



# THE DAILY ASTORIAN

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ONE DOLLAR

## PEACEFUL RETURN



JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian

Keiko Ziak unfolds a Yosegaki Hinomaru on a table in her home in Naselle, Wash. The Yosegaki Hinomaru are common flags covered in well-wishes by a Japanese soldier's family and friends. The soldiers carried these flags with them into battle during World War II. The flags were taken by American soldiers as prizes after battles and brought back to the United States after the war. Rex and Keiko Ziak are working with others to try and return these Yosegaki Hinomaru back to families in Japan.

## Rex and Keiko Ziak spearhead effort to reunite treasured flags with Japanese war descendants

By KYLE SPURR  
The Daily Astorian

Before sending their young men to serve in the military during World War II, Japanese families prepared small flags signed by family members and friends for the soldiers.

Each Japanese soldier carried at least one flag with them onto the battlefields.

Once they were discovered by American soldiers, the flags became highly prized treasures of war and were brought back by the thousands as souvenirs, according to local historian and author Rex Ziak of Naselle, Wash.

"Capturing a flag is one of the highest accomplishments on a battlefield," Ziak said. "It's hardwired into their heads that if you get a flag it's an amazing accomplishment."

Now 70 years later, many American veterans and their families are realizing the souvenirs are actually personal items that belong to Japanese families. In most cases, the flags represent the only surviving trace of the young men.

Individual efforts have been made by veterans in recent years to return the flags, called Yosegaki Hinomaru.

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Submitted photo

In this photo, a Japanese soldier is seen with his family and two Yosegaki Hinomaru before the soldier was sent off to fight in World War II.

### RETURNING CEREMONY

OBON and the 41st Infantry Division are hosting a returning ceremony at the Barbey Center at the Columbia River Maritime Museum in Astoria at 2 p.m. Monday. The ceremony is the first official transfer of battlefield souvenir flags from American veterans back to Japanese families.

## Pendleton statue fight gets physical

By PHIL WRIGHT  
EO Media Group

PENDLETON — A scuffle over decorations on Pendleton's Jackson Sundown statue has led a couple to petition the City Council for its approval to continue dressing up the bronze.

So far 29 people, including the couple who started the petition, have signed their support.

Pamela Harmon, 50, and her husband, Tim Becker, 39, live on the 100 block of Pendleton's South Main Street above the bronze of Sundown, born Waaya-Tonah-Toesits-Kahn,



E.J. HARRIS — EO Media Group

Pamela Harmon and her husband, Tim Becker, have been decorating the bronze statue of Jackson Sundown on Main Street in Pendleton since Halloween. The couple are now petitioning the city to allow them to continue decorating the statue.

the Nez Perce man who at the age of 53 won the Pendleton Round-Up in 1916. Harmon said she is a fourth-generation descendant of Sundown's, and she and her husband first decorated the statue last Halloween.

"We got a huge response," Harmon said. "And we did it again for Christmas and then for St. Paddy's Day."

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## Strip club sign causes a stir

Suggestive, but Annie's sign is protected as free speech

By DERRICK DePLEDGE  
The Daily Astorian

A bawdy new sign for Annie's Saloon is causing a stir, but the advertising is legally protected free speech.

The Astoria strip club's sign depicts the silhouette of a long-haired woman bending over suggestively to resemble the shape of an 'A.' It replaces a softer image of a blond-haired woman lounging with her head resting on her arms.

Linda Middleton, who owns Annie's, described the new red-white-and-black sign as a "cartoon-type figure" that will better illuminate the saloon.

"It's just a lady," she said. "And she's making an 'A' shape — like, you know, the letter 'A' — for Annie's."

Middleton obtained a sign permit from the city in January that reflected what is known as a "face change" to the old sign.

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## St. Helens dock redo not on state funding list

By PETER WONG  
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Six transportation projects — but not a much-debated dock renovation that was a proxy in a wider debate over coal exports to Asia — will share \$7 million in state money.

The Oregon Transportation Commission voted 3-1 Thursday for the allocation of lottery-backed bonds under Connect Oregon, which funds projects other than highways and bridges.

But the list omits the top-ranked project, which proposed \$2 million for renovation of a World War II-era dock at Port Westward near Clatskanie. The Port of St. Helens proposed to match it with \$3 million to develop it for use by ocean-going ships.

"These are the kind of projects that are going to revitalize rural Oregon," said commission member Susan Morgan, also a Douglas County commissioner, who was the lone dissenter.

"I think that to deny the people in Columbia County the opportunity to do this — to add to the wealth and strengthen the social structure of their county — is a negative way to go."

The project ranked high last summer, when the commission dropped proposed funding for it on a 3-2 vote. Then-Gov. John Kitzhaber removed the commission chairwoman, Catherine Mater of Corvallis, five months later.

A subsequent review by a panel ranked the project atop a list of 31 considered for almost \$7 million remaining in Connect Oregon money.

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