

Johnson sees funding for levee projects as session success

Bill could help cities such as Warrenton

By KYLE SPURR
The Daily Astorian

At the end of another session of the Oregon Legislature, state Sen. Betsy Johnson witnessed a fair share of partisan and personal animosity, but also came away with some positive surprises.

Johnson, D-Scappoose, was the chief sponsor on 26 bills this session, several of which affected the Oregon Coast.

She described the passing of her bill — Senate Bill 306 — which provides funds for levee projects, as a big success for communities such as Warrenton.

It allows the Oregon Infrastructure Finance Authority to provide financial assistance for levee projects that contribute to improvement, expansion or repair of infrastructure systems and are essential for use or development of farm, industrial or commercial land.

The bill, along with its sister legislation House Bill 2436, comes out of changes to flood control policies after hurricanes Sandy and Katrina. The legislation picks up where the federal government left off, Johnson said.

“As long as I have the privilege of being a legislator, I will be back reminding the state we now have an obligation to help with this,” the senator said.

Another bill with local ties Johnson introduced this year — Senate Bill 11 — did not pass. The bill,

brought on behalf of Astoria developer and Pier 39 owner Floyd Holcom, would have exempted privately owned structures on state-owned submerged and submersible lands that were constructed prior to 1916 from lease requirements.

Building owners over state-owned navigable waters often have to obtain costly leases from the Department of State Lands.

Despite the bill dying, Johnson said, the discussions during session should cause the department to rewrite some of its rules to better accommodate such historical structures.



State Sen. Betsy Johnson

“I think the instances of Floyd and many others like him has caused the agency to realize they are not really equipped with their current set of rules to realize the transformation of some of the working waterfronts,” she said.

Pier 39 is one of the region’s oldest waterfront structures. Holcom previously told The Daily Astorian he could get a lower lease rate by having his building on the National Register of Historic Places, but the designation would restrict his ability to renovate the property.

“What we are trying to do is revitalize the economy,” Johnson said. “DSL needs new tools.”

Statewide, Johnson was pleased with the Legislature funding water projects in eastern Oregon, an effort she helped see through.

“I do a lot of my best work out of the limelight and I worked that water thing like crazy, and when it was funded I was just delighted,” she said.

Breaking ground



Astoria Mayor Arline LaMear, left, and Larry Allen, president of the Astoria Senior Center, center, react after Allen accidentally spilled dirt on the mayor during a groundbreaking ceremony Thursday morning. At right is Mike Morgan, the interim city planner. The senior center will undergo a \$1.7 million renovation.

JOSHUA BESSEX
The Daily Astorian

Kitchen upgrade leads to new cooking classes

By ANDREW R. TONRY
EO Media Group

CANNON BEACH — Last spring Lisa Kerr had an idea to improve Tolovana Hall: cooking classes.

But as coordinator of Tolovana Arts Colony, the nonprofit group that manages the hall and hosts a myriad of classes there, Kerr knew there wasn’t nearly enough money to return the long-forgotten kitchen to functioning shape, much less to code. In search of help, she turned to Cannon Beach.

“I wrote a proposal to the city to fix the kitchen,” Kerr said. “And they did it.”

The construction — including a stainless steel countertop and hood, repair of a commercial-grade Wolf range, a new dishwasher, fixes in the plumbing and more — was initially expected to cost \$11,000, though Kerr said the final figures went beyond that.

“The city was incredible,” Kerr added. “They were really great about getting that kitchen up to speed. I was really impressed. They did a really great job.”

The renovation was completed in May.

Alongside the more technical repairs and installations, Kerr and members of the Tolovana Arts Colony board cleaned, painted and outfitted the kitchen with pots, pans, and other culinary utensils.

A little more than a year after the idea popped into Kerr’s head, the Arts Colony is fixing to begin those cooking classes.

A series of three are planned for summer. LaNicia Williams will host the inaugural, on Friday, sharing her love of soul food. She will teach students how to make collard greens, macaroni and cheese, combread and her flagship fried chicken.

On Friday, July 31, Hank Johnson will delve into French cuisine, and Monday, Aug. 31, Mirian Luna will teach attendees to make tamales. Classes will be limited to 10 students.

Williams is particularly excited to kick off the series. Since moving to the North Coast last September, she’s found kinship with the Arts Colony.

“I believe in their mission and I believe in their values,” Williams said. “I have connected with most of the people on the board.” She’s also cooked for them.

Kerr first tasted Williams’s food when Williams provided food at an Arts Colony event, a cast party following a production of Teatro Milagro.

“When LaNicia catered our party everyone was in heaven,” Kerr said. “Her fried chicken is just amazing.”

Similar sentiment is echoed around the North Coast, as Williams is known to show up at public events bearing trays of her fried chicken and corn-

bread, which she hands out freely.

The owner of Manzanita’s Lighthouse bar and restaurant took one bite and invited Williams to come in and cook on Sundays. A few short weeks in, the event has been a hit.

“They are noticing that different people are coming to the Lighthouse now that I’m there,” Williams said. “People are coming to the Lighthouse from Astoria to Tillamook for my food. I sold out in two hours last Sunday.”

Kerr too made the short trip south for another taste.

“I remember one night I took home some mac and cheese home from the Lighthouse,” Kerr said with a giggle. “I’m embarrassed to say that I took home a tub to share with the whole family and I ate the whole thing.”

OBITUARY

Gary Lee Pritchard Astoria

May 2, 1943 — June 26, 2015



Gary Lee Pritchard, 72, of Astoria, passed away Friday, June 26, 2015, in Portland.

Gary was born May 2, 1943, to Edgar Joseph Pritchard and Norma Jane Canada Pritchard. Gary grew up in upstate New York. Gary’s family remembers stories of him snow skiing behind an old Ford, pheasant hunting, and working summers at the air strip where his dad flew Air Force jets.

Gary enlisted in the Air Force and was stationed in Naselle, Wash. While in Naselle, he met his wife, Susan, from Astoria.

After his term in the service, he worked on a variety of jobs throughout his life which included working on the Megler Bridge; for Druckers Company, building centrifuges; commercial fishing; and being a maintenance electrician at 39th Street seafood cannery in Astoria. Gary eventually owned and operated Portway Machine Works, working with his son, Mike, till his retirement. He then worked at Columbia

Steel Company to the present time.

His hobbies included hunting, especially duck hunting; racing dirt track stock cars; and working in his yard at home.

Survivors include his wife, Susan Pritchard of Astoria; son, Mike Pritchard of Astoria; granddaughters,

Allyson and Laurel Pritchard of Astoria; brother and sister-in-law, Mike and Candy Pritchard of Georgia; stepmom, Margaret Pritchard; sister and brother-in-law, Janet and Gary Mayberry of Arkansas; sister, Jo Pritchard of Minnesota; and two sisters-in-law, Janice O’Brien and Carol Arthur, both of Astoria.

A celebration of life gathering will be held Wednesday, July 15, 2015, at 12 noon at the Port of Astoria Building, No. 10 Pier 1, Suite 209, Astoria, Ore.

Caldwell’s Luce-Layton Mortuary is in charge of arrangements. Please sign our online guest book at www.caldwellsmortuary.com



Gary Pritchard

State reaches tentative deal with AFSCME

By PETER WONG
Capital Bureau

SALEM — The state has reached a tentative two-year agreement with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, the union that represents the second-largest group of state workers.

The agreement was reached late Tuesday after a 14-hour bargaining session.

It is likely to set the pattern for other labor settlements, although this one applies only to 3,000 AFSCME-represented workers outside the Department of Corrections.

Key provisions, as announced by the union Wednesday:

- Cost-of-living adjustments totaling 5 percent over the contract; 2.25 percent

on Dec. 1, and 2.75 percent again on Dec. 1, 2016.

- Health insurance plans with options of a 95-5 percent cost split for employees who choose the more expensive of the two plans, or 99-1 percent for those choosing the plan of less cost. Employees once had fully paid state insurance, but cost-sharing has been instituted.

- The day after Thanksgiving is now a paid holiday for AFSCME-represented state employees.

“This agreement makes particular advancements on health care issues and equitable wage increases,” said Ken Allen, the union’s executive director and chief negotiator. “We will wholeheartedly recommend passage to our membership.”

The ratification process will start in about two weeks.

Negotiations are continuing with the 3,000 AFSCME-represented employees in the Department of Corrections, and with other unions, including Local 503 of Service Employees International Union, which represents more than 16,000 state workers. SEIU also represents workers at Oregon’s public universities.

The two-year budget sets aside \$120 million for pay and benefit increases. Contracts are negotiated between the Department of Administrative Services and the unions. Lawmakers release the money through the Emergency Board, which meets between sessions, but have no other role in the process.

The Capital Bureau is a collaboration between EO Media Group and Pamplin Media Group.

For online updates:
dailyastorian.com

WANTED
Alder and Maple Saw Logs & Standing Timber
Northwest Hardwoods • Longview, WA
Contact: Steve Axtell • 360-430-0885 or John Anderson • 360-269-2500

Antiques By Renée
Linens, Jewelry, vintage hand bags, furniture and many more lovely treasures!
40 NW Birch Avenue • Warrenton, Oregon
Open Fridays, 10-3 or call for an appt. 503.997.1066

PLEASE ADOPT A PET!
Patti
Senior tortoiseshell adult. To get the full value of joy, you must have someone with whom to share it. (See her on Facebook too.)
www.dogsncats.org
CLATSOP COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER • 861-PETS
1315 SE 19th St. • Warrenton | Tues-Sat 12-4pm
THIS SPACE SPONSORED BY BAY BREEZE BOARDING

CAMP
TURNED AROUND
Life-changing fun!

Summer Good News Camp
July 13th - 15th
9:30 am - Noon
Children ages 4 - 12
at Lewis & Clark Bible Church
35082 Seppa Lane, Astoria

Bible lessons,
Singing,
Games, Craft
Lunch Provided

For more information:
503-325-7011

WORLD WAR II SPECIAL EVENT & 1940's Days
at Fort Stevens State Park Historic Site
WEEKEND OF JULY 18TH & 19TH
Saturday 10am-4pm | Sunday 10am-2pm

- Inviting EVERYONE to participate in 1930's-1940's home-front or civilian dress
- Ideas for home-front costumes: Civil defense, local police or sheriff officers, fire wardens, enemy aircraft spotters, Rosy the Riveter, etc. NO WEAPONS PLEASE!
- Add to the authenticity of the World War II living-history military groups that will be present.
- Civilian and home-front participants may represent nations, such as the United States, Great Britain, France and Russia.
- Participants are even encouraged to bring out an old-fashioned picnic lunch!
- Anyone wanting to display a 1930's or World War II-era vehicle is also encouraged to bring it out!

If interested in dressing up in 1930's-1940's style clothing and costumes, or displaying a vehicle, you need to call the event coordinator: Bill Lund, between July 7-18 during daytime hours at (503) 325-5783

Sponsored by FRIENDS OF OLD FORT STEVENS 1863 1947 OREGON'S DEFENDER

Hey, what are you doing Saturday Night?

SEASIDE CALVARY CHURCH
Saturday Night Church @ Seaside Calvary Church
Saturday at 7PM & Wednesday at 7PM
Corner of Ave A & Hwy 101
Across from McDonalds in Seaside