



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Donna Wright holds a candle as she participates in a candlelight walk honoring Martin Luther King Jr. on Monday. The Lower Columbia Diversity Project organized the event, which was followed by a free soup dinner at Peace Lutheran Church, sponsored by the North Coast Food Web.

## Rescuers recount Smith Lake tragedy

A father dies, a son lives after canoe capsizes

By ERICK BENGEL  
The Daily Astorian

Heather Wyland and Tim Walker looked out the window at exactly the right moment. What they saw horrified them: A father and his young son capsized in a canoe on Smith Lake near Warrenton on Sunday afternoon.

The father, 27-year-old Kyle Harkless, of Warrenton, drowned. Harkless' son, 7-year-old Logan, was transported to Columbia Memorial Hospital and is expected to fully recover.

While searching for Harkless, emergency responders used the lakefront house owned by Tim's brother, Brian Walker, and his wife, Kyle Walker, as a base of operations.

See RESCUERS, Page 10A

# 'Remember! Celebrate! Act!'

## Nation honors slain civil rights leader

The Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — For the first time in 17 years, civil rights leaders gathered Monday at the South Carolina Statehouse to pay homage to the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. without the Confederate flag casting a long shadow over them.

The banner was taken down over the summer after police said a young white man who had posed for photos with a rebel flag shot nine black church members to death during a Bible study in Charleston. After the massacre at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church, Republican Gov. Nikki Haley reversed course and made it a priority for lawmakers to pass legislation to remove the flag.

"Isn't this a great day? It's so nice to be standing here and not looking at that flag," said Ezell Pittman, who attended most of the King Day anti-flag rallies since they started in 2000. "I always had faith it would come down. I hate it took what it did, but was real happy to see it go."

Across the country, the 30th anniversary of the holiday to honor the civil rights leader assassinated in 1968 was remembered in different ways. In Michigan, people delivered bottled water to residents of Flint amid the city's drinking water crisis. In Atlanta, an overflow crowd listened as to the nation's housing secretary talk about the 50th anniversary of King's visit to Chicago to launch a campaign for fair housing. Rallies against police brutality in Minnesota and California briefly shut down traffic on two bridges.

Elsewhere, an overflow crowd showed up at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta to celebrate its former pastor's legacy at an annual commemorative service. It capped more than a week of events under the theme: "Remember! Celebrate! Act! King's Legacy of Freedom for Our World."

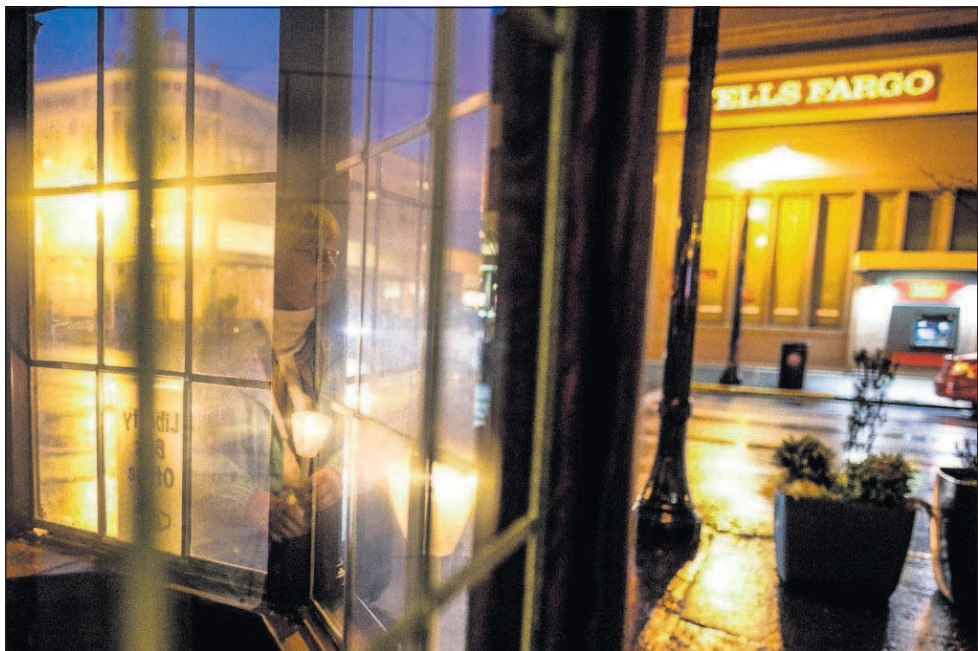
While people have been distracted by TV reality shows and music "that tears down instead of uplifts," many injustices have occurred and "we're about to create right here in this civilized society the wild, wild west with guns," said King's daughter, the Rev. Bernice King.

"Y'all, we can't keep being distracted, because if you're not careful, we're about to allow a reality show host to bully himself into becoming president of the United States of America," she said.



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

More than 20 people walked in the rain while holding candles to honor Martin Luther King Jr. on Monday.



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Kit Ketcham, of Pacific Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, holds a candle before the candlelight walk honoring Martin Luther King Jr. on Monday.

## Coast Guard daughter up for national scholarship

Warrenton senior could be Military Child of the Year

By EDWARD STRATTON  
The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — In all respects, Warrenton High School senior Ashley Fish is a high-achiever, whether she is loading up on honors courses, studying online and through the summer at Clatsop Community College, fixing computers for her district or starting up Lego robotics teams for younger kids.

Not one to abdicate her responsibility in paying for college, Fish, 17, has applied for about 10 scholarships, among them the Military Child of the Year award, for which she was recently named one of 90 semifinalists nationwide.

The award, given by the nonprofit Operation Homefront, honors children of U.S. Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard and National Guard for their scholarship, volunteerism, leadership and extracurricular involvement while facing the challenges of military life.

See ASHLEY, Page 10A



Ashley Fish

## As US eyes rural West, what's next?

Some see opportunity for solutions amid tense standoff

By ERIC MORTENSON  
and MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI  
Capital Press

U.S. Rep. Greg Walden didn't have much of an audience in early January when he stood on the floor of the House of Representatives to talk about the militia takeover of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge headquarters in southeast Oregon. That's how it works; Members of Congress give even their most impassioned floor speech-

es to empty chairs and a single camera.

But in the days since, attention has turned to Walden's 24-minute description of the area he represents and the "decades of frustration, arrogance and betrayal that has contributed to the mistrust of the federal government."

Judging from more than 120,000 YouTube views of his speech and even-handed editorial response from the largest news organizations, Walden and others who represent, live in and work in the rural West appear to have gained the nation's attention.

The message: No, we do



U.S. Rep. Greg Walden

not approve of the armed men who took over the refuge. But the underlying frustration and anger at federal land management and loss of economic opportunity is real.

So now what?

So now what? Walden said he's discussed such issues with the Republican leadership, but it's unclear how much can be accomplished in the current political atmosphere.

Last week, the House voted 253-166 to overturn the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's "Waters of the U.S."

See WEST, Page 10A



Enter your baby in The Daily Astorian's Cutest Baby Contest for 2015

If your baby was born between Jan 1st & Dec 31st of 2015, you can submit your newborn's picture either via email at classifieds@dailyastorian.com or drop by one of our offices in Astoria or Seaside and we can scan in the photo for you.

Deadline to enter is Tuesday, January 26th at 5:00 pm. Entries will be printed in The Daily Astorian on January 29th.

