

Astoria Column reopened Saturday

The Daily Astorian

The Astoria Column, closed since May for a \$1 million restoration project, reopened to the public on Saturday.

The restoration involved the first extensive work to the landmark since 1995.

"The Astoria Column, in and of itself, is an historic treasure unique to the entire nation," Marie Laibinis, the Portland conservator who led the project, said in a statement. "What makes the Astoria Column so incredibly special is its original artwork by Italian painter Attilio Pusterla, whose sgraffito technique was very similar to that used in Italy to adorn exterior building facades."

The Friends of the Astoria Column raised \$650,000 for the project and will continue fundraising to pay for the remainder of the project, including improvements to the plaza and landscaping and energy efficient lighting.

The Column, built in 1926 to honor the region's history, attracts more than 400,000 visitors a year.

Vandals broke into the Column earlier this month and knocked over primer that caused some damage near the top but did not significantly delay completion of the work. Scaffolding came down over the past few days.

The Column is being lighted in pink at night in October to mark breast cancer awareness month.



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

The Astoria Column renovations became clearly visible as crews took down scaffolding last week.

City to update progress on Heritage Square

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The city and an environmental consultant will offer an update on the environmental assessment and cleanup of Heritage Square Tuesday night.

The public meeting, which starts at 6 p.m. at City Hall, will outline how contaminated dirt stockpiled on

the property will be removed.

A hole on the property has been an eyesore since the foundation of the former Safeway collapsed after heavy rains in 2010.

The City Council has directed city staff to study a mixed-use redevelopment project at Heritage Square that could include a new public library and housing.

A Sunday ritual ends for the season



Photos by Linh DePledge/For The Daily Astorian

The Astoria Sunday Market ended its scheduled run on Sunday. The downtown attraction, now in its 15th year, is held from May to October. Betty Stutznegger, of Astoria, arrived early to beat the crowd.



Mary Altieri and her 4-month old goat, Summer, greeting a young customer.

Eugene artist Eliot retires daily 'Stone Soup' comic strip, will continue on Sundays

'Phoebe and Her Unicorn' to take its place

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Fans of "Stone Soup" are saddened to hear that its creator, Jan Eliot of Eugene, will retire the daily comic strip Saturday. She will continue her Sunday comic panel.

"Every Monday morning, there it is, the blank paper that represents the seven comic strips that need to be created," Eliot explained. "I have reached a point in life where I'd like to be free of these daily deadlines — free to travel more, spend more time with family and friends, pursue other creative projects."

Taking her spot on The Daily Astorian Features page is "Phoebe and Her Unicorn" by Seattle-area artist Dana Claire Simpson. It tells the story of an unlikely friendship between Phoebe, a precocious 10-year-old, and Marigold, a vain unicorn. Their paths cross in the woods one day,



and nothing will ever be the same. This is a comic about childhood, friendship, magic and humor.

Simpson grew up in and around Seattle. She drew her first comic at age 5; it was called "Boo," and was about easily frightened, narcoleptic ghosts.

While attending The Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington, she was a finalist for the Scripps-Howard Cartoonist Award. During those years, she created one of the first web comic strips, "Ozy and Millie," which she would draw for 10 years, amassing a devoted cult following. She also worked as a freelance editorial cartoonist

In 2009, she won the Amazon/Universal Uclick Comic Strip Superstar Contest, which landed her a contract to develop what would become "Phoebe and Her Unicorn" for syndication.

She lives just outside Seattle, in Lakeland North with her husband and her cat.

Stone Soup was created in 1990 and syndicated by Universal Uclick since November 1995, the comic strip is available in more than 250 outlets worldwide with a dedicated following.

"For 20 years, I have held the most wonderful job in the world — making a living in art, creating a daily comic strip that I'm privileged to see published in newspapers," Eliot said. "As

someone who grew up fascinated by newspaper and magazine cartoons, it is hard to explain the private thrill I get seeing my strip on the funny page, hearing someone comment about it, receiving fan mail."

Once a single working mom herself, Eliot feels a special empathy for women struggling to raise their children and make ends meet with too little time, money and patience. She knows only too well that finding the humor in life's chal-



Jan Eliot



Dana Simpson

married, and her two daughters are grown with families of their own.

See samples of "Phoebe and Her Unicorn" at <http://bit.ly/1jUmiSc> or <http://bit.ly/1je58y2>.

lenges is often the only way to survive, and she conveys this idea through her work.

Eliot began cartooning when she was a single mom trying to raise two daughters, stay fully employed, pay the bills and still have a little fun.

Eliot works from her home studio in Eugene. She has re-

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Breast Cancer Awareness month
For every ad with a pink background, The Daily Astorian will donate all of the earned proceeds and will be shared between our local hospitals, Columbia Memorial and Providence Seaside.
The proceeds will be applied to their breast-health programs. Our goal is to earn \$1,000 during the month of October.
CALL 503-325-3211 TO PARTICIPATE
Please join us when placing your ad and help us paint the paper pink!

Environmental Assessment & Cleanup Heritage Square Project Update
Please join us for a presentation about the completed environmental assessment and upcoming environmental cleanup of Heritage Square, using our EPA Brownfields Grant. City staff and the consultant team will be on hand to answer questions.
This update is part of a 30-day public comment period (for the proposed cleanup) that is scheduled to end by November 3rd, 2015, and which can be extended if necessary.
Tuesday, October 13th
Open House 6:00-7:30pm; Presentation 6:00pm
Astoria City Hall Council Chambers
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