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ONE DOLLAR



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Spurgeon D. Keeth, left, Clatsop County's last living survivor of the attack on Pearl Harbor, died Thursday.

County loses last Pearl Harbor attack survivor

Keeth was a witness to Japanese bombing

By EDWARD STRATTON

The Daily Astorian

Spurgeon D. Keeth, who was Clatsop County's last living survivor of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, died Thursday. He was 92.

After spending most his life in Wapato, Washington, in the Yakima Valley, Keeth moved to Hammond in 2015 to be cared for by his daughter, Donna Barnett, and her husband, Bill. Keeth led a more private life and hadn't belonged to any veterans groups in Washington state, Barnett said.

"When he came here, things changed," she said. "He couldn't socialize a lot, but when people found out

there was a Pearl Harbor survivor, they went nuts."

Keeth became a local celebrity on the North Coast and the county's last living survivor of the attack after the death of Seaside's Bill Thomas a year ago. Thomas, a sailor on the Navy's USS Medusa during the attack, helped lead the effort to dedicate Seaside's First Avenue Bridge the Pearl Harbor Memorial Bridge in 2000.

Keeth received free membership in American Legion Post 99 in Seaside and Clatsop Post 12 in Astoria and became a fixture at local parades and an annual wreath-laying ceremony on the memorial bridge.

Mike Phillips of Clatsop Post 12 said Keeth was one of about 50 World War II-era members of the post. Jay Blount, a spokesman with the National Park Service World War II Valor in the

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Tax plan benefits local brewers

A two-year reduction in federal taxes

By EDWARD STRATTON

The Daily Astorian

Local brewers and distillers have mixed feelings about the savings their businesses will receive from the Republican tax plan.

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act includes a two-year reduction of federal excise

taxes on beer, wine and spirits. The cuts came from provisions of the popular Craft Beverage Modernization and Tax Reform Act, originally introduced by U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden of Oregon.

Brewers will see federal excise taxes on their first 60,000 barrels produced cut from \$7 to \$3.50. Taxes on distilled spirits were lowered from \$13.50 to \$2.70 per gallon for the first 100,000 gallons produced.

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DRAGALUTION



Photos by Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Performers at the annual Dragalution in Astoria perform a number by the rock band Queen during a New Year's Eve celebration.

By COLIN MURPHEY

The Daily Astorian

The mood during the annual Dragalution at the Columbian Theater in Astoria Sunday night was one of hope and optimism for the new year. People lined up around the block to get into the event, which featured a wide variety of performances playing to a sold-out crowd. Organizer Marco Davis told the lively audience he was looking forward to what the new year would bring, a sentiment that was met with applause. Dragalution is the brainchild of Davis, who also hosts the show.



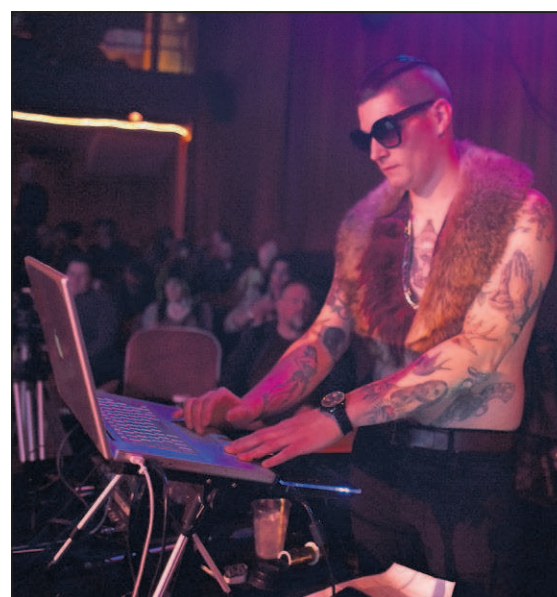
Dragalution organizer Marco Davis, far right with microphone, introduces the cast of performers during the New Year's Eve celebration at the Columbian Theater in Astoria.



Dancers take the stage at the Columbian Theater in Astoria on New Year's Eve for Dragalution.



Participants in the Dragalution show at the Columbian Theater in Astoria performed to a sold-out crowd.



Many of the performers and much of the crew working behind the scenes at the Dragalution event were dressed up in elaborate costumes.



Katie Frankowicz/The Daily Astorian

Janet Fryberger is Coast Community Radio's new membership specialist and volunteer coordinator.

Radio staffer finds community, paradise

Fryberger started as a volunteer

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ

The Daily Astorian

Coast Community Radio's music library — hundreds of CDs in hard plastic cases — fills shelves, turning one room into a sort of maze and stretching down the hall to a second room.

Janet Fryberger, the station's new membership specialist and volunteer coordinator, started as a volunteer, digitizing CDs. It is a job she continues to

perform, a job that could take — well, she tries not to think about how long it will take. It's a daunting task, and many community radio stations are in a similar situation with their libraries, she said.

But the work, the day-to-day interactions with members and programmers, the tedious digitizing process, is just what Fryberger was looking for when she moved to Astoria two

years ago. "It's like getting a job at Cheers," she said. She believes the station "defines the city in a lot of ways" and she is thrilled to have such an active role in the community.

Born in Eugene, Fryberger moved to Astoria from Seattle. Though she has lived in numerous cities over the course of her life, she said, "I always felt a pull to Oregon." Seattle began to feel foreign — no longer the place she'd loved in the 1980s — and she started to contemplate an escape. She'd driven through Astoria a number of times on her way to vacation in

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