

# Molalla Pioneer

MOLALLA, OREGON

SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 2008

**BIG SHOES TO FILL**

PAGE 5



**CLACKAMAS COUNTY PLEDGES TO COOL GLOBAL WARMING** PAGE 10

**TWICE AS NICE**  
Molalla defeats La Salle in their second match up by six runs  
PAGE 12



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## Not your average spring break

Colton students get an experience of a lifetime while learning abroad

BY BETHANY MONROE  
MOLALLA PIONEER

**T**welve Colton High School students returned from spring break sunburned and scratching mosquito bites, but in good spirits.

The students, along with their Spanish teacher, Amanda Anderson and her husband, Aaron, spent 10 days in Costa Rica, practicing their Spanish, experiencing the culture and enjoying the tropical climate.

"My whole goal in this trip was to introduce them to traveling and to a new culture," Anderson said.

Anderson spent a semester studying abroad in Costa Rica during her senior year of college and was eager to introduce her students to the culture and people.

"I just love Costa Rica," Anderson said. "It was so exciting for me to see these kids fall in love with it too."

For the first leg of the trip, the group visited an organic farm and spent two days enjoying Costa Rica's natural beauty, hiking in the rainforests and swimming at the base of a waterfall. They saw monkeys, sloths, alligators, toucans, geckos and more than enough cockroaches, mosquitoes, beetles and spiders to make some students dread



Submitted photo

Colton High School Spanish teacher Amanda Anderson (center) poses with three of her students and a group of Costa Rican schoolchildren. Anderson accompanied 12 of her students on a spring break trip to Costa Rica to practice their Spanish and experience a new culture.

"You look back and it makes you appreciate things so much more. I just really appreciate what I have. You see the kids (in Costa Rica) and they're happy with what they have."

**Brittany Manning**  
Colton High School student who traveled to Costa Rica with some of her classmates

crawling into bed at night.

"Jacob (Schall) at one point was under our bunk bed killing all the spiders," Anderson said. "Right before bed, three of the girls were sitting on their beds crying."

Still, the students were brimming with fond memories and said they hope to return.

Spending a few days with host families in a small, Costa Rican village gave the students a first-hand taste of Costa Rican life.

The students said they got more than their fill of beans and rice, which were served for every meal, occasionally with a side of horse meat.

"I think that it tasted like salty ham,"



student Amanda Graves said.

The students spent their days in the village painting the elementary school and playing with the local children, who put them to shame on the soccer field.

"They play soccer pretty much 24/7," student Jacob Schall said.

Although they only spent three days with their host families, the students quickly developed a bond.

"That was the neat thing — to see how close each of the kids got to their host families," Anderson said. "The whole Costa Rican spirit is really relaxed and friendly."

When it came time to say goodbye, it was a tearful occasion.

"They didn't treat us like tourists," student Kalyn Bedel said. "When I got home, I took my T-shirt out and was smelling it because it smelled like my host family's house."

The students capped off their trip with a few days at the beach, where they attempted to learn how to surf. The trip was coordinated through Walking Tree Travel and a guide

accompanied the group throughout their travels.

Even in the short time they were gone, the students said they felt their Spanish had improved.

"Even people in our classes noticed that our Spanish had gotten better," student Kyza Stansfield said.

Besides improving their Spanish skills, the students said they came home with a broader view of the world. They noted their Costa Rican families' happiness, in spite of a simpler lifestyle with fewer material possessions.

"You look back and it makes you appreciate things so much more," student Brittany Manning said. "I just really appreciate what I have. You see the kids and they're happy with what they have."

## Hard times = county health-care cuts

County makes plans to close all three of its health clinics

Announcement causes local confusion, fear about which clinics are actually closing

BY BETHANY MONROE  
MOLALLA PIONEER

Clackamas County Community Health Division announced Tuesday that it will be closing its Molalla Health Center on June 30.

The Molalla clinic will be the first of three county clinic closures, followed by the Sandy Health Clinic on Dec. 31, 2008 and, eventually, the Oregon City Health Clinic in 2010 or 2011.

"The plan is that the county will no longer operate any primary care clinics," said Melinda Mowery, director of the Clackamas County Community Health Division.

The announcement has caused confusion for some local patients. Molalla Medical Clinic, which houses the practices of Dr. Frank James, Dr. Ray Smucker and nurse practitioner Claudia Peterson, will not be closing. Like Molalla Health Center, Molalla Medical

Clinic is also located on Center Avenue, but it is not affiliated with the county clinic.

"We are getting calls from patients because of the news that the Clackamas County health clinic is closing," said Ruth Christner, manager of Molalla Medical Clinic. "We've been here for more than 55 years and we'll be here for quite some time to come."

The county made the decision to shut down Molalla Health Center and its two other primary care clinics based on a lack of revenue from the clinics, Mowery said.

"The county has tried to run this on a shoe string," Mowery said.

The budget issues have kept the county from improving facilities and making other updates.

"The county also has not been able to invest in an electronic medical record, which is essential in modern health care," Mowery said.

In addition to revenue from patients, the clinics receive funding from the county and the federal Bureau of Primary Health Care.

The clinic closures are contingent on

"It's a difficult decision and we believe in the long run that it's the right decision. The county's role in delivering certain individual health services is changing, but our commitment to ensuring community access to sustainable primary care will continue."



**Lynn Peterson**  
Chair, Clackamas County Board of Commissioners

approval from the Bureau of Primary Health Care.

"It's a difficult decision and we believe in the long run that it's the right decision," Clackamas County Chair Lynn

Turn to **CLINICS** on Page 2

## Local leaders named to county land committee

Group will advise commissioners on urban, rural reserves

BY JOE WILSON  
MOLALLA PIONEER

Twenty-one people, including two Molalla-area governmental leaders, have been named to the Clackamas County Urban and Rural Reserves Policy Advisory Committee.

Deb Leighton, a councilor for the city of Molalla and registrar for the Hamlet of Mulino will be among the volunteers who will be responsible for advising the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners regarding the selection of urban and rural reserves in the county.

The process of identifying urban and rural reserves is taking place throughout the three-county Portland metropolitan area during 2008 and 2009.

The three metro counties — Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington — and Metro will be going through an extensive public involvement and study process to identify where urban growth should and should not take place in the region over the next 40-50 years.

The Clackamas County PAC will hold its first meeting at 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 22, in the Sunnybrook Service Center Auditorium at 9101 SE Sunnybrook, Clackamas.

This and all future PAC meetings will be open to the public.

Turn to **COUNTY** on Page 2

### FORECAST

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
High 64 Low 42	High 52 Low 36	High 51 Low 38

### Local Briefs

#### Relay fundraiser set for Clarkes

Clarkes General Store and Eatery is hosting a fundraiser for the 2008 Molalla Relay for Life on Friday, April 18 from 5-9 p.m.

The Molalla MOMS Club team for the relay will receive \$10 from the sale of every large pizza and \$5 from every medium pizza. Take out is available. The Clarkes General Store and Eatery is located at

25760 S. Beaver Creek Rd. The phone number is: 503-632-8337.

#### Colton High School hosts blood drive

Colton High School will be hosting a blood donation drive at the school on Thursday, April 17 from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. at 30205 S. Wall St.

#### Your spot to comment on the news

For breaking news and other useful information from the *Molalla Pioneer* news staff updated throughout the week, up to the minute, please visit our Web site at: [www.molallapioneer.com](http://www.molallapioneer.com) and our news blog at: [molallapioneer.blogspot.com](http://molallapioneer.blogspot.com).

Leave us a comment on our blog and voice your opinion about the news.

# Investing in good parenting

Cheri Faulhaber (left) and Kirsten Ingersoll of Molalla Communities That Care (MCTC) display a \$10,000 check from the PGE Foundation. The PGE Foundation's contribution will allow MCTC to offer its Guiding Good Choices parenting class once more before the program is forced to shut down from a lack of funding, Ingersoll said. Before, the classes had been funded by a grant from the University of Washington, which ran out March 31. The classes are for parents with children ages 9-14. "We talk about drug and alcohol prevention," Ingersoll said. "We talk about setting guidelines for your children." More than 200 local parents have participated in the program in the five years it has been offered by MCTC. For more information about the Guiding Good Choices class, call MCTC at (503) 829-5920.

Photo by Joe Wilson



## County: Public will be invited to comment throughout entire process

Continued from Page 1

A public comment period will be included on the agenda for each meeting. The 19 other PAC members are:

- Mike Bondi, OSU Extension Service/Forestry
- Bill Buckley, Economic

Development Commission/Business

- Hal Busch, City of Gladstone
- Randy Carson, City of Canby
- Lori DeRemer, City of Happy Valley
- Terri Dillard, Agriculture
- Robert Fisher, Oak Lodge Community Planning

Organization (CPO)

- Walt Gamble, Stafford Hamlet
- Rick Gruen, Soil and Water Conservation Service/Agriculture
- Joe Keizur, Home Builders Assoc. of Metro Portland
- Norm King, City of West Linn
- David Leckey, Ladd Hill CPO
- Cheryl McGinnis, Clackamas

River Basin Council/Environmental Resources

- Bill Merchant, Hamlet of Beavercreek

- Brian Montecucco, Agriculture
- Doug Neely, City of Oregon City
- Les Otto, Boring CPO

- Randy Shannon, City of Damascus
- Allen Taylor, Holcomb-Outlook CPO

## Clinics: Patients can go to Woodburn

Continued from Page 1

Peterson said in a press release. "The county's role in delivering certain individual health services is changing, but our commitment to ensuring community access to sustainable primary care will continue."

Molalla Health Center was chosen as the first county clinic closure based on its size and age. "It's our smallest clinic and it's the one where we've been in the community the least amount of time," Mowery said.

The Molalla Health Center opened its doors in January, 2004.

Before it completely shuts down on June 30, the Molalla clinic will cut back on operating

hours. Starting May 2, it will no longer be open on Fridays.

Molalla Health Center patients will receive a notice of the closure by mail. Salud Medical Center in Woodburn, operated by the nonprofit Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic, is prepared to take on patients from Molalla.

"We will communicate with patients," Mowery said. "They can establish themselves as new patients in Woodburn or they can come to our Oregon City clinic."

Staff at the Molalla Clinic said they could not comment on the closure.

"There will be minimal staff impact and the plan is to move the majority of staff to other

clinics as we close Molalla," Mowery said.

The Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program services will still be available to Molalla residents through the Oregon City Health Clinic on Beavercreek Road until that clinic's closure in two to three years. Decisions on how to continue the WIC program for local residents after the Oregon City closure have not yet been made, Mowery said.

"We are committed to making sure that services are provided," Mowery said. "We are committed to doing this as seamlessly as possible although I assume there will be some bumps along the way."

### Molalla Pioneer

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