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WHAT A DRAG!

‘Gentlemen Janes’ raise money for historic district



JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian

Marco Davis, performing as Daylight Cums, is showered with praise and money, while dancing to the song “Big Spender” at the Jane Barnes Revue at the Astoria Event Center Saturday. The money from the event went to the Astoria Downtown Historic District Association.

Annual fashion show celebrates Astoria’s wicked past

By DERRICK DePLEDGE
The Daily Astorian

Cole Jannusch sells insurance for a living.

But on Saturday night, he slipped into a tight-fitting sleeveless dress and garter, donned a wig, cowboy hat and brown boots, and sashayed down the catwalk at the Astoria Event Center to Shania Twain’s “Whose Bed Have Your Boots Been Under?”

As “Montana Duke” wriggled, tipsy women, including a few dressed as men, stuffed dollar bills into his black bra.

The gender-bending fashion show — the Jane Barnes Revue — is a fundraiser for the Astoria Downtown Historic District Association. Now in its fifth year, the revue turns businessmen and community leaders like Jannusch into drag queens for an evening of tawdry humor.

Dulcye Taylor, the president of the historic district association’s board and owner of Old Town Framing, who emceed dressed as a man called “Double Cross,” praised the “brave and beautiful men who decide to put on a dress and makeup and walk down the catwalk so you can tuck money in their underwear and laugh your hineys off.”



JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian

Audience members stuff money into Chad Hartley’s dress as he performs as Cedar Patch.

The theme is a jaunty nod to Barnes, a barmaid from Portsmouth, England, believed to be the first European woman to arrive in Oregon after securing passage as a seamstress — and more likely mistress — aboard the Isaac Todd. Described as a

flaxen-haired, blue-eyed temptress with an extravagant wardrobe, her splash in what was then Fort George in the spring and summer of 1814 was memorable for her rumored dalliances. She was convinced to leave after her spurning of a Chinook prince

posed security fears for the fort.

Barnes, who later married and had children with a British mariner, made another brief appearance along the Columbia River in 1818.

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Environmental lobbyists capitalize on majorities

By HILLARY BORRUD
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Environmental lobbyists are on a roll this year in Oregon.

They notched a big win early in the session when lawmakers passed legislation to make the state’s low-carbon fuel standard permanent. Now, lobbyists for a coalition of groups have turned their focus to bills that would require utilities to stop using power from coal plants by 2025.

That work isn’t cheap.

In 2014, a broad spectrum of environmental groups spent nearly \$470,000 on lobbying in Salem, according to EO Media Group/Pamplin Media Group Capital Bureau’s analysis of state lobbying records.

The organizations range from small groups that promote water quality and wildlife issues, to industry organizations that seek incentives for renewable energy and efficiency projects.

Still, spending by the environmental lobby is low compared with other industries. A single energy interest group — the Western States Petroleum Association, which opposed the low-carbon fuel standard — spent just under \$360,000 on lobbying in Oregon last year. All interest groups reported spending a total of nearly \$27 million on lobbying in the state last year.

“We definitely don’t spend nearly as much money on lobbying,” said Christy Splitt, a registered lobbyist and coordinator for a coalition of environmental groups called the Oregon Conservation Network. “I’m not going out to dinner with legislators, or whatever other people are able to do, spending money on lobbying. I think most of what we spend on lobbying is going to pay people’s salaries.”

The environmental lobby does have several advantages, including strength in numbers and strong support from Democratic lawmakers this session. At least 55 registered lobbyists represent environmental interests in Oregon, and most are employees of the groups they represent and do other work in addition to lobbying. In addition, Splitt said there are pro-environment majorities in both chambers.

Environmentalists did not always enjoy such a strong position in Oregon. The Oregon Conservation Network formed 20 years ago at a time when environmentalists spent a lot of time fighting bills aimed at undermining “good” legislation passed in the 1970s, Splitt said. Republicans had control of the House from 1990 to 2006, and the Senate from 1994 to 2002.

“I think folks were feeling pretty frustrated with bad bills passing,” and decided to create a coalition to focus on shared priorities, Splitt said. “The group organized at the time pretty much played defense.”

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Having fun helping children in need



Shelby Mogenson is president of the Assistance League of the Columbia Pacific.

KYLE SPURR — The Daily Astorian

Shelby Mogenson, president of the Assistance League of the Columbia Pacific, describes her work with the nonprofit as helping local children in need with some of her closest friends.

The Columbia Pacific chapter, based in Astoria, is part of the national nonprofit Assistance League dedicated to programs that primarily benefit children.

“It has been a very popular organization,” Mogenson said. “It’s the only one we know of in Clatsop County that clothes kids the way that we do. We buy new clothes for the kids.”

The local chapter, formed in 2011, has 134 members, including state Sen. Betsy John-

son, D-Scappoose. It’s one of 120 chapters nationwide, and one of the largest in the region.

“We have retired nurses, retired teachers, we don’t have many young people because they are working, but we do have a few,” Mogenson said. “It’s for everybody.”

Mogenson, who is serving her one-year term as president until the end of May, said the group’s signature program is Operation School Bell, which provides new clothes for Clatsop County school children, K-12, in need.

Counselors and principals at each school select the children for the program. Last year, the program clothed 594 children in Clatsop County.



Mogenson, who works mostly with the Warrenton schools, said the children’s reactions to receiving the clothes are priceless. One girl asked if Mogenson would leave the tag on the clothes so she could show her sister

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