

‘For her, there’s no halfway’



Photos by Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

Christine Lolich, center, presents the two Lady Liberty Awards to Charlene Larsen, left, and Dulcye Taylor, right, during the Lady Liberty luncheon on Thursday at the Liberty Theater in Astoria.

LARSEN, TAYLOR EARN LADY LIBERTY ACCOLADES

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

Charlene Larsen said she learned the importance of volunteerism from her parents. Dulcye Taylor said she learned it shortly after moving to Astoria.

The two community advocates shared the stage Thursday in the Liberty Theater’s McTavish Room, bedecked in Statue of Liberty tiaras and honored with the sixth-annual Lady Liberty awards for their impact on the community.

Raised to volunteer

Larsen is a native of Clatsop County who moved from the North Coast to Roseburg and back, following her father’s career in the lumber industry.

“My dad was always willing to help someone in need,” she said. “My mother never knew a stranger. She could always see an opportunity to reach out and help, and always did. When you live with two people who do that sort of thing, it rubs off.”

Larsen started volunteering after high school with the Business and Professional Women’s Foundation. Over her more-than-40-year career with Pacific Power and the Clatsop County Sheriff’s Office and into retirement, she has been involved with a voluminous number of local volunteer groups and committees. Her involvement won her the George Award, Astoria’s citizen-of-the-year honor, in 2010.

Local financial adviser Constance Waisanen, introducing Larsen at the luncheon, said the two first met at Astoria’s First Lutheran Church. They have been involved for the past several years with Partners for the PAC, a coalition of performing arts groups paying to keep Clatsop Community College’s Performing Arts Center a public rehearsal and performance space.

Waisanen said Larsen embodies Lady Liberty — the New York City one — in several ways, such as the nationwide campaign in the 1880s by newspaper publisher Joseph

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ABOVE: Astoria Mayor Arline LaMear chats with other attendees at the Lady Liberty luncheon on Thursday. BELOW: Dulcye Taylor, who received one of the Lady Liberty awards, smiles during the Lady Liberty luncheon.



Fire fee removed from 19 tax lots

Committee reviewed parcels after complaints

By JACK HEFFERNAN
The Daily Astorian

Lots on 19 parcels in Clatsop County, each owned by one or a group of property owners, will no longer be classified as forestland, meaning those owners will not need to pay an additional fee for fire protection.

A six-member appointed committee individually reviewed 32 parcels at a public meeting Thursday. Each parcel contained one or more tax lots and were reviewed based on appeals submitted by landowners.

The Oregon Department of Forestry provides fire protection to forest and grazing lands through money from the state general fund and fees it collects from forestland property owners. Committee members Thursday peered over satellite images of the parcels and asked for input from local fire chiefs.

In addition to deciding which lands should reasonably be considered forestlands, criteria for reassessing the parcels included whether or not rural and urban fire agencies could easily access the land and whether a fire would require additional resources from the Department of Forestry.

“We want to keep fires small, but if a fire gets big, the district brings its resources and can also call upon all of the crew and resources of ODF throughout the state,” Astoria District Forester Dan Goody said.

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WILLAPA BAY



Kristine Lashley

Willapa National Wildlife Refuge is prime habitat for many bird species, including this seldom-observed Virginia rail spotted after last week’s stormy weather.

‘Five-star place’ for shorebirds

Peninsula, refuge earn top habitat designation

By AMY NILE
EO Media Group

LONG BEACH, Wash. — As an estimated 250,000 shorebirds flock in for spring-time stops along the Long Beach Peninsula and Willapa Bay, the area is being noted as a critical point along their migration route.

It is now designated as a site of international importance in the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network strategy to protect habitats across the Americas.

“It’s like saying you’re a five-star hotel,” Willapa National Wildlife Refuge Manager Jackie Ferrier said. “This is a five-star place for shorebirds.”

The designated area includes the 17,000-acre federal refuge, which was established in 1937 for the conservation of migratory birds. The Columbia River Estuary and Grays Harbor are also included among 97 places being preserved for shorebirds in 15 countries, from the Arctic to the southern tip of Argentina.

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GREEN GAMBLE

Pot growers take root in Pacific County

Producers are concentrated in Raymond

By LUKE WHITTAKER
EO Media Group

RAYMOND, Wash. — Every Monday morning, Travis Holmes leaves his home and family in Skagit County and drives more than 200 miles to a motorhome parked in Pacific County. It’s been a routine the

former varsity wrestling coach and volunteer fireman has carried on for three years after leaving a steady career as an electrician.

“I left all of those things behind to come here and do this,” said Holmes, 46, standing before a series of sprawling warehouses on the border of South Bend and Raymond.

“There’s a lot of great cannabis being grown in Washington and we’re one of them,” he said.

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Luke Whittaker/EO Media Group

Operations coordinator Tyson Wood inspects clones in the nursery, the first stage in the grow. Root length is an early indicator of health for transplant, he said.

