

THE DAILY ASTORIAN

144TH YEAR, NO. 175

DailyAstorian.com // THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 2017

ONE DOLLAR

Astoria Music Festival BACK IN THE BLACK



The Daily Astorian/File Photo

Michael Foster at his home at 2010. The opening performance will be Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, Foster's favorite piece of music.



Dwight Caswell/For The Daily Astorian

International Tchaikovsky Competition Gold medal-winning cellist Sergey Antonov will return to this year's Astoria Music Festival.

Dwight Caswell/For The Daily Astorian
Keith Clark conducts the Astoria Music Festival Orchestra in Philip Glass's Symphony No. 4, "Heroes," based on music by David Bowie last year.

15th season opens with tribute to Foster

By ERICK BENGEL
The Daily Astorian

The Astoria Music Festival, a nonprofit that holds a series of classical music events featuring international artists, is about to turn 15.

And it will end fiscal year 2016 with a positive fund balance, ending a period of shaky finances.

A few years ago, the festival went from an approximately \$50,000 surplus — meant to be used for an endowment — to a roughly \$60,000 deficit run on credit, according to several board members.

"Our review of the 2015 financials would indicate that fundraising efforts were very light in 2015 and that the expense budget was exceeded in several areas," Leena Riker, a board member, wrote in an email.

In 2015, shortly after the music festival pulled off its most successful season — reaching \$100,000 in ticket sales for the first time — the old board quit en masse, citing unresolved differences of opinion with Artistic Director Keith Clark about the nonprofit's direction and leadership structure.

Efforts by the new board brought in donations that allowed the festival to end 2015 in the black and pay down about one-third of its credit line, according to Leslie Morehead, board vice president. Additional fundraisers in 2016 "were also very successful," she wrote in an email.

"As of early February 2017, we have paid off more than one-half of the line of credit, and we have sufficient funds to cover our basic operating expenses through the end of the year," she said.

The music festival, which runs June 10 through June 25 this year, is "a viable organization, totally

See MUSIC, Page 7A

Suspicious death under investigation

Man, 66, found at home near airport

By JACK HEFFERNAN
The Daily Astorian

The Clatsop County Sheriff's Office is investigating the suspicious death of a 66-year-old man at a residence near the Astoria Regional Airport.

Deputies responded to a report of a deceased man at the home at about 5 p.m. Wednesday. The Clatsop County Major Crimes Team is investigating a person of interest in the case, Clatsop County District Attorney Josh Marquis said.

While the county medical examiner determined that the circumstances at the scene were not consistent with a natural death, a specific cause of death is still being investigated, Marquis said. The initial medical examination indicated that the man had likely been dead for several days, he said.

The state medical examiner will likely perform an autopsy in the next couple of days, Marquis said.

The Sheriff's Office is waiting to notify the man's next of kin before releasing his name or the name of the person of interest, Clatsop County Sheriff Tom Bergin said.

ICE targets 'dangerous offenders'

Homeland Security head meets with Brown

By DICK HUGHES
For the Capital Bureau

SALEM — The nation's top immigration-enforcement official stressed to Gov. Kate Brown that the Trump administration is focused on deporting the "violent and dangerous offenders" among the undocumented immigrants in the U.S.

Brown was in Washington, D.C., last week for the National Governors Association Winter Meeting. She met with Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly, as well as several other cabinet secretaries.

"They had no intention of picking up folks who did not have criminal penalties. I specifically asked him about folks who had, for example, a drug charge 20 years ago. He said that is not their target," Brown said in an interview Tuesday.

She invited Kelly to Oregon to get a firsthand understanding of how the Trump administration policies are affecting immigrant families.

"What I explained to him is that this is creating great fear in our communities around the state of Oregon. I used some examples of families that I knew. Folks

See ICE, Page 7A

At Fulio's, new owner, chef offer Italian with a twist

Local Iron Chef takes over the kitchen, menu

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

Expect the same taste of Italy at Fulio's, along with a little more of the Mediterranean.

Longtime proprietor Peter Roscoe recently transferred the restaurant to Allan LaPlante, who with new chef Sean Whittaker is planning an expanded menu beyond the Italian peninsula to the more than 20 countries bordering the Mediterranean Sea.



Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

Fulio chef Sean Whittaker prepares for the day in the kitchen.

Whittaker, made famous locally through two wins at the Iron Chef Goes Coastal cooking competition, started

up for a shift. But Whittaker's culinary philosophy has been informed by years of world travel and working at restaurants around the country.

Fulio's patrons can still expect all the Italian favorites, from pastas to Tuscan steaks. But Whittaker, given relative carte blanche on the menu by LaPlante, said he's also looking to branch out.

"I think people are adventurous, and so am I," Whittaker said, adding he might even add an Asian flavor here and there. "That's what adds the spice to life."

Much of Fulio's experimentation will start with the lunch menu and a happy hour

LaPlante said the restaurant is adding.

Same philosophy

LaPlante said his first interview with Roscoe as a potential employee at the Sand Trap Pub in Gearhart lasted five hours, going over the entire menu in detail, along with how a restaurant was supposed to run.

"We had very similar views on business and how customers should be treated," LaPlante said.

Since he started washing dishes at age 14, LaPlante has managed a variety of

See FULIO, Page 7A

