

Program removes barriers to school attendance Reaching Out to Homeless Students

Can you recall, during your school years, getting out of bed in the morning to catch the school bus on a cold day? Remember the endless nights spent working on your homework assignments at the kitchen table? Or worrying about fitting in with your crowd of friends?

Now, think about the 484 Lincoln County students who are classified as homeless.

These uprooted kids are living in a tent or a motel room. They are sleeping on a sofa at a relative's house, or they even may be living on the street. They are faced with unimaginable hurdles every day in their attempt to attend and succeed at school.

Just one of the reasons for student homelessness is the recent economic slump, and the resulting increase in numbers of foreclosures and unemployment.

LCSD Homeless Outreach Program Expands

Katey (Robinson) Townsend, a 2002 Newport High School graduate, has returned to her hometown to tackle this huge challenge, as the newly hired Lincoln County School District Homeless Outreach Program coordinator.

Among Townsend's first tasks will be to hire two additional homeless outreach workers; to open and coordinate four family resource centers to serve all areas of the school district; and to coordinate all of the homeless resources in Lincoln County to ensure that children are

able to achieve in school. These resources include government agencies and other public, non-profit, community and faith-based organizations.

"There is already an amazing amount of momentum to support homeless children and families in Lincoln County," Townsend said. "I am honored to have the opportunity to return to the area to serve my community and join this compassionate movement."

Funding for Townsend's position comes entirely from community and local agency grants. Funding for the homeless outreach workers is provided by federal grants.

Connecting with At-Risk Kids

Townsend comes to LCSD with a professional background of connecting with at-risk youth in various educational settings, which is enhanced by her ability to effectively and compassionately communicate in both English and Spanish.



TOWNSEND
Homeless Outreach
Program Coordinator

Most recently, she worked as a case manager at a homeless and runaway youth shelter in Medford. She also has experience as a resource advocate for a domestic violence shel-



ter, volunteer coordinator for migrant education, coordinator for a farm worker's advocacy youth group, and education coordinator for a children's home in Spokane, Wash.

Townsend graduated with honors from Whitworth University in Spokane, earning Bachelor of Arts degrees in international studies and Spanish. Her husband, Eddie Townsend, is a special education teacher, and a NHS graduate, as well.

Outreach Staff Strive to Remove Barriers

The LCSD Homeless Outreach Program currently consists of two homeless outreach workers – Charla Guiwits, who serves the north area, and Senitila McKinley, who serves the west, east and south areas. They provide services and support to approximately 484 homeless youth and their families throughout the county.

"Charla and Senitila work to remove barriers for homeless students to attend school by arranging bus transportation to the students' school of origin, providing basic needs such as school supplies, clothing, hygiene items, and more. They also connect children and families with appropriate resources in the community," Townsend explains.

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Letter from Your Superintendent



Dear Lincoln County School District Residents:

Spring is the time in most school districts of tremendous learning gains by students, and ours are no exception. Students have one more opportunity to take the state assessment. Currently we are seeing higher achievement rates

than last year at this time. My hope is that as we make the final push we will end the year better than where we ended last year.

Along with our main task of educating children comes other responsibilities, including keeping our students safe. We have had some issues with bullying this year. However, we have also seen support from parents and community members to

help us move forward to implement strategies to deal with this unacceptable behavior.

I continue to be excited and energized by the many wonderful and dedicated staff, volunteers, parents and business partners who are part of our district. My target is to be better today that we were yesterday and better tomorrow than we are today. Given that end, I appreciate all the people who are helping us move the education of our children forward.

Sincerely,

Tom Rinearson
Superintendent

Lincoln County Schools
P.O. Box 1110
Newport, OR 97365

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TAKING NOTE

NEWS OF INTEREST
from around the district

Lincoln County Staff, Teachers Win Acclaim

Some recently bestowed honors attest to the quality and commitment of Lincoln County School District teachers and staff. We congratulate the following individuals who believe in LCSD's vision of "Quality Learning for All."

→ **Matt Falby, fourth/ fifth grade teacher at Oceanlake Elementary School in Lincoln City.** Falby is one of 200 teachers from around the country selected to attend the 2010 Mickelson ExxonMobil Teachers Academy at the Liberty Science Center this summer in Jersey City, N.J. During the intensive one-week session, he will discover new ways to excite students using experiments that demonstrate various math and science concepts including force,

gravity and probability. He was selected to attend based on his qualifications, dedication to inspiring students at an early age, and his overall commitment to enhancing the teaching profession.

→ **Brian Hanna, physics/advanced math teacher, Newport High School.** Hanna has been named one of three state finalists for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. This is the highest recognition a K-12 math or science teacher may receive for outstanding teaching in the United States. If Hanna is one of the top winners, he will receive \$10,000 from the National Science Foundation, a trip to Washington D.C., and a citation signed by President Obama.

→ **Ruth McDonald, Community Resource Liaison.** McDonald has collaborated with many community entities to forge a partnership that will make local students among the most "ocean literate" in the country. This work was recognized during a Coastal America Partnership Award Ceremony at Newport's Hatfield Marine Science Center.

→ **Senitila McKinley, homeless liaison serving west, east and south areas.** The Oregon Coalition on Housing and Homelessness presented its 2010 Individual Award of Merit to McKinley. This award is given to a per-

MRS. LAFAYETTE GOES TO WASHINGTON!

As Oregon Assistant Principal of the Year, **Julie Lafayette** of Taft 7-12 High School travelled to Washington, D.C., in April to accept her award during the Assistant Principals' Forum and Awards dinner hosted by the National Association of Secondary School Principals.



Sen. Wyden, who said he would like to hold a Town Hall meeting some time soon at Taft 7-12 High School. ♦

While in our nation's capital, Lafayette had the opportunity to meet with Oregon's U.S. senators, Sen. Jeff Merkley and Sen. Ron Wyden, to discuss current legislation regarding the Reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. She is pictured above and at left, with

son who has shown excellence in providing services to alleviate the suffering of homeless men women and children. She was honored for her work in promoting literacy education and health through her work with the school district and her Seashore Family Literacy Center in Waldport.

→ **Julie Turner, RN, MSN, District Nurse.** Turner has been named School Nurse of the Year by the Oregon School Nurse Association. The award acknowledges her knowledge, dedication, and professionalism as a nurse and an educator. She is responsible for overseeing the health needs of 5,400 students; this involved educating staff and collaborating with other agencies.

Healthy Kids Program Offers Low-Cost Insurance

Healthy Kids is a low-cost and free health insurance program offered through the state of Oregon. It is designed to provide Oregon youth with comprehensive medical, dental, vision, prescription drugs, and mental health services. There are also provisions for addiction treatment and medical equipment services.

You cannot be turned down on the basis of income. If you have previously been turned down by OHP, you are encouraged to apply for the Healthy Kids insurance. The application form is short

If you earn \$44,000 per year or under, for a family of four, the insurance is free. If you earn \$44,000 to \$66,000 per year, there will be a low-cost premium based on a sliding scale. If you earn more than \$66,000 per year you would pay the full cost of \$218 per month per child.

Watch for various advertised sites, days and times throughout the county where

you can apply. Applications are available in English and Spanish and there will be an interpreter. Other languages can be provided by request.

For more information, you may call Susan Stewart, from Community Services Consortium, toll free at 1-888-957-8652. Or, you may call Progressive Options at 541-867-4546.

Kids Insured NOW!
Health insurance coverage for kids
WHO qualifies? 3 key things!

1. FREE to family of 4 with income less than \$44,000.
2. Low-Cost; Income between \$44,000 and \$66,000.
3. Affordable; Over \$66,000, available to purchase.

Information Call - 541-867-4546

Elementary School Attendance Competition

Each month, the LCSD elementary-level school with the best attendance rate has the honor of displaying the Attendance Champions flag at their school. Congratulations to the students and staff at the following schools who know that attendance is important for academic achievement!

FEBRUARY: Sam Case Primary School in Newport took first place (with an attendance rate of 94.24%), with **Newport Intermediate School** in second (93.07%).

MARCH: Sam Case was tops again (92.72%), and **Taft Elementary School in Lincoln City** was second (92.11%).

APRIL: Crestview Heights in Waldport was tops (92.54%), with **Sam Case** in second (92.37%). For the first time, all six of the LCSD elementary schools were within 1% of one another. This is quite an accomplishment! ♦

RACING WITH THE WIND & THE WATER

Recreational sailors from Yaquina Bay Yacht Club are sharing their passion for wind, water and racing with students, through their sponsorship of a countywide high school sailing program. The group purchased six 420-class sailing dinghys and 5 JY trainers specifically for the competitive sailing program.

According to organizer and coach **Dave Schmalz** and other Yacht Club members,



their motivation for taking on this venture is to keep kids out of mischief, to provide an interesting alternative sporting activity, and perhaps even to inspire a future sailing Olympian.

Twice a week after school since mid-March, the group of a dozen boys and girls have been meeting at the clubhouse for instruction in all things nautical. Then, they head to the dock in wetsuits, where they rig boats and enjoy a couple of hours on the bay practicing. They catch the wind to sail laps around buoys, practice tacking, learn how to coax extra speed out of the sails – and even how to upright a capsized boat when necessary.

Lincoln County School District and Yaquina Bay Yacht Club co-sponsor the program, in collaboration with the Port of Newport. The group follows the rules of the Northwest Inter-scholastic Sailing Association ♦





Budgeting process well under way for 2010-2011 school year:

Staff developing 'status quo' budget

The LCSD School Board has directed Superintendent Tom Rinearson to develop a budget for the 2010-2011 school year that maintains the status quo as much as possible – that is, a budget with relatively few changes from the current year's budget.

Rinearson and staff are finding this assignment a bit simpler to accomplish than expected for many reasons.

"This is the most stable budget I've seen in the six years since I have been superintendent for Lincoln County Schools," Rinearson says. "There are many reasons for this, but most important is that we are doing better advance planning. This isn't always easy given the unpredictable nature of federal and state funding."

2010-11 Budget Reductions: Next year's budget is being drafted with close to \$425,000 in cuts to the General Revenue fund. The majority of these cuts are being accomplished by shaving central services programs and restructuring district-level administration.

There will be some cuts to the district's Special Education program due to a reduction in federal Title program funding and federal stimulus monies. Staff members are still working through the potential impact at individual schools, with changing information coming in almost weekly from the state and federal governments.

The current year's budget includes several one-

time expenditures that won't be in next year's budget, thus helping make a reduction. For example, the school district budgeted approximately \$130,000 for the federally mandated purchase of a computer backup system that won't need to be in next year's budget.

Another reason it may be easier to develop a stable budget for the coming year is the fact that the Oregon Legislature allocated \$6 billion to K-12 education in its biennial budget last year, instead of the \$5.9 billion figure around which LCSD developed its current year budget. The result is that LCSD was somewhat under-budgeted for this current school year.

No teacher layoffs are planned this coming year, Rinearson says. In fact, the LCSD Human Resources office is in the process of hiring teachers for the coming year to replace teachers lost through retirement and relocation.

LCSD Budget Planning Cycle: Budget development is an ongoing process, with school district administrators, school board members, budget committee citizen members and school site councils involved throughout the school year.

In considering the budget, it's helpful to know that funding for schools in Oregon is based on a "per student" formula, and that LCSD has been losing student enrollment for the past several years. Addition-

ally, the school district's overall employee costs continue to rise at a significantly higher rate than its revenue.

The LCSD Budget Committee will review a proposed 2010-2011 budget document at their meeting

"We are doing better advance planning. This isn't always easy given the unpredictable nature of federal and state funding." – Tom Rinearson
LCSD Superintendent

scheduled for 7 p.m. Thursday, May 20, at Newport High School. Public testimony is encouraged at this meeting. Additional meetings may be scheduled if needed.

The committee then will approve the budget and present it to the LCSD Board of Directors for their review. After a public hearing at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, June 15, at Newport High School, the school board will adopt the budget for the next school year. ♦

Save the Date!

Auditions in November for 'Lincoln County's Got Talent' Show and Fund-Raiser in February

Many hands and hearts rallied together to make the first annual "Lincoln County's Got Talent!" finals competition, held on Feb. 27, a resounding success. The top prize went to 12-year-old Taft Elementary student **Pat Delantar**, who sang "Someday."



DELANTAR
Winner, Lincoln County's Got Talent

The "Got Talent" show is a fund-raiser for the LCSD Homeless Outreach Program. Produced by the Homeless Youth Alliance of Lincoln County (HYALC), it featured talented youth between the ages of 11 and 18 singing, dancing, playing guitar and drums – the audience thoroughly enjoyed their energy, talent and heart.

Parents, if you have a talented kid, please encourage him or her to try out for the Second Annual Lincoln County's Got Talent! show planned for Feb. 5, 2011. Auditions will take place:

→ **Saturday, Nov. 6**, Noon to 2 p.m. at Toledo Jr./Sr., High and 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Waldport High.

→ **Saturday, Nov. 13**, Noon to 2 p.m. at Taft High and 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Newport High.

Watch for information at your child's school or contact Gloria Baum at 541-765-4558 or hyalc@centurytel.net. ♦

School District reaches out to homeless kids

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Both Waldport and Lincoln City have well-established literacy centers that serve as drop-in resource centers for families needing assistance. During this next school year, the Homeless Outreach Program will expand its team to four homeless liaisons and a program coordinator who together will operate family resource centers in Waldport, Lincoln City, Newport and Toledo.

The centers will provide centralized access to meet basic needs, supply information on resources for self-sufficiency, and build community through various programs and classes. Their effectiveness will be maximized by the work of volunteers and the creation of partnerships with local agencies and businesses, Townsend says.

Some Facts & Figures

According to the Oregon Department of Education, Oregon's homeless student population in-

creased by nearly 14 percent this school year compared to last year.

Lincoln County ranks third in the state for percentage of homeless students – 9 percent of the school district's enrollment of 5,373 students are classified as homeless. Only two Oregon school districts have higher homeless student percentages: Woodburn at 10.8 percent and Medford at 9.2 percent.

Under the federal McKinney-Vento Act Program for Education of Homeless Students, homeless students are defined as those students who lack fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence. A homeless family could live in an emergency shelter or share housing with others due to loss of housing or economic hardship, stay at motels, or live in cars, parks, public places, tents, trailers, or other similar settings.

In Lincoln County, approximately 78 percent of the homeless students are living in shared

housing situations. This means that 22 percent – or 107 students – are living in even more inferior situations while still struggling to attend school. Of this number, more than half are living in cars, sheds, tents, on the street, or in other "unsheltered" places.

Each school district in the U.S. is required to have a homeless liaison to coordinate outreach efforts and services for homeless students in their area, as well as conduct the annual counts. Liaisons make sure students are enrolled in school, have the supplies they need and provide referrals to the community services for services such as shelter, health care and counseling.

School districts are also called on to collaborate with other county and community efforts, such as 10-year plans to end homelessness, county homeless councils, runaway and homeless youth initiatives through the Oregon Commission on Children and Families, and other local organizations. ♦

Teens Say Drugs & Alcohol Readily Available in Lincoln County, but...

Most County Teens Don't Use

Oregon Healthy Teens is an anonymous and voluntary research-based survey conducted among eighth-grade and eleventh-grade students statewide to help monitor the factors that influence successful development in teens.

The information gathered in the survey helps schools and communities assess what proportion of teens may be having problems related to alcohol, tobacco and other drug use, personal safety behaviors, diet and exercise, and sexual activity, among other risk factors.



PETERSEN
Certified Alcohol and
Drug Counselor

Survey Shows Teens Experiment With Drugs

Data from the 2007-2008 survey for eleventh graders in Lincoln County indicate that most teens have reported that they are not using alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. Unfortunately, a small number of teens HAVE reported that they are experimenting or frequently using them. While most teens report not using alcohol and drugs in Lincoln County, the perception is that they are readily available if they did want to use them.

TOBACCO: According to Valerie Petersen, a certified alcohol and drug counselor in the Addictions Recovery Program at Lincoln County Health and Human Services, around 50% of teens have tried tobacco and about the same amount become addicted to it. This is a big concern for our teens because tobacco use is associated with a variety of health problems, and nicotine is considered a major gateway to other drug use.

MARIJUANA: It also appears that marijuana use has become more widespread among adolescents and is often used before, during and after school. Long term use of this drug can cause problems with memory and information processing and affect overall motivation for teens to set life goals. Also, the early onset of drug and alcohol use is not conducive to the brain development happening at this stage of life and can ultimately affect school performance.

PAINKILLERS: Another alarming trend is that Oregon ranks fourth in the nation for non-prescription painkillers used by kids ages 12-17. This means that 1 out of every 11 kids ages 12-17 is using an opiate that has not been prescribed to them. Petersen stresses that it is very

important that parents are mindful about keeping their pills safe and not giving kids access to them to reduce the dangers of opiate addiction. Unfortunately, according to Peterson, kids are getting smarter about hiding their drug use, especially since some of the drugs used now are harder to detect.

Peer, Parental Influence

It is imperative that prevention measures are introduced at an early age since youth seem to be most susceptible to peer influence around the seventh and eighth grades. Parents also need to be supportive of ideas and healthy activities that allow teens to express their individuality safely. Most important, if parents are struggling with a drug or alcohol problem of their own, it is advised they seek help as soon as possible, as this sends a strong positive message to their children.

Help is Available in Lincoln County

As a certified alcohol and drug counselor, Petersen offers alcohol and drug counseling services through the School Based Health Centers located at Newport, Toledo and Waldport high schools. Another certified alcohol and drug counselor, Dee Reeb, offers services at Taft 7-12 High School in Lincoln City.



REEB
Certified Counselor
Serving North Area

In addition, a team of certified counselors is also available at Lincoln County Health and Human Services in Newport and Lincoln City, both during the school year and during breaks, to see children, adults, and families.

Students can refer themselves to services at the School Based Health Center or refer friends who may need help, while concerned parents and teachers can also make referrals. Health insurance is billed for those who have coverage, and a sliding scale fee is available for those with no insurance coverage.

For more information, call Lincoln County Health and Human Services at 541-265-4179. ♦

NOTE: Complete information about Oregon Healthy Teens, including survey results, is available on the Oregon Department of Human Services online website at: www.dhs.state.or.us/dhs/ph/chs/youthsurvey.

CHAMBER MEMBERS ENCOURAGE YOUNG READERS

The sound of many young voices filled the room at Embarcadero Resort during a recent Newport Chamber of Commerce luncheon, with first grade students from Sam Case

Primary School sharing their new-found love of reading with chamber members and guests. In far left photo: **Jared Matthys** reads aloud to **Lisa Kellenberger** of Thompson Sanitary Service. In near left photo: **Dave Miller** from the Oregon Broadcast Center listens as **Victoria Roman** reads. ♦



DISTRICT DIALOG

Quarterly Newsletter
for Patrons of Lincoln County
School District

Current and Past Editions of "District Dialog" are available in Spanish and English online at:

www.lincoln.k12.or.us

Your LCSD School Board

Jana Cowan Chairman

Ron Beck Vice Chairman

Karen Bondley – Brenda Brown – Jean Turner

LCSD VISION:

Quality Learning For All

LCSD MISSION:

To Develop Passionate Learners
and Responsible Citizens

IMPORTANT DATES

■ **MEMORIAL DAY** – No School
Monday, May 31

■ **GRADUATION DAY**
Congratulations to each of our 394 graduating seniors! We wish you success in all your future endeavors, whether you chose to continue your education, join the military, enter the work force, or explore the world!

Eddyville	7 pm.	Friday, June 4
Siletz	2 p.m.	Saturday, June 5
Career Tech	5:30 p.m.	Friday, June 11
Waldport	2 p.m.	Saturday, June 12
Taft	2:10 p.m.	Saturday, June 12
Toledo	4 p.m.	Saturday, June 12
Newport	6 p.m.	Saturday, June 12

■ **LAST DAY OF SCHOOL** – half day
Wednesday, June 16

■ **RECORDS DAY / TEACHERS' LAST DAY**
Thursday, June 17

LCSD has five school calendars for its different areas and schools. Please contact individual schools for a copy of the school calendar or go online to the LCSD website at:

www.lincoln.k12.or.us