

More Business in Brief

Oregon, Washington tie for 29th for property taxes

LONG BEACH — Depending on where you live, property taxes can be a small inconvenience or a major burden. The average American household spends \$2,375 on property taxes for their homes each year, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, and residents of the 27 states with vehicle property taxes shell out another \$441. Considering these figures and the rising amount of debt in America, it should come as no surprise that more than \$14 billion in property taxes go unpaid each year, the National Tax Lien Association has found.

Which states have the largest property tax load, and what should residents keep in mind when it comes to meeting and minimizing their tax obligations? In search of answers, the financial services firm WalletHub (<https://wallethub.com>) analyzed the 50 states and the District of Columbia in terms of real-estate and vehicle property taxes.

Washington and Oregon are tied for 29th place in terms of average real estate property tax rate — effectively 1.01%, according to WalletHub. Taking differing property values into account, this means the owner of a median-price home in Washington pays around \$3,142 a year and Oregonians pay \$2,890. Neither state levies a property tax on vehicles.

New Jersey has the highest average property taxes — \$8,104 a year on a median-price home.

Astoria Rotary celebrates 100 years of service

ASTORIA — Rotary International, one of the world's first service organizations, was founded in 1905 in Chicago. With now more than 1.2 million Rotarians in 32,000 clubs over 200 countries, it is one of the largest nonprofit service organizations in the world.

The Rotary Club of Astoria was the third club to be recognized to the Rotary International membership in the state of Oregon on Feb. 1, 1920 making this the club's 100th year.

Over those 100 years of service, the professional and business leaders of the Astoria Rotary have participated in the Rotary Youth Exchange Program and funded scholarships for students in the Astoria School District. They have worked on service projects including the Peoples Park, John Warren Field, bridge and cabin work at Camp Kiwanilong, presented dictionaries to every fourth-grader in the Astoria School District and many more projects to better local life.

Astoria Rotarians meet Mondays at noon at the Astoria Elks Lodge's second floor dining room, 453 11th Street. See www.astoriarotary.org for more information.

Cannery Pier invests in multi-million dollar renovation

ASTORIA — The Cannery Pier Hotel & Spa is undertaking a multi-million dollar renovation to enhance its unique riverfront experience for luxury travelers, the hotel said in a press release. The property will remain open throughout the renovation, but due to the disruption anticipated in the spa, the hotel has suspended spa treatments.

"The hotel renovation plan is aligned with our company's commitment to providing exceptional guest service and an unforgettable experience. We are excited about the future of the Cannery Pier Hotel and Spa and the new offerings and amenities we plan to deliver to create a unique guest experience," said Don West, Cannery Pier's general manager.

"We are committed to making the hotel and spa the best Northwest luxury experience of its kind. We are working with a variety of consultants to provide the best recommendations as we focus on providing an unmatched guest experience," West said.

The renovation involves upgrades to the spa, lobby and guest check-in; a refresh of guest room design and furnishings; addition of a full bar; an expansion of the kitchen; and improving curbside appeal on the drive over the pier.

The hotel renovation will take place toward the end of the year, with a targeted completion on New Year's Eve.

Warrenton TLC Branch hosts grand opening

WARRENTON — TLC, a division of Fibre Federal Credit Union, held its Warrenton branch grand opening on Feb. 13 at 1771 SE Ensign Lane.

The Astoria-Warrenton Chamber partnered with TLC for the ribbon cutting ceremony. About 80 guests attended the event, including local business members, chamber staff, and TLC staff and board members. Guests enjoyed refreshments from Sage Blue Catering and Frite & Scoop. Red Leaf Coffee, who will open an in-branch coffee bar this spring, served samples of coffee and pastries.

"The event had a 'Spread the Love' theme, in the spirit of the credit union's mission to give back to its communities," TLC said in a press release. TLC originally pledged to donate \$5 to the Warrenton Food Pantry for every person who attended the event. Shannon Cahoon, TLC community development manager, says the credit union will round up to a \$1,000 donation in addition to the non-perishable food items donated at the door. "The Warrenton Food Pantry is a great community partner and they're doing amazing work helping to meet the needs of our local families. We were thrilled to include them in our grand opening celebration and wanted to spread some extra love to them, to help further their mission."

The Warrenton branch is TLC's third branch in Clatsop County and the 15th across the Oregon coast and Lower Columbia region.

Pacific County house prices up 24% this February

LONG BEACH — Pacific County's February housing market reflected higher prices for fewer listings.

There were a total of 115 active listings for single-family houses in the county in February, a decline of 35.4% from February 2019, according to the Northwest Multiple Listing Service. That includes 38 houses that newly came on the market in February.

Housing prices experienced one of the greatest median gains in the 23 Washington counties served by NWMLS. The median February sales price in Pacific County was \$210,000, up 23.9% compared to February 2019. Prices were up 8.6% in the NWMLS area as a whole. Pacific County prices remain far below the regional median, which climbed to \$455,000 in February.

Due to the limited housing supply, the number of closings in the county 17.9% this February compared to a year earlier.

There were three condos sold in Pacific County in February, achieving a median of \$172,750, a 103% price increase compared to February 2019.



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