Vancouver

Free dental care will be offered to uninsured children Feb. 9

Dental Health Day on Feb. 9 at Clark College will offer free care for children whose families are uninsured and cannot pay.

The Saturday session will be from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Clark College dental hygiene clinic.

The clinic is on the west side of the campus and can be reached by East Reserve Street, with parking in the Brown Parking 1 lot.

Volunteers will offer screenings, X-rays, fillings, extractions, fluoride treatments, sealants and screenings to children 1 to 19. They will not do cleanings.

Appointments are required; call Clark County Public Health at 360-397-8020 or 360-397-8000, ext. 7371.

Care will be provided by local dentists, hygienists and assistants. They will be helped by Clark County Skills Center dental assisting students, Clark College dental hygiene students and Oregon Health & Science University dental students. International students from Clark will help interpret.

The event is a partnership of the Clark County Dental Society, Clark College, Clark County Public Health, Free Clinic of Southwest Washington, Greater Southwest Washington Dental Hygiene Society, Ronald McDonald House Charities and Washington Oral Health Foundation.

Last year, 162 volunteers provided $64,000 in treatment to nearly 300 children.

Work by Clark College’s art department faculty is on display Jan. 15-Feb. 10 in the college’s Archer Gallery, 1933 Fort Vancouver Way, Vancouver. The exhibit includes ceramics, paintings, mixed media, drawings, metal work and video. A reception opens the show from 4 to 6 p.m. Jan. 16. The gallery is open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fridays, and 1 to 5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Call 360-992-2246 or visit clark.edu.

Our readers’ views

Tutor for literacy program

The problem facing immigrants who can’t read or write in their native languages, reported Jan. 7, “English is a challenge for the illiterate,” is a challenge we face right here in our community and in the Adult Literacy Program at Clark College.

We have learners from all over the world, some of whom struggle not only with speaking English but with basic literacy. They might never have attended school, having had to work instead to help support their families. Political turmoil might have disrupted the educational system in their countries. A few cultures don’t even have a written language.

And sadly, we have people born in this country with minimal reading and writing skills.

If you’re interested in helping people learn to read and write English, contact the Adult Literacy Program (lab@clark.edu, 992-2750). We will have a training next month to prepare volunteer tutors.

Madeleine von Laue

Vancouver

A story worth telling

Vancouver’s Gypsy Alderman is a prime example that it’s never too late to chase a dream.

Alderman, 60, is a student at Clark College and a member of Phi Theta Kappa, an international honor society for two-year colleges.

One of Alderman’s short fiction stories was among 20 selected from more than 1,000 submissions for the literary anthology published each year by the honor society.

Placing among the top three earned her a $500 scholarship. “It’s a sports story,” Alderman said of her submission. “It’s told through the voice of a young person in 1947.”

Alderman was a flight attendant for Delta Air Lines for 35 years before enrolling at Clark College in 2004.

“I had often told my son, Chancellor (Hayden), I would go to college when it was time for him to go to college,” Alderman said. “Well, when he was about 3, he was extremely worried after I told him about going to college when he did. He thought about it for a while and his response was ‘Mom, I’ll drive.’”