

Auction: 'I'm humbled by the amount of support there is here'

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"It kind of brings the art community together, and I'm lucky to be a part of it," said sophomore Jordan Walter, who contributed two pieces — a graphite puppy and watercolor fish — to the silent auction.

Her brother, a kindergarten, contributed to a class thumbprint painting up for auction. Walter said she expects to leave for college and pursue her career, but one day return to help raise money for her younger sibling. "Definitely by the time he's... a senior in high school, I'll definitely be back here and involved," she said.

Foundation success

Homegrown business mogul and philanthropist Shawn Teevin, founder of Teevin Bros. Land & Timber, got emotional after being honored with flowers and champagne from long-time foundation president Sara Rohne-Tanner for his part in forming the foundation 20 years ago.

When Knappa School District split from neighboring Clatskanie in 1997, Teevin partnered with other alumni to create a foundation and raise money for scholarships and school programs. Helping the group was the late philanthropist Michael Foster, who helped grow Astoria High School Scholarship Inc. into a multi-million-dollar scholarship fund aiding the majority of Astoria's graduates each year.

"He hooked us up early on and gave us a lot of ideas ... and also with our investment side," Teevin said of Foster, who was also honored Saturday along with Sen. Johnson.

In the audience Saturday were former board members such as Eileen Cheuvront, who retired recently from helping organize the auction. Being honored in front was a new guard of alumni in their mid-20s to early 40s with children now in the school district who have been added to the board



Photos by Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian

More than 300 attendees at the Knappa Schools Foundation's 20th-annual dinner and auction Saturday raised more than \$109,000 for scholarships and school programs including \$40,000 in an appeal from state Sen. Betsy Johnson.

over the past several years, including Blake Gerttula from the class of 2005, Brian Montgomery from 2006, Tonya Lempea from 2003 and Stephanie Sievers from 1994.

Gerttula, who has been involved with the foundation for three years, said the new board members, most of whom received scholarships from the foundation, felt the basic drive upon returning home and starting their families to help the community that helped them.

"For me, it's not enjoyable going door to door," said Gerttula, who approaches about 150 businesses and individuals each year seeking donated items and experiences for the auction. "But I know the more I get, the more it supports students."

Funding education

Superintendent Paulette Johnson, hired less than two

years ago from Rainier High School in Washington state, said her former school had its own fundraisers, but even with more students raised about half as much as Knappa.

"I'm actually humbled by the amount of support there is here," she said. "It's really incredible what they do for their school."

Last year, she said, the foundation bought math curriculum for kindergarten through second grade, swim lessons for fourth-graders, several field trips, 3-D printers and forestry equipment, among other equipment and the tens of thousands of dollars in scholarships the foundation awards each year to graduating seniors.

"We don't have to ask," Johnson said of the support from the foundation. "They just do it."



Shawn Teevin, a local business mogul and philanthropist, gets emotional accepting flowers and champagne in honor of his co-founding the Knappa Schools Foundation, which for 20 years has been raising money for scholarships and school grants.



Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian

The Knappa Schools Foundation's board has taken on a younger tone, with graduates and past foundation scholarship recipients (from left) Blake Gerttula from 2005, treasurer Brian Montgomery from 2006 and secretary Tonya Lempea from 2003. Assistant treasurer Stephanie Sievers, right, graduated in 1994.



Seaside Aquarium/For The Daily Astorian

Seaside Aquarium's Tiffany Boothe helped rescue a loggerhead turtle after it washed near shore in Cannon Beach.

Turtle: Third to wash ashore this year

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Boothe said she and Schmidt lifted the turtle into the bed of her truck and transferred it to the aquarium, arriving by 6:30 p.m., the turtle still alive.

"Everything was working in our favor," Boothe said. "The tide was on its way out, otherwise I would have never gone through the little cave. The light stayed with us for the most part. By the time

we got back to the aquarium it was dark. Just barely made it!"

Boothe contacted the Oregon Coast Aquarium, and by 7:30 a.m., she was on the road. They met just north of Depoe Bay, where the transfer was made.

This was the third turtle to wash ashore this year, but the first to be found alive, Boothe said.

According to the Sea Turtle Conservancy, logger-

heads are known for their exceptionally large heads and heavy, strong jaws. They can weigh up to 375 pounds. They are listed as a threatened species due to coastal development.

During the winter, cold-shocked sea turtles can become stranded on beaches. Reports of stranded turtles can begin as early as mid-October and can continue through January, Boothe said.

Last winter, Thunder, a

rescued olive ridley sea turtle, found comatose and hypothermic near Gearhart in December, died while completing her final rehabilitation stage before summer release into the wild.

Thunder and another rehabilitated sea turtle found in Pacific City, dubbed "Lightning," were flown to SeaWorld in March from the Oregon Coast Aquarium. Lightning continues rehabilitation at SeaWorld.

Rules: Law requires 'orderly fishery management'

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The commission, by a 4-3 vote, adopted a plan in January to maintain some gillnetting along the main channel of the river.

The move diverged from the expectation that the state would phase out the method altogether, as part of an agreement with Washington state initiated several years ago by former Gov. John Kitzhaber.

Oregon's neighbor to the north, through its Fish and Wildlife Commission, decided last month to phase out the use of gillnets along the Lower Columbia in two years.

In a letter to Commission Chairman Michael Finley, Brown said Thursday that the Oregon commission's decision to diverge from the bistrate agreement was "not acceptable."

"It will make enforcement complicated, confusing and untenable," Brown wrote, "and put at risk ongoing funding and bi-state cooperation necessary for fishery reforms."

Heed state law

Fish and Wildlife Commissioners Holly Akenson and Bruce Buckmaster, who both voted for the rules passed last month, said in separate phone interviews Friday that, in passing the rules, they wanted to heed state law, which requires that rules adopted by the commission regarding Columbia River fish management reform



Mike Finley



Holly Akenson



Submitted Photo

Astoria resident Bruce Buckmaster shows a salmon before its release in Alaskan waters in 2011.

the rumor circulating Thursday that two commissioners would be removed. A spokesman for Brown wrote in an email Friday that "membership changes are not being considered at this time."

'Disturbing'

Jim Wells, of Salmon for All, an association of gillnetters and other fishing-related businesses based in Astoria, called the governor's letter "disturbing" and asserted Brown had broken a promise to "stay out of the process and let the appointed commissioners do their work."

However, commissions such as the Fish and Wildlife Commission are generally expected to comply with gubernatorial policy, says Jim Moore, director of the Tom McCall Center for Policy Innovation at Pacific University.

"It is fairly common that governors kind of lay down

the law like this," Moore said Friday.

Commissions are a place where people with interest in a particular area — forestry, for example, or transportation — can go to help the state implement rules, McCall says.

"Unless there is something really remarkable going on," said Moore, the commissions are, as part of the executive branch, "supposed to go along with whatever the executive has in mind."

In early 2015, then-Gov. Kitzhaber removed Catherine Mater from her position as chairwoman of the Oregon Transportation Commission after she voted against an application from the Port of St. Helens for a \$2 million subsidy for an energy company pursuing a coal export project.

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Women: 12 bands will take the stage this year

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Johnson said. "It was a flash in the pan for a lot of those, but the fans were there. It's amazing how far people will travel to hear OKOM — 'our kind of music.'"

Fans tend to be prebaby boomers, but younger audiences are discovering the festival, Johnson said.

Twelve bands

This year, 12 bands will take the stage at three venues, the Seaside Civic and Convention Center, the Elks Lodge and the Best Western in Seaside. Musicians hail from throughout the country, as well as the Pacific Northwest. A shuttle will take attendees to concerts throughout the weekend, and

a badge provides entry to all concerts.

Johnson recommends pre-purchasing tickets, especially for the Thursday night kickoff concert with Dave Bennett and the Memphis Speed Kings, a rockabilly-jazz group with echoes of Jerry Lee Lewis and Johnny Cash — "the music I grew up listening to," Johnson said.

As in years past, the Seaside High School jazz band will be taking the stage under the direction of Terry Dahlgren. Jacob Miller and the Bridge City Crooners will be among the standouts. "They're just a bunch of kids — they're probably in their 30s," Johnson said.

— R.J. Marx



Submitted Photo

Jacob Miller and the Bridge City Crooners will take the stage at the Seaside Jazz Festival.