

Festival: It raised more than \$143,000 last year

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Each tree is decorated with a theme to match its accompanying giveaway item. The entries this year include a Hawaiian-themed tree that includes an eight-night trip to Maui, including a stay at a two-bedroom condominium near the beach and \$1,000 in airfare; a "Classic Romance In the Wine Country"-themed tree includes a stay at The Inn At Abeja in Walla Walla, Wash., a wine tour and a gift certificate for a local restaurant; and a tree themed "Scandinavia Christmas from Astoria," sponsored by FinnWare, featuring gift certificates for area attractions, including Baked Alaska and the Cannery Pier Hotel.

The live auction also includes original artwork by Bill Steidel of Cannon Beach, the event's signature artist. The artwork is titled "Winter Ice," and depicts a wintry village scene reminiscent of Steidel's New York childhood.

Steidel works in numerous fields, including music, writing, painting, sculpting and book illustrations. He uses a variety of media and themes. Steidel, his wife Sally and their son, Sam, have operated Steidel's Art gallery, on South Hemlock Street in Cannon Beach, for more than 50 years.

Growing the surgery department

Since its first Festival of Trees in 1997, the Providence Seaside Foundation has raised more than \$1.4 million. In 2014, the festival raised \$143,000 to support the new North Coast Providence ElderPlace program in Seaside. Proceeds also went to partner with Medical Teams International to provide free mobile



Justin Grafton Studios/Submitted Photo

Each tree at Providence Seaside Foundation's annual Festival of Trees fundraiser is decorated with a theme that matches the item being auctioned off during the evening gala. All proceeds support the Providence Seaside Hospital and local programs and services.

dental services to uninsured adults and children.

This year, proceeds from the gala event will be used to purchase new surgical equipment, including an enhanced video camera with internal scopes and an intense light source and digital printers, to provide "the very latest in surgical technology" at the hospital, Ward said. The new equipment, which costs approximately \$210,000, will

increase the scope of procedures available at the hospital.

"The idea is really to keep people closer to home instead of having to go to Portland for surgeries," Ward said.

The foundation's board of directors will cover the remaining cost of the equipment if not raised during the Festival of Trees. Ward said the fundraising goal for the event this year is \$150,000.



Justin Grafton Studios/Submitted Photo

The Seaside Civic and Convention Center was transformed into a magical holiday wonderland for the 2014 Festival of Trees, an annual fundraiser put on by the Providence Seaside Foundation.

Mitchum: He was 'the ultimate cornerstone volunteer in the community'

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Rotary member, doing roadside cleanups, serving crab dinners at the Crab, Seafood and Wine Festival and delivering Christmas gifts.

"He is an unsung hero in this town," said Cyndi Mudge, who worked with Mitchum on the Sunday Market. "He is one of those people who was quietly behind the scenes volunteering with so many things. I just think of Mitch being the ultimate cornerstone volunteer in the community."

In 2013, Mitchum won the George Award, along with Tiffany and Brett Estes, for all his endeavors.

One of Mitchum's lasting impacts was as a property developer and landlord. Along with his own holdings, he owned several properties downtown with RoseMarie Paavola in Luottamus Partners LLC, including the Astoria Events Center, Abeco Building and Oddfellows Hall, which houses the Astoria Arts and Movement Center.

Mitchum and Paavola won a Dr. Edward J. Harvey Award in 2010 for their restoration of the Sanborn Building at 951-957 Commercial St., which had been gutted by a fire.

"The Seabee (member of the U.S. Naval Construction Forces) motto is they can fix anything with anything," Toni Mitchum said of her husband's drive, adding his goal was always to help Astoria reach its potential.

Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary in Astoria is in charge of funeral arrangements.



Daily Astorian/File Photo

Astoria Public Works director Mitch Mitchum and Chip Andrus look at a dam that is part of the city's reservoir in 2002. Mitchum died Saturday at 73.

Change in Thanksgiving weekend spending stumps retailers

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO
AP Retail Writer

U.S. shoppers no longer blow the bulk of their holiday budgets on the day after Thanksgiving known as Black Friday.

It's a major shift that has made it difficult for stores to track and learn from shoppers' spending habits during the traditional start to the busy holiday shopping season.

Take Pia Tracy, who bought some items at Pier 1 home furnishings store over the weekend. But Tracy, who lives in Queens, N.Y., plans to spread out the majority of her \$4,000 holiday budget throughout the season.

"Black Friday weekend doesn't matter to me any-

more," Tracy said. "There's always some kind of deal in-store or online."

Like Tracy, many U.S. shoppers like to make purchases on their desktops and smartphones nowadays, they insist on getting big discounts whenever they shop, and they don't feel pressured to shop on particular days.

That shift has caused the National Retail Federation, the nation's largest retail trade group, to overhaul the way it tracks shopper spending and visits during the four-day Thanksgiving weekend — something it's been doing for more than a decade. The group said the changes are aimed at getting a fuller picture of shoppers' habits, including their growing affinity for online buying.

Harriman: 'I was just lucky to have fallen into this'

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"And they hired me — and I don't think that they realized how old I was," she said. "At least my boss didn't."

Treasures

Many years earlier, Harriman had lost her job at the bank, where she worked in the controller's office, during the early wave of corporate layoffs.

"We knew this was happening, but I thought, 'Oh, I'm safe. I'm here so long,'" she said.

she said. "I became very bitter over this because they chose me, and I just couldn't believe that they would. It was one of the worst things that ever happened to me."

But, she said, it was worthwhile, because with her life taking that turn, she wouldn't have found Deals Only.

"I love it there. I really do," she said. "I was 43 years doing something that I wasn't meant to do, and I think selling things appeals to me."

Selling and shopping, she said — though many people

forget that "shopping" doesn't necessarily mean "buying."

"I like knowing what's out there. And I want to buy, but the things I want to buy are usually more expensive than I can afford. I like art; I used to go to every art museum that ever was (in the area)," she said. "There's treasures. There's just all kinds of treasures out there that most of the world doesn't see."

Purpose

Born in North Portland, Harriman now splits her time

between Astoria and Beaverton.

During her retirement years, she kept busy: quilting, knitting, traveling to Europe with a friend, pitching and selling birdhouses that her son and his girlfriend made. And, of course, shopping.

But returning to work has rejuvenated her and has become a source of pride.

"I have to be working. I have to somehow have a purpose. And I'm not a bored person. I always was very busy in the 18 years that I was

retired," she said. "But there's something about getting a paycheck that makes you seem more worthwhile."

"And it's just fun. It gets you out of the house," she said.

Harriman said she believes more older folks should work because it can help to keep them young. But she knows that people her age are often passed over for employment opportunities.

"I was just lucky to have fallen into this," she said. "They just treat me so special,

and they're just ... just nice. They have been just so nice to me, you can't believe it."

Jeff Bjornsgard, owner of Deals Only, couldn't say enough about Harriman.

"You know, as far as a worker, she's like back in the day: She's always early, always on time, always wants to stay busy, always trying to help," he said. "She's a great, great, great person. She's a fabulous worker, and just the nicest person you'd ever meet."

— Erick Bengel

Housing: Two projects at the site have failed to reach fruition

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Central School site are still planning to meet at 7 p.m. today in the Blue Scorcher Bakery Cafe to discuss what sort of development they would find acceptable at the site.

New Riverview Partners

LLC owns 14 of the 16 lots bounded by Irving and Jerome avenues and Eighth and 10th streets. The site is the location of the former Lewis & Clark School (later known as Central School), built in the 1910s and torn down in the 1980s. New Riverview Part-

ners is headed by local developer Mitch Mitchum, who died Saturday.

Hanson said neighbors seem to want lower-density housing. He said previously, while some of the lots could be single-family homes, Krueger leans toward townhouses and

apartments for the 1.7-acre site, one of the largest remaining buildable lots in Astoria.

At least two projects have failed to reach fruition over the years at the site.

In 1996, the city approved plans for a 28-unit multifamily housing cluster for the property.

But the developer died before the project could be started.

Mitchum had tried to build an upscale neighborhood at the site in the mid-2000s, including a combination of homes designed to look historic and others designed for older residents to age in

place. The project passed various hurdles at the Astoria Planning Commission, City Hall and Historic Landmarks Commission, but ultimately fell victim to the housing market crash during the Great Recession and opposition from neighbors.