

North Coast Land Conservancy earns national recognition

The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — The North Coast Land Conservancy, a regional land trust headquartered in Seaside, has announced it was awarded accreditation by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission.

“We are thrilled to have achieved national accreditation in our 30th year, as we embark on some of our most ambitious conservation projects ever,” said Executive Director Katie Voelke. “The rigorous application process has made us stronger, and our success demonstrates to

our supporters that we can be relied upon to effectively do what we say we do: helping to conserve Oregon’s coastal lands forever.” To date the NCLC has conserved nearly 4800 acres of forest, wetland, and coastal prairie habitat on the Oregon Coast, most recently acquiring

a 340-acre property known as Boneyard Ridge, creating a 3500-acre contiguous conservation corridor stretching over Tillamook Head from the Pacific Ocean to the Necanicum River. For information about the NCLC, go to <http://NCLCtrust.org>



Herald Hugo/PPTO
A giant pearl weighing 75 pound is displayed in the lobby of the Puerto Princesa Tourism Office in Puerto Princesa city, Palawan province in southwestern Philippines Thursday.

For 10 years, possibly biggest pearl was hidden under bed

By TERESA CEROJANO
Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — A Filipino fisherman in western Palawan island has found possibly the world’s biggest pearl, but he didn’t know it. For 10 years, the 75-pound pearl was hidden in a bag under a bed. The fisherman’s family would rub it with their hands before going out to sea in the belief it would bring them luck, said relative Aileen Amurao. Amurao, who is also Puerto Princesa city’s tourism officer, said Thursday that the man gave her the pearl last month for safekeeping because he was moving to a new place. The pearl was sitting on a bench in her home for weeks until she found time to check the internet, and she was shocked to learn that it could be the world’s biggest at 2.2

feet long and 1 foot wide. The fisherman, his father and brothers found the irregular-shaped pearl inside a giant clam that stuck to their boat’s anchor when they sought refuge from a squall on a reef, Amurao said. The fisherman did not want to be identified, she said. She said that she, the fisherman and his family decided to turn over the pearl to the city mayor, who had it displayed in a glass case in Puerto Princesa’s city hall to attract tourists. The fisherman will receive a still-unspecified reward from the local government, Amurao said, adding that he never intended to sell it. Experts from the University of the Philippines have expressed interest in inspecting the pearl, but she said no date has been set for their visit. It would not be the first time giant pearls have been

found off Palawan. A 9-kilogram (20-pound) pearl, called Pearl of the King, was found in Palawan in 1939, and is on display in a hotel at the central island resort of Boracay. Local media have reported that fishermen had recovered other huge pearls in the province, including one reportedly weighing 54 pounds. The Guinness World Records lists a 718.50 carat baroque abalone pearl as the biggest of its kind, measuring 5.5 inches in length, 3.1 inches wide and 1.6 inches thick.



Gene McGraw

Former resident graduates cum laude

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LONDONDERRY, N.H. — Gene McGraw, a 76-year-old Londonderry resident, formerly of Astoria, graduates cum laude from the Springfield College School of Professional Studies on Saturday, receiving a bachelor’s degree in human services. His son, Robert McGraw, resides in Gearhart. Two granddaughters, Jennifer McGraw-Murray and Alicia Vargas, and their families, live in Warrenton and Hammond respectively.

SENIOR NOTES

Alzheimer’s Association Oregon Chapter — Information, referral and counseling services for families and caregivers of people with Alzheimer’s, dementia and other related disorders. For information, call 800-272-3900 (24 hours a day).

Astoria Alzheimer’s & Other Dementia Family Support Group — 2 to 3:30 p.m. third Monday, Clatsop Care Center, 646 16th St., first floor conference room. Open to all family members of people with dementias. For information, call Rosetta Hurley at 503-325-0313, ext. 216, or email support@clatsopcare.org

Clatsop Behavioral Health After Hours Crisis Line — 503-325-5724.

Clatsop Community Action — 503-325-1400. Respite care services, low-income energy assistance, emergency food assistance, housing information, emergency personal care items.

Columbia Senior Diners — 11:30 a.m. weekdays, Peace Lutheran Church (lower level), 565 12th St. Cost is \$5. For information, or to have a meal delivered, call 503-325-9693.

Exploring New Concepts of Retirement Education (ENCORE) — 503-338-2408. Provides a wide assortment of educational experiences for individuals older than 50.

Elder Friendship Line — 800-971-0016. Available from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m.; crisis calls taken 24/7.

Food Pantries — 503-325-1400. Clatsop Community Action serves six food pantries in Clatsop County through the Oregon Food Bank Network. Call for area locations and hours.

Grief Support Group, Seaside — 2 to 4 p.m. first Thursday, Bob Chisholm Community Center, Meeting Room 1, 1225 Avenue A, Seaside. For information, call Lower Columbia Hospice at 503-338-6230.

Legal Aid Services of Oregon — 888-245-4091. Provides free services in civil cases to low income people.

Lifespan Respite — 503-325-1400. Provides information, referral,

training and paid respite for family caregivers.

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline — 800-273-TALK (8255). A 24-hour, toll-free suicide prevention service for anyone in a suicidal crisis. TTY users should dial 800-799-4TTY (4889).

National Alliance on Mental Illness — 800-950-NAMI (6264) or locally, 503-717-1835. Separate support groups for people with mental illness and families of those with mental illness are available.

Northwest Oregon Housing Authority — 503-861-0119. Rent assistance based on income.

NorthWest Senior and Disability Services — 503-861-4202 or 800-442-8614. Medicaid services, food stamps, information and assistance, family caregiver support services, Medicare choice assistance, home delivered meals, senior meal sites and senior peer counseling.

Oregon Aging and Disability Resource Connection — 855-ORE-ADRC (673-2372), www.adrcoregon.org. Information and services for older adults, people with disabilities, their caregivers and families.

Oregon Home Care Commission Registry and Referral System — 877-867-0077, <https://www.or-hcc.org>. Provides lists of home care workers available to hire.

Partners for Seniors — 503-717-7174. Serves South Clatsop County seniors with volunteer visits, transportation, light housekeeping, yard work, minor home repairs, daily phone calls.

Senior Center, Astoria — Astoria Senior Center, 1111 Exchange St., 503-325-3231.

Senior Center, Seaside — Bob Chisholm Community and Senior Center, 1225 Avenue A, Seaside, 503-738-7393.

Senior Center, Warrenton — Warrenton Community and Senior Center, 170 S.W. Third St, Warrenton, 503-861-3502 Mondays and Thursdays.

Veteran Benefits — 800-827-1000.

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