

Astoria declares June Pride Month

Proclamation a first for the city

By **KATIE FRANKOWICZ**
The Daily Astorian

Astoria Pride, a week-long celebration honoring the LGBTQ community, kicked off Saturday but a proclamation Mayor Arline LaMear read at a meeting Monday night marked the first time city leaders have officially recognized Pride Month in June.

The proclamation noted that while there have been advancements toward equal treatment, “there continues to be some opposition against people from this community and around the world making it important for cities like Astoria to stand up and show support for our residents who are affected.”

In May, Astoria Pride committee members viewed the City Council’s decision to allow the Astoria Column to be lit for Pride Week — an exception to a city policy that the Column be lit for causes only twice a year — as an important act of solidarity.

The proclamation is another such moment, they said Monday.

“I think it’s recognition that we’ve arrived,” said Tessa Scheller. “This is part of the visibility that we’ve sought for a long time. For people like myself and (Astoria Pride chairman Marco Davis), we grew up in an era where we were kept invisible, where we were kept in closets. No one was out. So for now to be here with young people, with the entire city

celebrating with us, it’s just fantastic.”

Davis, a native Astorian, agreed. “We don’t have to feel like we’re apologizing for our existence,” he said, “and it makes it a little easier to be a part of our community in the way we’d like to be.”

In Astoria, the first Pride Week was held in 2016 and is now an annual celebration. It is organized by the Lower Columbia Q Center.

LaMear said she decided to include the proclamation after Astoria Pride Committee member Cameron Toman asked her if she would consider it.

“Many of them have been through some pretty harrowing times, with threats and harassment and that kind of thing,” LaMear said. “I love the fact that this is an inclusive city. ... I think it’s a really important step forward to make a proclamation and also to have the Column lit.”

City Councilor Zetty Nellowill said it felt good “to be in a room with a friend, Marco Davis, and lots of other people I know throughout the community who are truly happy that the city is embracing everyone.”

“Marco and I went to a high school that didn’t seem so inclusive as our culture and our city does now,” she told LaMear. “I really appreciate you reading the proclamation and I am proud to live in such an inclusive city.”

Colorado cake decision likely won’t settle same-sex bias case in Oregon

Sweet Cakes owners were fined in Oregon

By **PARIS ACHEN**
Capital Bureau

A U.S. Supreme Court ruling Monday in favor of a Colorado baker who refused to sell a custom wedding cake to a gay couple because of his religious beliefs is unlikely to resolve a similar case that has been appealed to the Oregon Supreme Court.

The opinion by Justice Anthony Kennedy determined that members of the Colorado Civil Rights Commission showed anti-religious bias toward Jack Phillips, owner of Masterpiece Cakeshop, in its enforcement of anti-discrimination laws.

But the court’s decision stopped short of resolving whether merchants who have religious objections to gay marriage can refuse commercial services to same-sex couples.

“Importantly, the Supreme Court today protected the core principles of our nondiscrimination laws, expressly recognizing that states can seek to prevent the harms of discrimination in the marketplace, including against LGBT people,” said Diane Goodwin in a joint statement from Basic Rights Oregon and the ACLU of Oregon. “The court did

not give businesses the broad right to discriminate.”

The Supreme Court ruled 7-2 in favor of Phillips’ argument that Colorado civil rights commissioners made statements that showed anti-religious bias. Phillips declined to sell a custom-made cake to Charlie Craig and Dave Mullins for the couple’s commitment ceremony. The Supreme Court opinion departed from Justice Kennedy’s history of supporting gay rights, including the court’s 2015 ruling legalizing gay marriage nationwide.

At the time that Phillips refused to sell the cake to Craig and Mullins in July 2012, same-sex marriage was not yet legal in Colorado.

The Oregon Court of Appeals in December upheld a \$135,000 fine by the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries against Melissa and Aaron Klein, owners of Gresham’s Sweet Cakes by Melissa,

for refusing to sell a wedding cake to lesbian couple Rachel and Laurel Bowman-Cryer in 2013.

The Kleins have sought review of their case by the Oregon Supreme Court, which is still under consideration.

The U.S. Supreme Court’s ruling is unlikely to influence the outcome of the Sweet Cakes case because it applied narrowly to the details of the Colorado case, said Paul Thompson, an attorney for the couple.

“I believe the Colorado case was more Justice Kennedy saying that the Colorado Civil Rights Commission was not neutral and was more animus against the baker,” Thompson said.

Attorney Adam Gustafson, who, along with national religious law firm First Liberty Institute, represents the Kleins, disagreed with Thompson’s analysis.

“The Oregon Bureau of

Labor and Industries decision against the Kleins was tainted by the same anti-religious bias that caused the U.S. Supreme Court to rule for Masterpiece Cakeshop on free exercise grounds,” Gustafson said.

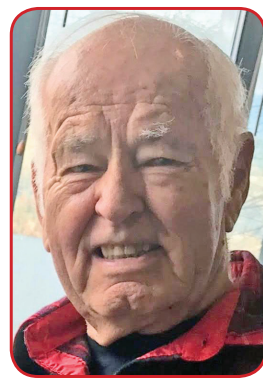
Gustafson was referencing Facebook posts by Oregon Labor Commissioner Brad Avakian. Court documents show that Avakian posted a link to a KGW article about the case and wrote: “Everyone has a right to their religious beliefs, but that doesn’t mean they can disobey laws that are already in place.”

Jim Oleske, a professor at Lewis & Clark Law School who filed a friend-of-the-court brief in the case, said the kind of bias the Kleins are alleging is different from the antireligious statements by members of the Colorado civil rights commissioners and would have a higher standard of proof.

Please join us in a

Celebration of Dale Larson’s life

Saturday, June 9, 2018 at the Clatsop County Fair Grounds at 11:00 am



We will have a coned off area for those who want to bring their Ford Trucks. We also ask of those who wish to, please bring a written memory or thought of Dale to be gathered and shared with family and friends in the days ahead. We have heard from so many of you and find this to be comforting. He was a humble, kind and generous man that will live on in our hearts for years to come.



Local advantage

We’re joining hands with local nonprofits to build a healthier community.

Creating health together.

colpachealth.org
@columbiapacificcco

Columbia Pacific CCO™
A CareOregon Company

CONGRATULATE THE KNAPPA LOGGERS

2A/1A STATE CHAMPIONS

Show your support by putting a message to the state champs in The Daily Astorian’s Special congratulation page.

Your 3-line message to the Loggers championship team and your business name

Deadline: June 7th
Runs: June 8th in Daily Astorian

\$45

Contact Holly Larkins • 971-704-1712
hlarkins@dailyastorian.com

SUMMER READING

Books, Prizes, Performers!

JUNE 9 – AUGUST 31

Astoria Public Library
Warrenton Community Library
Seaside Public Library
Hilda Lahti Elementary
Jewell School

LIBRARIES ROCK!™

Ask about free library cards for kids!

MEDICARE SPECIAL ENROLLMENT EVENT

Those losing their FamilyCare Medicare Advantage Plan

This will be a review of Medicare supplement insurance options to replace your FamilyCare Medicare Advantage Plan that is being cancelled July 1, 2018. SHIBA counselors and local agents will be preset to help you.

MEDICARE SPECIAL ENROLLMENT EVENTS

June 6th 2-3:30 CMH Coho Room
2021 Marine Drive, Astoria, OR 97103

June 13th 2-3:30 Bob Chisholm Center, Seaside
1225 Avenue A, Seaside, OR 97138

June 20th 2-3:30 CMH Coho Room
2021 Marine Drive, Astoria, OR 97103

July 2nd 2-3:30 CMH Coho Room
2021 Marine Drive, Astoria, OR 97103

Registration preferred, call 503-861-4200, drop ins welcome.