

In the words of a Clatsop County pioneer woman

LaRee Johnson to read from pioneer diary in honor of Women's History Month

ASTORIA — Astoria Public Library is celebrating Women's History Month with readings from the diaries of Clatsop County pioneer Mary Riddle at 6 p.m. Friday, March 11 with local writer and photographer LaRee Johnson. Adults and teens are welcome.

At 10:30 a.m. Saturday, March 12, Johnson will also read from the diaries in an interactive program for families with children ages 8 to 12.

The library is located at 450 10 St. Admission to both events is free.

It took stamina and grit to settle this area in the time predating the conveniences we take for granted: electricity for light, heat at the flip of a switch, cars for transportation. Riddle, an early homesteader of Clatsop County, shared her experience of pioneer life in her diary, one of the longest ongoing journals of everyday

life in Clatsop County and a treasure trove of information about the area we call home.

Johnson will assume the persona of Riddle, reading selections from the diary Riddle kept from May 1878, when she left Iowa to travel westward, until July 19, 1924, when she recorded her final entry from her home in Swenson.

In 46 years of journals, Riddle described her family's trip by wagon train across the plains, over the mountains and down the Columbia to the harsh wilderness in the Swenson area where they built their "Forest Home." She described her and her neighbors' struggles with family, health, and clearing and planting their properties. She related how her husband journeyed to the mines for work and how traveling to Astoria was arduous. In her entries, Riddle often noted the weather, as it pre-



Submitted photo

Hear vintage clothing collector and author LaRee Johnson read from the diary of Clatsop County pioneer Mary Riddle at Astoria Public Library March 11 and 12.

sented a constant challenge to obtaining necessities.

Near the end of her journal, she wrote a few words about the Astoria fire of December 1922: "How I pity the poor, homeless people in Astoria, what is left of it. Astoria has now had its worst calamity of all."

Johnson, a 26-year Astoria resident, is an avid collector and presenter of vintage fashions. She authored and photographed "Ladies' Vintage Accessories," a 333-page comprehensive value and identification guide on ladies vintage fashion accessories from the mid-1800s to the modern day. In collaboration with her husband Andrew Cier, Johnson published "Destination: The Pacific," a guidebook and personal journal listing the Lewis and Clark sites from the mouth of the Columbia River north to Long Beach, Washington and south to Cannon Beach. She is active in the community with membership in the Clatsop County Historical Society and the Lower Columbia Preservation Society.

For more information, contact library staff at 503-325-7323 or visit www.astorialibrary.org

Register for book publishing workshop in Cannon Beach

CANNON BEACH — On March 26, the Tolovana Arts Center will host "How to Publish Your Book with Ease" a two-hour workshop led by Cannon Beach author Gregory E. Zschomler.

The workshop will take place from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Tolovana Arts Colony, located at 3779 S. Hemlock St.

Zschomler will cover the ins and outs of self-publishing vs. traditional publishing, writing, editing, typesetting,

formatting and layout, cover design, publishing options, proofing, managing files, building your platform, marketing and distribution, and more.

A member of the Northwest Independent Authors Association, Zschomler is the author of nearly a dozen self-published books.

The class fee is \$25. For more information or to register, contact gregory.zschomler@gmail.com

CHIP-in, help to improve Astoria parks this weekend

ASTORIA — Astoria Parks & Recreation's Citizens Helping Improve Parks (CHIP-in) program will host three opportunities this coming weekend for people to help enhance parks in Astoria.

First, volunteers are encouraged to plant native wildflowers and shrubs at Alderbrook Natural Area. Astoria Parks & Rec and the North Coast Watershed Association will welcome participants from 1 to 4 p.m. Friday and Saturday, March 11 and 12.

Tools and gloves will be provided. Volunteers should

dress for the weather. This CHIP-in event takes place at 53rd and Ash streets in Alderbrook.

Then, on Sunday, March 13, volunteers can help Astoria Parks & Rec, the Friends of McClure Park and an Eagle Scout with a project to improve McClure Park. The park is located at Eighth Street and Grand Avenue.

If you are interested in volunteering or sponsoring a clean-up, contact Melissa Keyser, CHIP-in volunteer coordinator, at chip-in@astoria.or.us or 503-741-5965.

Speaker to talk water quality in the Nehalem watershed

Watershed council hosts DEQ coordinator

MANZANITA — The Lower Nehalem Watershed Council will welcome York Johnson, of the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, for a presentation on water quality Thursday, March 10.

The presentation will focus on water quality data collected by the Tillamook Estuaries Partnership and DEQ in the Nehalem Watershed. It will relate water data to appropriate State of Oregon Standards and look at changes over time.

The presentation will be held at the Pine Grove Community House, located at 225 Laneda Ave. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. for refreshments. At update from the Lower Nehalem Watershed Council will be made at 7 p.m. The presen-

tation will start at 7:20 p.m. This event is free and open to the public.

Johnson is the North Coast Basin coordinator for the DEQ. His position is partially funded by the Tillamook Estuaries Partnership, and he coordinates the TEP Water Quality program in association with DEQ's TMDL implementation effort on the North Coast. He has been living and working in Tillamook County for the past 10 years and enjoys the unique opportunities that the coast has to offer — surfing, fishing, clamming and beach combing.

Refreshments and snacks will be served. Find more information on the speaker series by visiting [Facebook.com/lnwcl](https://www.facebook.com/lnwcl)

Yoga Namaste to offer Iyengar yoga workshop

Sharon Conroy to teach four classes

ASTORIA — Yoga Namaste will welcome Sharon Conroy for a three-day Iyengar Yoga Workshop from Friday to Sunday, March 11 to 13.

A Iyengar yoga practitioner and teacher for 30 years, Conroy has traveled to Pune, India, each year to study with yoga teacher B.K.S. Iyengar and his family.

Her long time involvement with Iyengar yoga makes her an invaluable source, showing what defines Iyengar yoga practice: developing clear and continuous attention, and bringing awareness to each body part in order to explore the effect of the mind on the body and vice versa.

Conroy's teachings are infused with precise techniques, effective sequencing and ap-

propriate timing. She is a dynamic, compassionate teacher whose love for the practice comes through in her teaching.

Conroy will teach four classes over the course the three days. During this workshop, she will focus on "opening" the chest. Students will work with a variety of poses that shed light on this region so future neck and shoulder problems can be avoided or heal the ones already present.

The workshop is open to people who have studied yoga in the Iyengar tradition for at least one year.

The workshop will be held at Yoga Namaste located at 342 10th St.

For more information, call Ute Swerdlhoff at 503-440-9761 or visit www.yoganam.com

Create art out of beach debris

Earth Day celebration to hold art contest

CANNON BEACH — Are you looking for a fun civic activity that combines beachcombing, creativity and litter reduction? If so, the Marine Debris Art Contest is a perfect opportunity.

This inaugural art contest is part of Cannon Beach's 12 Days of Earth Day celebration.

Participants are invited to collect beach debris and use it to make art; all materials must be debris that is collected off

the beach. Bring creations to the Cannon Beach Chamber Community Hall between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. April 11.

All artwork will be displayed at the hall and assessed by a panel of judges. The winner will be announced at the City Potluck event April 15. The winner will be presented with the Steve McLeod award.

For questions or additional information, email Jean at gjeanwilliams@hotmail.com