

# THE DAILY ASTORIAN

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ONE DOLLAR

## STRENGTH AND HONOR



Photos by Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian  
A member of the Army stationed at Camp Rilea shakes the hand of Spurgeon D. Keeth on Saturday during an event to recognize his service in the armed forces during World War II.

The Daily Astorian

**W**ARRENTON — Sometimes, the small gestures matter most. A staffer at the Port Light Cafe at Camp Rilea organized an informal lunch on Saturday afternoon to honor Spurgeon D. Keeth, 92, an Army veteran who survived the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor during World War II. Keeth shared a few words with his Army brothers and sisters two days before today's anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States.



LEFT: Spurgeon D. Keeth, left, cracks jokes with Army personnel at Camp Rilea on Saturday during a lunch event attended by about 20 people to recognize his service in the military. Keeth was stationed on the island of Oahu during the Pearl Harbor attacks by Japanese forces. RIGHT: Keeth, right, an Army veteran and survivor of the attack on Pearl Harbor, speaks with service members stationed at Camp Rilea.



## Local colonel moving up to the Pentagon

Col. Perez has led training command

By JACK HEFFERNAN  
The Daily Astorian

Camp Rilea's first local commander is changing work addresses to the Pentagon.

Col. Dean Perez, who has led the Oregon Training Command headquartered at Camp Rilea Armed Forces Training Center for four years, will begin his new post in October. Lt. Col. Noel Hoback took over for Perez during a change of command ceremony Sunday morning in Salem.

Perez, who served two tours in Afghanistan, became Camp Rilea's commander in 2012 before earning a promotion under a new system designed to more efficiently utilize manpower and resources at four Oregon National Guard training centers.

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Col. Dean Perez

## No charges in Warrenton investigation

Two officers have left the police force

By DERRICK DePLEDGE  
The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — Two former Warrenton Police officers who left the force while they were under investigation will not face charges.

The Clatsop County District Attorney's Office asked the state Department of Justice to investigate the police officers last year over behavioral and workplace issues.

District Attorney Josh Marquis said no charges will be filed at this time.

"My office has expressed concerns over the last couple years about some of the staffing levels and a couple individual officers at Warrenton Police Department," he said in an email. "The district attorney is not the boss of the police and we have no direct authority over them."

"That said our office has always enjoyed an excellent working relationship with the seven county police agencies."

Chief Deputy District Attorney Ron Brown met with City Manager Linda Engbretson, Marquis said, and "expressed some of our long-standing concerns."

Warrenton has made "needed changes," the district attorney said, citing the departure of two police officers and the promotion of retired Oregon State Police trooper Jim Pierce to sergeant.

The Daily Astorian reported last October that two Warrenton Police officers were under investigation. Police Chief Mathew Workman said at the time that the officers — who have



Mathew Workman

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## Ground set for Walmart

Warrenton supercenter slated to open in spring

By EDWARD STRATTON  
The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — The new Walmart, now rising at the corner of Ensign Lane and U.S. Highway 101, took more than \$10 million in ground work and the better part of a year to get ready.

Warrenton dignitaries on Friday celebrated the store, which is expected to open in the spring and bring about 300 new jobs to the region. Walmart spokeswoman Deborah Herron said the new store will start hiring in the winter.

At the ceremonial groundbreaking, Walmart donated \$5,000 to Clatsop Community Action's North Coast Regional Food Bank and \$2,000 to Warrenton High School.

"I want to thank Walmart for their persistence," said Warrenton Mayor Henry Balensifer in a nod to the trials and tribulations the national retailer has faced in trying to open a North Coast location.

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## Landscape architect plants roots in Astoria

Henri serves on the Planning Commission

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ  
The Daily Astorian

The night of her first Astoria Planning Commission meeting, Brookley Henri's heart was beating fast, but she wasn't nervous.

The meeting would last for nearly three hours, involve emotional, complex testimony and require commissioners to be nimble in upholding and interpreting city development



code. The room, uncomfortably warm at the end of a hot July day, was packed. People spilled into the hallway and adjoining conference rooms, straining to hear.

If anyone thought Henri would spend this first meeting sitting quietly or struggling to keep up, they were wrong. The newly appointed commissioner jumped right in.

Appointed by Mayor Arline LaMear to fill a seat left vacant

when former Commissioner Frank Spence was elected to the Port of Astoria Commission, Henri is a landscape architect and familiar with the language and expectations of documents like the development code.

Henri and her family moved to Astoria from Portland a year and half ago after her husband, Troy, took a job as Clatsop Community College's recruitment coordinator in student services. She kept her longtime job with a Portland environmental engineering and consulting firm and works primarily out of a home



Submitted Photo

Brookley Henri, a landscape architect, serves on the Astoria Planning Commission.

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