay Area Hospital receive more comprehensive care and ultimately saving lives.

And it's all done with a robot.

"The robot" as it is affectionately termed, is a mobile, virtual intensive care unit that pairs ICU-trained physicians at OHSU Health through the use of audiovisual equipment and a comprehensive, secure data platform.

The sickest patients needing the most critical care are placed in the ICU. That's also where the highest ratio of nurse-to-patient is found (generally 1:2). The traditional bedside care delivery model is not always possible and the COVID-19 pandemic has made that model even harder to execute.

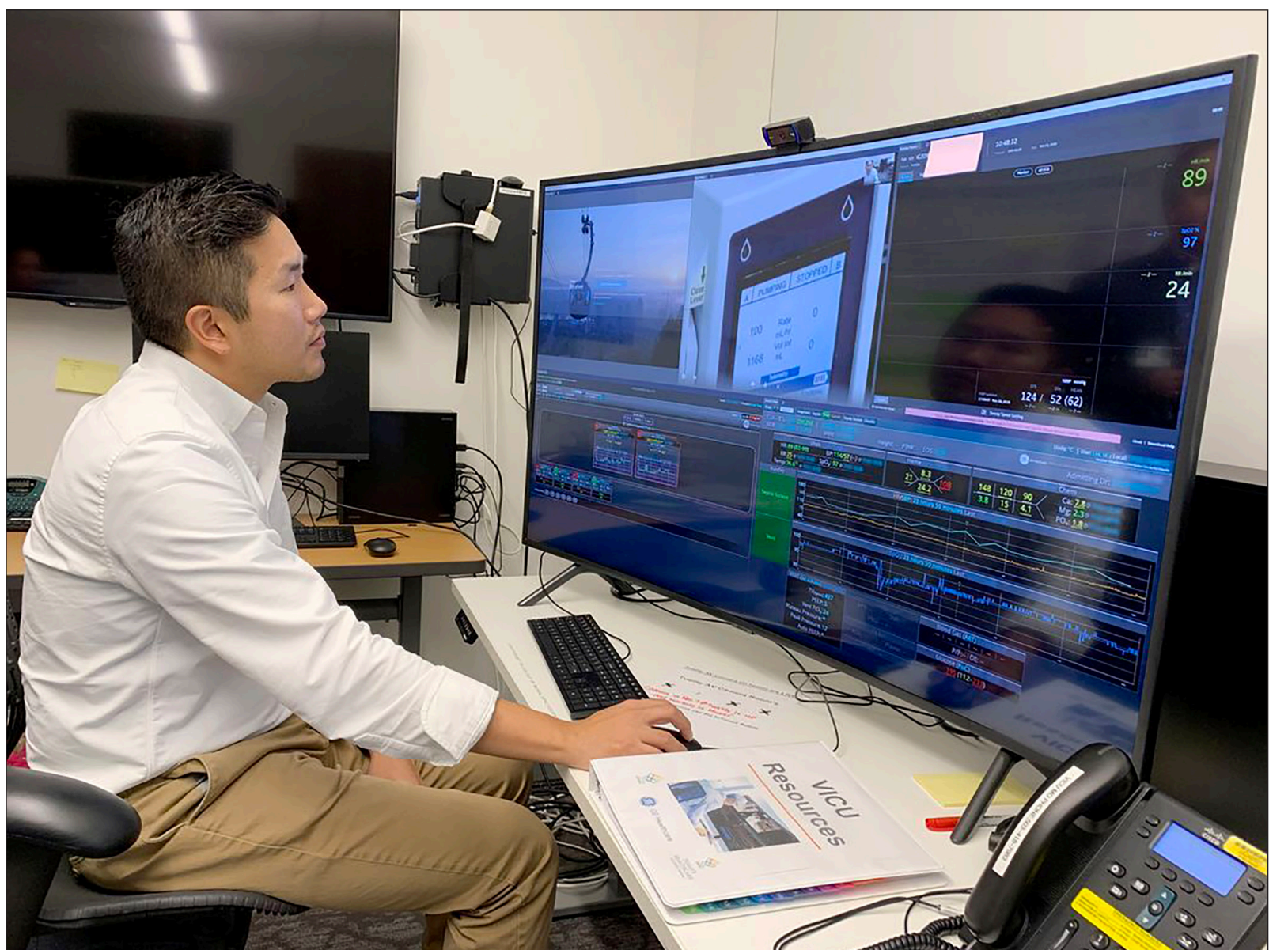
This led to OHSU Health expediting plans already in the works to roll out VICUs.

OHSU finished the concept for its VICU in 2019. When the COVID-19 crisis hit, they knew they had to act quickly as the virtual model might be needed for hundreds of Oregonians, according to Joe Ness, senior vice president and chief operating officer at OHSU Health.

OHSU co-developed with GE Healthcare a platform called Mural to make the VICU a reality, according to OHSU.

VICU services are provided by an ICU-trained physician around the clock. In addition to supporting OHSU Health hospitals at night, the physicians cover a growing number of rural hospitals across the state.

"All doctors reach out to their colleagues to review the patient status and options for plan of care," said Bay Area Hospital Chief Medical Officer Dr. Michael van Duren. "Bringing other physicians into the conversation, experienced intensivists and physicians with training in specialized areas of expertise, means that you are tapping into an expanded knowledge base. That's especially important in the ICU, because that's



Contributed Photo by Jennifer Smith, Oregon Health Sciences University

Marshall Lee, M.D., medical director for adult critical care telemedicine at OHSU and assistant professor of anesthesiology and perioperative medicine, OHSU School of Medicine, says the virtual ICU model allows telemedicine providers to see data in real time and work jointly with the bedside team.

where we have the sickest of the sick patients and they all require one-on-one nursing."

Van Duren said while BAH has experienced and knowledgeable physicians, such as ICU Director Dr. Wendy Haack, there are varying degrees of experience, and it's helpful at times to have someone with more expertise to provide additional input.

"The 'Dial a Friend,'" van Duren said.

r2d2 technology

The robot is a video camera on wheels that can be controlled remotely by doctors at OHSU. A team stationed at OHSU's Center for Health & Healing 2 on the South Waterfront in Portland can collaborate with the patient's care team. It can allow OHSU doctors to talk with the patient and ask questions, it can monitor vital signs and view ventilator and key laboratory data to assess patients, track progress and recommend treatment. It can talk to the nurses and doctors who are in the room.

"It's a little bit of an r2d2 robot kind of thing that we can roll from room to room," van Duren said. "So now we have a daily

presence of the university doctors participating in the patient's care. We think it will reduce the need for people to be traveling and it will improve their care."

Haack said previously BAH doctors would call the OHSU consult line, a system that's been in place for many years. But they would get whoever was on call and never had the chance to develop a relationship with that physician.

The VICU connects directly with OHSU's ICU department and those physicians. That allows for more personal care as well as a level of integrated care and a stronger sense of teamwork.

"When we do our rounding, in the room you have the respiratory therapist who manages the ventilator, you have the nurse, who manages the patient, you have the hospitalist and you have the intensivist," Haack explained. "You may also have a clinical pharmacist ... and you have a discussion as a team. So there are many people who are contributing to this rounding that we're doing with each patient with OHSU."

"It's called multi-disciplinary rounds," van Duren added. "And it's something

that we used to do a little bit of in the past but now it's, 'OK, the OHSU doctor is on the camera, let's all gather around. It's been a little bit of a forcing function to make us do it in a more organized way, so everyone has benefited from that.'"

Three years ago, Haack heard about the VICU technology and was pushing for it at Bay Area Hospital. When BAH's new CEO Brian Moore came on board, Haack spoke with him. The new VICU equipment was put into service in early August this year.

"He saw my vision and he understood my vision and he saw the value in my vision and because of that we were able to start moving forward," Haack said.

Personal care

Van Duren said they began by exploring some of the well-established national companies that provide telemed ICU services, most of them headquartered on the East Coast. They found those companies would have maybe one physician per 100 patients and didn't consult with local physicians on a patient's care, just gave orders to nurses.

"We wanted a more

personal, hands-on relationship with these doctors who were going to be taking care of our patients," van Duren said. "And at the same time, the university folks in Portland were saying, 'We want to get in this business, but not for the whole country, we want to do it as a service to the Oregon hospitals.' So they had more of a vision of this hands-on personal relationship that was also for the purpose of ongoing education and getting to know each other better."

"So now we get the same doctor all week who knows our patients, who knows our doctors, we have the doctor's cell phone number — it's a much tighter connection than it would have been with one of these large commercial companies."

Haack added, "The other things that drew me to them (is) ... they're interested in helping us do quality improvement projects, they are interested in providing us with education, they do critical care conferences that they're going to start providing us access to every week, so they're going to help us be much better at what we do."

"We are committed to our patients here and we

do not want to just turn our patients over to somebody on telemedicine, which is an option," Haack added. "That hands-on personal care is incredibly important to the patient, to the family and while the intensivist on the robot, it's very different than if I can touch their shoulder and I can talk to them in that intimate kind of discussion. So it brings skills that we don't have, it enhances our skills and it provides the patients with state-of-the-art care, like they were in a higher institution like OHSU, but we maintain the majority of the care and the personal touch that is so important."

Funding the robot

Haack said Bay Area Hospital's ICU Nurse Manager Nancy Day worked with Moore, Dr. van Duren and others to find the funds to get a robot specifically for the ICU.

The robot cost \$39,000 and as part of the collaboration, the doctors at OHSU's ICU unit have become part of the BAH medical staff, after going through a credentialing process.

Please see **Robot**, Page 12



Contributed Photos

The new business office for Lower Umpqua Hospital, located in the former Covenant United Methodist Church a short walk from the hospital in Reedsport.

Lower Umpqua Hospital moves business office

New ambulance facility also in the plans for the Reedsport facility

ROSA SOLANO

Special to The World

REEDSPORT — The Lower Umpqua Hospital District has relocated the District’s business office and the Reedsport Family Resource Center to the former Covenant United Methodist Church on Frontage Road in Reedsport. Staff moved in mid-July and are now conducting business from their new offices.

According to Ryan Fowler, chief administrative officer, “We began renovations shortly after purchasing the property on June 30, 2019. We are proud of the way it turned out, especially since most of the renovations were done by the hospital’s plant operations staff. We were fortunate to only subcontract the electrical work. We wish we could share this beautiful renovation with our community but due to current COVID-19 restrictions, the building is closed to the public. We plan to celebrate with an open house as soon as it is safe to do so.”

Business office representatives are available Monday through Friday by calling 541-271-2171. For additional information, please visit the hospital’s website at www.lowerumpquahospital.org and select Hospital District Services, and then select Business and Financial Services.

The Reedsport Family Resource Center (FRC) is available to connect people in coastal Douglas County to the information, resources, and services that they may need. Staff is available at 541-271-9700 from Monday through Friday.

The Center is available to help with the following areas:

- Applications for food stamps and Oregon Health Plan



A schematic drawing of the new ambulance station that will be built at Lower Umpqua Hospital.

- Information about subsidizing housing
- Department of Motor Vehicle manuals and forms
- Contact information for the SHIBA Medicare volunteer
- Dental and vision applications for those with limited income
- Sign up to obtain donated items
- Connect donors of gently used furniture and appliances with those in need
- Counseling and support group contact information
- Answers about local services and groups

This property is also the future location for a new home to the Lower Umpqua Hospital’s new ambulance station. The LUH Emergency Medical Services Team is looking forward to this new building which will house them and be available as a meeting location to community organizations.

For this new building to come to fruition, the District must hold local fundraising events before being able to apply for grants through the Lower Umpqua Hospital Foundation.

Fowler stated, “We are committed to providing

our community with emergency services. We have recently created a full-time director position to oversee this project, along with helping fundraising efforts for the LUHD Foundation. Sheri Aasen has accepted this role since she was recently performing this role on a part-time basis.”

Aasen has been developing a project plan for future fundraising events, in cooperation with the Foundation Board. Aasen stated, “Our current ambulance station is old and in need of lots of repairs. In addition, it is not able to house the two ambulance crews nor their vehicles. I am happy to take on this exciting project and assist our District with the fundraising efforts.”

For additional information regarding Lower Umpqua Hospital District and upcoming fundraising efforts, visit their website at www.lowerumpquahospital.org or Facebook.com/lowerumpquahospital. Lower Umpqua Hospital District is a not-for-profit 20-bed Critical Access Hospital (CAH) located in Reedsport on the central Oregon Coast. It is a Level IV Trauma certified facility.

Robot

From Page 11

“They are now colleagues, which means they can give orders to the nurses and they write notes in our charts, all of that remotely,” van Duren said.

Patients and families at BAH have embraced the new technology. Haack described a recent patient who had complex, long-term health issues, one of them genetic.

“The OHSU intensivist actually had a child with the same problem and was able to interact with that family member in a way that none of us could,

which turned out to be incredibly helpful in terms of directing care,” Haack said.

Van Duren said some patients, when they hear the word robot, might be dubious, thinking the hospital is replacing a human with a machine.

“But that’s not what’s happening,” van Duren said. “We still have our own doctors in the room and now we add on top of that the presence of a Portland specialist. So it’s an added layer, not a replacement.”

Haack, van Duren and others are looking forward to how the robot will help care for ICU patients on the South Coast.

“It brings state-of-the-art world-class specialists with eyes and ears on the patient within minutes,” van Duren said. “That wasn’t possible before.”

OHSU Health is working with hospitals and health systems throughout the region to expand the VICU model.

The VICU is supported by Phil and Penny Knight, along with Nike CEO John Donahoe and his wife, Eileen, and Nike Chairman Mark Parker and his wife, Kathy.

“I’m just excited about it,” Haack said. “It’s something that I thought would never happen and finally did.”



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Contributed Photos by Anne Farrell-Matthews

The new Health & Science Building at Southwestern Oregon Community College has nearly been completed.

SWOCC Health & Science Building nearly complete

New addition will be ready for a January opening

AMY MOSS STRONG
The World

COOS BAY — A project administrators dreamed about 19 years ago is now 90% complete on the Southwestern Oregon Community College campus.

The college's Umpqua Health & Science Technology Building is expected to be done in time for its January 2021 opening. A grand opening ceremony has been pushed from October to sometime in December.

There have been a few delays along the way due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but overall, construction of the 36,000 square-foot project has been on schedule. The original \$21.5-million budget has gone up to \$24 million, as material costs have increased since the project began. Southwestern fundraised vigorously to qualify for an \$8 million match from the state for construction of the building, with funds also provided from state bonds, federal grants and many generous private donations.

The pandemic has slowed things a little, said Leonard Phearson, project superintendent with Bogatay Construction of Klamath Falls, lead contractor for the building.

"We've had some products being held up because of the coronavirus and are maybe one to two weeks behind," Phearson said. "But for the exterior, we're probably at 90% completion."

Phearson said they are still waiting on seating for the health building's large lecture hall, which is being built in Columbia, but they are down to finish work inside the science building, including painting, installing cabinets and flooring.

The completion of the building will complement the Southwestern campus in many ways, but the construction has added to the local economy since groundbreaking on April 10. Phearson said there are 40-60 people on average working on the project regularly.

Bogatay is sourcing supplies locally and using local subcontractors when possible, including Dodge Survey and Planning, Reese Electric, Coastline West Insulation, Johnson



A worker does some piping work in the new Health & Science Building.

Rock Products, Lighthouse Landscape and Brock Concrete. Overall, it is anticipated 98% of the project's contract value has been awarded to Oregon-based companies.

Sue Russell Phearson, senior project engineer with Bogatay Construction said not only are they locally sourcing supplies, because of the long term nature of the project, many of the workers have rented homes or apartments or are living in RV parks. Those workers eat, shop and recreate in the area.

In addition, it was important to the owner, Sue Phearson said, to take care of the employees and contractors, especially during a pandemic. So two or three times a month they purchase take-out lunches or dinners from local restaurants such as Gino's Pizza, Vinny's Smokin' Good Burgers, Kozy Kitchen and the Coach House, for example. The crew also keeps the Oregon Coast Culinary Institute busy.

"They make bagged lunches for us on a weekly basis, which are like gourmet dinners," Sue Phearson said.

Building specifics

The Health & Science Technology Building is the largest building project in the college's history. The project took an outdated building (Umpqua Hall) remodeled for the nursing and paramedicine programs, then added the new building to it, which houses the high-tech lecture hall, student collaboration/study areas and modern labs for physics, chemis-



The inside of the new Health & Science Building.

try, biology, geology and microbiology.

The wood-themed, technologically advanced space will be the home for 90% of SWOCC's students who enroll for medical or science classes.

When the college started the project, planners knew the health and science labs were important for the next 50 years. They replaced original 1965-era science and 1980s-era nursing labs.

The new building ensures people of the South Coast have access without having to move to the highest quality training facilities for decades to come. The students who will train in the building, particularly in the nursing and paramedic programs, will graduate into high-paying crucial jobs that need workers in every community on the South Coast.

Students need modern, tech-rich science and health labs as they study for careers in engineering, chemistry, nursing and other life-saving occupations. The best instructors want to teach in modern facilities designed to help them inspire students and train highly skilled professionals. Southwestern planners didn't imagine at the time how important these spacious labs and improved online teaching equipment would be right now.

Then came COVID-19, spreading a pandemic across the country and into communities.

"When the building opens in January, our nursing faculty can work with students in hands-on labs designed for safety and efficiency," said Elise Hamner, dean of resource development and

the Southwestern Foundation. "They will have enough space to allow for social distancing and other safety precautions. The lecture hall and other remote teaching technology make it easier for our nursing students to learn together better between our Brookings and Coos Bay campuses."

To prepare for the opening of a physics lab, the college hired a physics instructor and is bringing back an engineering degree pathway that ties in with universities. That program also will make use of the building's solar array for in-class instruction and projects. The modern science labs also allow for collaboration between the sciences — physics, chemistry and biology — so students can learn together as are the trends in engineering,

research, environmental innovations and project development.

Extraordinary resource

Ali Mageehon, Southwestern vice president of instruction who oversees all the programs at the college, also extols the value the new building will have on both students and the local economy.

"I think it's going to be an extraordinary resource for this community," she said. "We are going to be preparing students for high-wage, high-end jobs so they'll stay in the community."

Mageehon said the hope is that students seeking careers in the health or science fields will see they don't need to leave the area for a degree. Those who seek advanced degrees can start their college careers at Southwestern.

Currently, the college's courses in pre-nursing, such as anatomy and physiology, are doing well, she said.

"And more students are enrolling in chemistry, so some of that may be they're anticipating getting to (take more advanced classes) once the new building is open," Mageehon said.

Nursing is an existing program at Southwestern, but in anticipation of the new science building, the college has started a pre-engineering program, enabling students seeking a career in engineering to start their schooling at Southwestern where it's more affordable.

Faculty has been added to the nursing and the paramedicine programs. The new building will allow Southwestern to offer more classes, expanded lab spaces and hands-on experiences. Mageehon is especially excited about the paramedicine lab component, which includes a simulated single-wide trailer inside the building so students can practice going in and saving people.

"It has all the things you'd find in a trailer and even narrow steps (that are hard to navigate) so they can get that kind of hands-on experience before they go out into the real world," she said.

The new building has space inside for an ambulance that is also used for practice drills. "I think it's just an extraordinary opportunity for students going into the health care field ... and I'd encourage them to consider coming here," Mageehon said.



Contributed Photos from Southwestern Oregon Community College

In 2018-19, Southwestern Oregon Community College added \$104.3 million to the South Coast's economy. The college directly and indirectly supports 1,979 jobs in Coos, Curry and western Douglas counties, according to a 2020 economic impact study. Graduates that year infused nearly \$80 million into the region's economy in added income.

College is major economic player on South Coast

Study: SWOCC grads added \$80 million to local economy

ELISE HAMNER
Special to The World

SOUTH COAST — What is the economic impact of Southwestern Oregon Community College to the South Coast?

Your mind might immediately go to a college's output — highly skilled nurses, forestry techs, teachers, welders, chefs, firefighters and more. These people are part of the picture. Most of Southwestern's graduates stay here and work in our towns — Brookings, Reedsport, Myrtle Point, Coos Bay, Bandon — all of the little towns in the region.

The lifeblood of our economy

There are thousands of Southwestern alumni on the South Coast and throughout Oregon. According to a newly released economic study by Economic Modeling Specialists, Inc., these hard-working graduates generate big money in the region. Their net income during 2018-19 was \$79.4 million. They spent that income locally for homes, apartments, gas, food, restaurants, bikes, pets, supplies, even taxes. And the list goes on.

The payoff goes the other direction, too.

During that same time period, the college's students spent \$5 million in tuition, fees, supplies and college loan interest. Yes, it's expensive, yet there's a big payoff. EMSI estimates these students will earn nearly \$50 million more in income throughout their lives thanks to their job training at Southwestern. By being skilled workers, they will also save the state an estimated \$4.2 million in social service costs.

For every \$1 a student invests, they get a \$5.40 return in higher earnings. That's a 26.4% reliable return on investment. Not bad, when you figure the stock market returns 10 percent over the very long term, with volatile short-term swings, and savings accounts return only 1%, so says Forbes magazine and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

An economic supplier

The college and its campuses in Brookings and Coos Bay also enrich our economy through payroll and operations spending.

Southwestern infused \$104.3 million into Coos, Curry and western Douglas counties in 2018-19. The college fuels 3.3% of the region's gross regional product, or put another way, it supports 1,979 jobs. With an annual payroll of \$19 million and 427 full- and part-time teachers and workers, the spending impact surges through little businesses, medical clinics, banks and support for community organizations.

Bay Area Chamber of Commerce's executive director,



Oregon Coast Culinary Institute Chef Laura Williams guides students in the kitchen. In 2018-19, Southwestern Oregon Community College's graduates infused nearly \$80 million into the region's economy in added income.

Timm Slater, said businesses also benefit from the college's ability to adapt training unique to a business' needs for specialized workers.

"When new industries come, or local businesses want to change, the college is willing to put together programs to facilitate growth of those businesses," he said. "Businesses define their needs, and the college defines a program in a way that provides them with competent, excited people."

Building toward the future

EMSI's study of the college also touches on the impact of construction and technology spending. In 2018-19, the college spent \$1.1 million on construction. Really, that was just the spark for \$36 million in projects that are coming online. In 2018, the college broke ground on the new Health & Science Technology Building, which will open in January 2021. Right now, workers are installing \$11 million in energy conservation and infrastructure upgrades on the Coos Bay and Brookings campuses. And, the college invested \$1.5 million this year in athletic facility upgrades.

Much of this work is continu-



Southwestern Oregon Community College helps provide workers for the South Coast economy through its educational offerings including the fire science program.

ing during the COVID-19 slap to the economy. The college's projects have helped many, many local workers and businesses thrive in a severely troubling economic time.

"Construction projects like these are important for people as employees. They're also import-

ant for contractors to profit and display their competency and work," Slater said.

From Slater's perspective, Southwestern is a foundation in the economy that has been growing stronger for 60 years and always keeping the community's vision on the future. And more,

he said, there's the aspect that the college's graduates can move on to universities or gain four-year degrees through Southwestern's University Center.

"You know that saying, 'You can get to anywhere from here,'" Slater said.

That's another story.



A remodel of the First Community Credit Union branch in Coos Bay recently completed.

Amy Moss Strong, The World

First Community Credit Union continues to expand

AMY MOSS STRONG
The World

SOUTH COAST — First Community Credit Union continues to grow on the South Coast, creating jobs and opportunities with a mission to build lasting partnerships through its personalized financial solutions.

In November 2018, FCCU began expansion at its corporate headquarters in Coquille, with an additional 17,000 square feet of space located on 200 North Adams St., to help meet the needs of its expanding services.

The overall project is being managed by the Ausland Group and more than a handful of local subcontractors have been hired in to assist during construction.

Company expanding

According to Erin Spencer, senior vice president of communications and engagement at First Community Credit Union, the company has 133 employees along the South Coast at branches in Myrtle

Point, Coquille, Bandon, Coos Bay, North Bend, Reedsport and Florence. In addition, FCCU has seven job openings throughout the region, with the majority of those openings being branched out of Coquille.

FCCU also has recently expanded its field of membership with the updated service area to now include the John Day, Burns and Lakeview regions.

The company now has a total of 31 branches in Oregon, with 86,159 members and assets of more than \$1 billion (a total of \$1,441,645,322), according to Spencer.

FCCU has grown exponentially over the past 15 years. In 2005 there were 123 employees, now there are 340 company-wide. The support service departments grew from 14 departments in 2006 to 20 departments in 2020.

The Coquille corporate office has expanded from 35 employees in 2006, to 81 employees and five job openings today. The corporate office in Coquille houses 14 different departments, not

including the FCCU branch.

Those departments have created employment for workers with specific skill sets who would otherwise have to locate to larger urban areas for similar jobs. The company-wide departments include administration, applications development (programming and web page development), mortgage lending, accounting, risk solutions, BSA and fraud, commercial lending, operations support, electronic service, information technology, human resources, marketing, First Community Insurance, and facilities.

FCCU President/CEO David Elmer said the community has been receptive of its efforts to expand locally.

“The community has been so supportive of us — the city, the county, many of the people who are banking with us, but also just supportive of us building here and expanding in Coquille,” said Elmer. “Growth is great and it’s wonderful being part of an organization that is growing.”

Coos Bay branch remodel

Spencer said the company has remote workers all across the state including in the mortgage lending and customer service departments. If those employees need to relocate, they can still continue a career with FCCU.

The company’s Coos Bay branch houses its credit quality department and an employee from the internal audit department.

While work continues on the corporate headquarters in Coquille, which has been slowed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Coos Bay branch remodel is complete.

The Coos Bay branch was opened on Evans Street in 1998 and moved to Johnson Street in July 2002. The remodel of that branch started in April 2019 and was completed this February, with outside signage finished in April. Tom Harmon Construction was the contractor for the Coos Bay remodel and Crow/Clay was the architect for the CB branch.

“It was a massive undertaking from an engineering and design perspective,” Spencer said. “They actually saved the upstairs in half. It provides a better flow for customers as well as providing better work stations and office spaces for the employees there. It is really a nice building for our members and employees.”

FCCU will be utilizing Harmon and Crow/Clay for Phase 2 of the renovation to its Coquille building to start in spring 2021 with a 12-month construction schedule to completion.

“It’s very important to us to be able to provide local businesses an opportunity,” Spencer said.

The North Bend branch also houses the company’s investment services department, so between Coquille, Coos Bay and North Bend, all of FCCU’s support services are located on the South Coast.

“It’s really been fantastic to be able to do that,” Spencer said. “We could have located the corporate offices anywhere.”



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