

Readers' choice awards

BEST BOOKSTORE

Lucy's Books

Astoria, Oregon

Runner-up: Time Enough Books, Ilwaco, Washington

Honorable Mention: Beach Books, Seaside

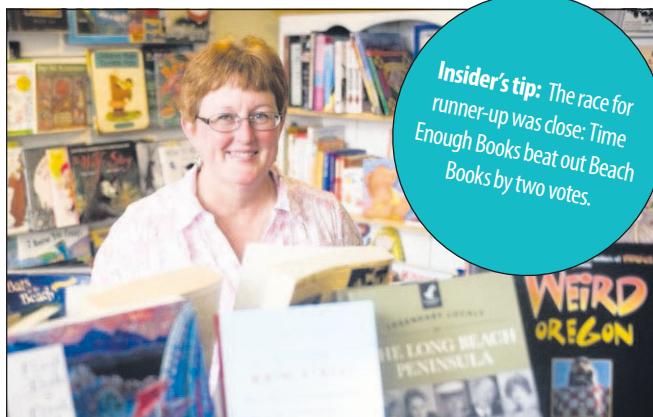


Photo by Alex Pajunas

Lucy's Books, owned by Lisa Reid, has been named Best Bookstore.

By RYAN HUME

The coast is awash in good bookstores, but for Coast Weekend readers one stood out from the pack again this year: Lucy's Books took home the glory of Best Bookstore, a title it's enjoyed for the last six-plus years.

Owner Lisa Reid, the former library assistant at Astoria High School who bought Lucy's back in June 2013, has been surprised and grateful for how welcoming and supportive the community has been. While small, the shelves of the store are expertly stocked with a wide variety of new and classic titles in a number of genres, including a section devoted to local authors.

But it might just be Reid's commitment to customer ser-

vice that has readers singing her praise.

"I'm happy to help," Reid said. "Whether people are looking for a book recommendation, dining suggestions, community events information, directions to local attractions or 10 reasons why Astoria is a great place to live."

Reid hopes to further foster community outreach in 2015. She began a book club last August, which meets upstairs on a Saturday afternoon once a month. Beginning in March, Lucy's will also host author events during the Second Saturday Art Walks in downtown Astoria.

Lucy's books is located at 348 12th St. in the heart of downtown Astoria.

BEST COFFEE & BEST CUSTOMER SERVICE

3 Cups Coffee House

Astoria, Oregon

By DWIGHT CASWELL

Leah Cristaldi, barista extraordinaire, says of 3 Cups Coffee House, "Our philosophy is that by the third cup you're family. We take that very seriously."

Indeed, walking into 3 Cups, under the Astoria Bridge in the old Finnish Meat Market building, is a lot like entering the home of a large and busy family. There may be half a dozen people playing chess, kids in the corner by the bookshelves, and people working on their computers or simply reading while enjoying the famous Thundermuck coffee.

It's friendly and a little cluttered, like a friend's big kitchen. That is, if you can watch your friend roasting coffee in a large machine at the back of the kitchen.

Cristaldi says, "We embrace making people's days better and tastier with good coffee and good company."

And people respond. Cristaldi has seen a blind date at 3 Cups turn into a marriage. Children have taken their first steps there, and grandparents bring their



Photo by Dwight Caswell

Barista Leah Cristaldi serves up a latte at 3 Cups Coffee House, which won Best Customer Service and Best Coffee in this year's Readers' Choice Awards.

grandkids. Tourists come by multiple times in a day, perhaps because it's nice to feel at home even when you're on vacation.

Cristaldi puts the finishing touches on a cappuccino and hands it to a customer who has become a friend. "There's a great family atmosphere," she says.

3 Cups Coffee House is located at 279 W. Marine Drive and is open from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. For more info, call 503-325-7487.

BEST COFFEE

Runner-up: Street 14, Astoria

Honorable Mention: Long Beach Coffee Roasters

BEST CUSTOMER SERVICE

Runner-up: The Depot, Seaview, Washington

Honorable Mention: Astoria Coffeehouse & Bistro

BEST HOME IMPROVEMENT STORE

City Lumber

Astoria, Oregon

Runner-up: Home Depot, Warrenton

Honorable Mention: Utzinger's True Value Hardware, Astoria

By DWIGHT CASWELL

City Lumber is the oldest lumberyard in Oregon, and a hardware store that has kept up with the times. Founded in 1904 as City Lumber and Box Company, the store was purchased by Jerry and Nancy Newenhof in 1975. Their sons, Greg and Jeff, run the store today.

City Lumber may look small from the street, but take a short walk out back and you'll see how large the store really is; lumber and hardware fill every corner of every space in several buildings.

The store has been part of the Do It Best Co-op since 2006, enabling City Lumber to provide over 70,000 items out

of warehouse and to special order almost anything — at competitive prices.

The most attractive aspect of the store is not the selection and price, though. It's the people.

You don't have to spend half an hour looking for someone; staff is almost always available.

And they're knowledgeable. When you ask a question you get advice from someone who knows what he or she is talking about.

If that's not enough to precipitate the accolades of Coast Weekend readers, here's the clincher: free popcorn by the cash registers.

City Lumber is located at 2142 Commercial St. For more info, call 503-325-4511 or visit citylumber.com



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