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Coping with COVID

Virus challenges OSU students **A8**

2000 flashback

Beavers getting ready for USC **B1**



MOSTLY SUNNY 70 • 46 FORECAST, A6

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2020

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ANDY CRIFE MID-VALLEY MEDIA

Charlotte Risland hands out lunches at the men's cold weather homeless shelter in Corvallis. The facility in March changed its focus from an overnight facility to a "hygiene center" that offers laundry, showers, washing stations and food to homeless individuals.

Key infusion of support

Agency provides more than \$500,000 to battle homelessness

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The Community Services Consortium has awarded more than half a million dollars in emergency grant money to help aid local outreach organizations. The goal is to help alleviate some of the ongoing issues presented by the coronavirus pandemic.

CSC announced in August that three local agencies in Benton, Linn and Lincoln counties have been granted \$569,479 in federal Emergency Solutions Grant COVID-19 money.

A statewide moratorium on housing evictions is set to end on Sept. 30 — which will further exacerbate the growing list of issues faced by the portion of Oregon's population that is struggling to afford housing. Many local shelter and outreach programs spent the summer navigating the logistical challenges created by COVID-19.

Now, many of those organizations have restructured in order to better help those in need of

ABOUT THE GROUP

Established in 1980, the Community Services Consortium is a state-designated community action agency. CSC offers a wide range of programs and services in Linn, Benton and Lincoln counties, and select services in Polk County. The group's mission is to overcome poverty in our region by connecting people with the tools and resources they need to build better futures. CSC aims to work together with community partners to overcome poverty one person at a time.

The group has offices and affiliates in Albany, Corvallis, Newport, Lincoln City, Tangent, Toledo and Independence. CSC, a public, not-for-profit organization, is supported by federal, state, and local funds, as well as private grants, donations, and fundraising efforts. For more information go to <https://communityservices.us/>.

their services, and the additional funding provided by CSC will go a long way toward helping those affected by the pandemic.

Here is a look at the three recipients:

Unity Shelter

Based in Corvallis, the Unity Shelter is an umbrella organization for three different services to help those who do not have a place to call home. The shelter was awarded \$329,418 for shelter and outreach services to homeless adults in Benton County.

"Part of what that grant does is just allow us to continue to serve a very vulnerable population that seems to be growing,"

Unity Shelter Executive Director Shawn Collins said. "What this does is definitely kind of stabilize our budget."

Unity's men's and women's shelters are normally seasonal, but both have stayed open in some capacity during the summer. The women's shelter is currently open 24/7, while the men's shelter has morphed into a hygiene center that offers washing stations, laundry service, food and showers.

Unity Shelter's SafePlace program includes around a dozen



wooden microshelters — essentially tiny houses — in three different locations around town. Collins said the folks in those microshelters were placed there because they are medically sensitive.

"They'd be at a real risk if they were to catch COVID," Collins said. "Living on the street, if you've got certain types of medical conditions, is rough enough; to get COVID with those medical conditions would be very dangerous and likely fatal."

In addition to using the funding to help those who are already facing homelessness, Collins said it will also allow Unity Shelter to engage people with services to help get them back in housing.

"You're just starting to see more people kind of living on that edge," Collins said. "I think that as they start to fall out of

Please see **HOMELESS**, Page A3

FIRST LOOK



Portland: Right-wing rally proves largely peaceful

Police say a right-wing rally and counter-protests in Portland have largely dispersed without serious violence Saturday, though they are investigating an assault after one person who was documenting the event was pushed to the ground and kicked in the face. Separately, police said a criminal citation was issued after officials confiscated firearms, paintball guns, baseball bats and shields from a pick-up truck that was initially stopped for having obscured license plates as it left the rally. Several hundred people, dozens of them wearing militarized body armor, gathered to support President Donald Trump and his "law and order" reelection campaign Saturday afternoon. The attendance was far fewer than the 10,000 organizers had expected. **A2**

Coronavirus: The latest on caseload at OSU

The New York Times has reported that an analysis of local and health data shows 280 coronavirus cases at Oregon colleges and universities amid state reports noting case spikes stemming from Greek like and other "gatherings." The Times said that 127 of those were at Oregon Health and Science University in Portland, 59 at the University of Oregon and 52 at Oregon State University. All other campuses analyzed, the Times said, reported less than 10. OSU said that 475 students living in Greek housing have been tested in the past week and just 1.47% (seven) tested positive. Clark also noted that the university has conducted 1,961 tests of student-athletes since late June with just 12 positive cases (6/10 of 1%). **A2**

Health: Keeping your heart in rhythm

Our special Sunday Health page includes a Harvard health Letter report on how certain foods and drinks affect your heart's rhythm. The page also includes a Mayo Clinic Q&A on how bone density tests can reveal fractures or osteoporosis. **B8**

COLUMNS

Fact Check	A2
Mona Charen	A7
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Trump introduces Barrett for court opening

Judge is the third SCOTUS nominee of president's tenure

ZEKE MILLER, LISA MASCARO AND MARY CLARE JALONICK
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump nominated Judge Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court on Saturday, capping a dramatic reshaping of the federal judiciary that will resonate for a generation and that he hopes will provide a needed boost to his reelection effort.

Barrett, a former clerk to the late Justice Antonin Scalia, said

she was "truly humbled" by the nomination and quickly aligned herself with Scalia's conservative approach to the law, saying his "judicial philosophy is mine, too."

Barrett, 48, was joined in the Rose Garden by her husband and seven children. If confirmed by the Senate, she would fill the seat vacated by liberal icon Ruth Bader Ginsburg. It would be the sharpest ideological swing since Clarence Thomas replaced Justice Thurgood Marshall nearly three decades ago.

She would be the sixth justice on the nine-member court to be appointed by a Republican president, and the third of Trump's

MORE INSIDE

A4: A look at Barrett's opinions and biography.

A7: Mona Charen on the politics of the appointment.

first term in office.

Trump hailed Barrett as "a woman of remarkable intellect and character," saying he had studied her record closely before making the pick.

Republican senators are lining up for a swift confirmation of Barrett ahead of the Nov. 3 election, as they aim to lock in conservative gains in the federal

Please see **BARRETT**, Page A4



ALEX BRANDON, ASSOCIATED PRESS

Judge Amy Coney Barrett speaks after President Donald Trump announced Barrett as his nominee to the Supreme Court on Saturday in the Rose Garden at the White House.



■ **Galleries:** Mid-valley wildfires
■ **Video:** Mid-valley wildfires
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WEATHER BEAVER SAYS:

■ Look for sunny skies today and Monday, with highs today around 70 and up to 80 on Monday. Cooler at night, with lows around 47. **For details, see Page A6.**

BRIDGE	C3	OBITUARIES	A5
CLASSIFIEDS	B6-7	OPINION	A7
CROSSWORDS	B8	SPORTS	B1-3
HEALTH	B8	SUDOKU	B7-8
LOTTERIES	A2	WEATHER	A6



Homeless

From A1

housing, it can be a big challenge to get back in.”

CHANCE

The mid-valley nonprofit with offices in Albany and Corvallis works with those experiencing homelessness, addiction and mental illness, CHANCE received \$157,951 from the CSC for sheltering medically fragile adults in Benton, Linn and Lincoln counties.

The funding will be pivotal in allowing the organization to help individuals who don’t meet medically fragile requirements.

“With this grant that CSC is providing to us, for those who have lost housing, we will be able to put them up in a hotel/motel if they find themselves homeless due to emergencies,” said Jeff Blackford, executive director of CHANCE. “And we will be able to help find them permanent, supportive housing. They’ll have that resource to be able to be off the streets.”

Blackford estimates that with the funding, CHANCE will be able to assist between 500 and 600 additional people.

“We’re really good at taking a little bit of money and stretching it to help a whole bunch of people,” Blackford



ANDY CRIPE MID-VALLEY MEDIA FILE (2020)

Volunteers clean the kitchen in the new Jackson Street Youth Services facility in downtown Corvallis that will help expand its ability to serve youths in the 18 to 20 age range.

said. “This dollar amount that we were awarded, I think that we will be able to stretch it even further.”

During the pandemic, CHANCE has remained open to those who need it but has had to change the way it operates, Blackford said. The number of people

who can come into its centers has been limited, and CHANCE has been unable to host groups such as Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous.

Based around the needs created by COVID, CHANCE created a hotel/motel program in conjunction with CSC in all three counties in which it operates, and currently has contracts with 22 hotels in five cities.

“Whatever resource that is needed we will connect

with a partner to make sure those needs are being met,” Blackford said. “If it is someone who is COVID-positive, we will make sure it is in a timely manner while also making sure that protocols are being met. So the individual is protected and is practicing social distancing.”

Jackson Street Youth Services

With locations in Benton, Linn and Lincoln counties,

Jackson Street Youth Services works to provide a stable future for youth in crisis in the tri-county area. It was awarded \$82,110 by CSC to assist with shelter and outreach services to homeless youth.

Like so many other outreach programs, Jackson Street Youth Services has had to acclimate to the circumstances created by the pandemic and take extra precautions to keep youth safe. The funding will go a long way toward assisting

with that process and will also allow the organization to increase its outreach while the majority of kids are out of school for the foreseeable future.

“Because of COVID and school being closed, that actually puts the youth at more risk who might be in a vulnerable situation at home. It makes them more isolated,” said Ann Craig, executive director at Jackson Street Youth Services. “When they are at school, a counselor might see that there are some issues. But without that, there’s not as many other adults connecting youth to our services.”

The centers also will be helping students with their schooling while they are learning remotely. The funding will help staffers at the center provide structure and activities for kids who will now have a lot more time on their hands without the daily schedule of in-person learning.

Craig said the grant will go a long way toward helping Jackson Street Youth Services with its primary goal of doing everything possible to keep youth safe.

“We’re really stepping training up for things like sex trafficking, labor trafficking, how to recognize it for what it is,” Craig said. “With this funding, we’re going to be able to really make sure we have enough staff. We’re covering a lot of rural areas and we need to make sure we have enough staff to really do that.”



ANDY CRIPE MID-VALLEY MEDIA

Unity Shelter has close to a dozen microshelters in Corvallis. The shelters are aimed at providing transitional housing for people.

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