

Revue: Saturday’s event raised about \$14,000

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Immortalized as part of Astoria’s wicked past, Barnes has been both mocked and celebrated by historians as the “first lady of Oregon.” Whatever the truth of her story, she most surely was more fetching than the “Gentlemen Jane” impostors Saturday night.

The revue — which raised about \$14,000, according to the historic district association — featured a string of impossibly named characters, with many in need of dance lessons, another stiff drink, or a shave.

“Midnight Dawn” — Seth Tichenor, a philosophy instructor at Clatsop Community College — was a futuristic black, purple and silver techno mess who rocked to “I Fink U Freaky” by Die Antwoord.

“Danessa Rosewood” — Jorge Gutierrez, the executive director of the Lower Columbia Hispanic Council — was resplendent in a strapless wedding gown, veil — and full beard — as he cavorted to “Then He Kissed Me” by The Crystals.

“Opal Sunrise” — Brad Blaser of Fort George Brewery and Public House — shimmied in a teal number to “Single Ladies” by Beyonce and then bent over to flash pink underwear that read: “Let’s Do It.”

Not all the performers were novices. The Brownsmead Flats, in drag, opened the revue as “The Brownsmead Floozies.” Marco Davis, a chef at The Columbian Cafe and an accomplished dancer and drag queen, stunned as “Daylight Cums” to the song “Big Spender.”

“We live in a crazy town that is so open-minded and progressive,” Davis said afterward. “And you get here for moments like this and you realize how lucky we are.”

Jannusch, a Farmers Insurance agent, was what Taylor referred to as a “catwalk virgin.” In the weeks before the revue, he had some trepidation. But he said the experience turned out better than he thought it might.

“I don’t consider myself an attractive woman, so it was kind of weird having them put money down my dress,” Jannusch joked. “Yes, it was awkward.”



Photos by JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian
Rodney Merrill, performing as Taffy Ammonoosuc, dances down the stage during the Jane Barnes Revue at the Astoria Event Center Saturday. The money from the event went to the Astoria Downtown Historic District Association.



Brad Smithart, performing as Lady Terrar, reacts while being motorboated by an audience member during the Jane Barnes Revue at the Astoria Event Center Saturday.



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ABOVE: As the Jane Barnes Revue came to a close, a dance party broke out on the catwalk. LEFT: Jorge Gutierrez, performing as Danessa Rosewood, dances in a wedding dress during the Jane Barnes Revue at the Astoria Event Center Saturday.

Lobby: ‘Coal to clean’ bills are next focus for group

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A decade ago, the coalition decided to stop playing defense and began proposing more new legislation. Rhett Lawrence, conservation director for the Oregon chapter of the Sierra Club and a registered lobbyist for the group, said coalition members started to come up with annual lists of bills they could agree upon called “priorities for a healthy Oregon.”

The environmental lobby’s top priorities today are two bills they describe as “coal to clean” — Senate Bill 477 and House Bill 2729.

Both would require utilities to stop generating or purchasing electricity from coal power plants by 2025. The Senate version would also require companies to replace coal power with electricity from sources “at least 90 percent cleaner than coal-derived generating resources,” according to a legislative summary.

Splitt said other priorities this year include a bill to require private forestland owners to provide notice to the state and keep other records of their use of pesticides, a bill to appropriate money for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to spend on conservation and legislation that would allow the state to end a mandate to generate revenue from timber harvests on some public forests.

Environmental groups are also pushing for the



Pamplin Media Group
Activist protest against coal trains in the file photo. Environmental groups are taking advantage of Democratic majorities in both houses of the Oregon Legislature to advance their agenda this session.

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passage of legislation that would preserve or create incentives for a range of solar projects, from residential to utility scale facilities. Lawrence said solar energy “still needs a little bit of a hand in the next step in putting it on a level playing field with fossil fuel.”

Splitt said environmental groups also want money for public transit to be included in any funding package for street maintenance

and other transportation projects. The outlook for that package is unclear, since Republicans stopped participating in talks after Democrats passed the low-carbon fuel bill.

Some groups lobbying on the coal power bills and other environmental issues are not strictly environmental groups.

Bob Jenks, executive director of the Citizens Utility Board of Oregon, said the group supports the

coal legislation because governments will eventually regulate carbon emissions and ratepayers could save money if utilities begin to more aggressively reduce carbon now.

“We’ve got to work hard because we don’t have the money,” said Jenks, who is not the utility board’s registered lobbyist but was in Salem to testify in favor of the coal bills on Wednesday. “But we’ve got people. We can organize people.”

Mogenson: Columbia Pacific chapter relies completely on grants and fundraisers

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the clothes were brand new. Another boy joyfully jumped down the hall in his new Spider-Man tennis shoes.

“It’s so cute,” Mogenson said. “They are so excited.”

Almost always the children are not embarrassed, but rather excited and love receiving their new clothes, Mogenson said. They often check with their counselor every day between the time they are measured for new clothes and the time they receive the clothes.

“Having appropriate school clothes helps the kids with fitting in and with their self-esteem and we think it helps keep them in school,” Mogenson said.

The Columbia Pacific chapter relies completely on grants and fundraisers. The nonprofit’s budget is about \$60,000, or about \$100 for each of the 600 children that are clothed each year.

The groups hosts a variety of fundraising events throughout the year.

On Super Bowl Sunday in February, the group hosts “Accessorize with Assistance League,” a large one-day sale with thousands of gently used items.

In May, the annual “Golf Ball Drop” is held at the Astoria Golf Club. A helicopter drops 2,000 golf balls that are played for prizes.

In the fall, locals open their homes for the Home and Chef Tour. The public is invited to tour local homes while enjoying appetizers from local chefs.

Other programs include the athletic participation program, where funds are provided for sports fees and gear, and the

duffel bag program, where foster children are given bags filled with items they can call their own.

Next month, the local chapter will host Cinderella’s Closet, a program that provides more than 200 gowns for high school girls to use during their school dances.

The chapter also hosts shopping nights during the year for middle and high school students to pick out their own clothes. One of the nights is held at the Nike outlet store in Seaside and features a DJ and pizza.

Plans are in the works to add even more events in the future.

“We are trying to get our fundraising up so we can help more kids,” Mogenson said. “We are thinking about a new event for next year.”

As the Columbia Pacific Chapter continues to grow in Clatsop County, the group is always actively looking for more volunteers. A membership meeting will be held at 11:30 a.m. May 7 at the Astoria Golf Club for those interested in joining.

The chapter meets at 5:30 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month at Englund Marine & Industrial Supply in Astoria. Those interested in donating or joining, can visit www.assistanceleaguecp.org or contact the chapter at PO Box 596, Astoria, OR 97103.

Mogenson joined the Assistance League four years ago after a friend kept telling her about it.

“Now all my closest friends are doing it,” Mogenson said. “It is such a great idea for people if they are new to the town. I have met so many people working in this organization.”

— Kyle Spurr