

Liberty Theatre fundraiser starts strong

A \$300,000 gala downtown

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

The Liberty Theatre raised \$300,000 during a gala this month, kick-starting a multiyear fundraising goal recently cut by a third.

Jennifer Crockett, the theater's director, said more than 260 people attended the gala on Nov. 10, contributing more than \$1,100 in donations, \$11,000 in ticket sales, \$18,200 from auctions and raffles and \$269,000 to a special appeal by state Sen. Betsy Johnson, D-Scappoose.

The theater had announced a \$5 million capital campaign over the next several years to modernize the stage, backstage and concession areas. But the theater learned the venue wouldn't need as many improvements as previously thought, lowering the goal to \$3.3 million, Crockett said.

Many of the proposed improvements are around modernizing the theater to attract more performances. The Commercial Street landmark underwent a \$6 million renovation between 1999 and 2006. But the offerings are still hampered by outdated equipment, such as a vintage 1925 curtain system, rudimentary lighting and undersized performance and backstage areas. The theater was recently gifted a historic counter from the former Owl Drugstore, but lacks the ability to offer a full range of concessions.

"We are trending way below what other theaters make in concessions," Crockett said. "We're missing about \$47,000 a year, based on ticket sales. Concessions are normally 20 percent of a theater's operating budget, and ours is only 6 percent."

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Arnie's going downtown in Warrenton

Popular restaurant moving

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — Arnie's Cafe, a popular restaurant on Main Avenue across from Warrenton High School, is moving downtown.

The restaurant's owner, Crystal Green, is planning to remodel and open in the former Warrenton Auto Parts, a Napa Auto Parts franchise on Main Avenue a block from City Hall, in June.

The downtown core lost a longstanding local breakfast option last year when Serendipity Caffe was moved out by the Warrenton-Hammond School District to make way for the new location for the Warrenton Community Library.

Green, whose family moved to the area in the 1990s, worked at Arnie's in the mid-2000s for previous owner Mary Garrett. She had jokingly told Garrett to reach out if ever interested in selling, and ended up taking over in 2015, remodeling the restaurant and adding more homemade fare. The restaurant has grown in popularity and doubled its sales since the change, Green said.

The restaurant, Arnie's for about 20 years, has gone through several iterations, including

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TITLE IN SIGHT

Jeff Ter Har/For The Daily Astorian

Seaside quarterback Payton Westerholm (6) celebrates more points on the scoreboard for the Gulls in a semifinal victory over Gladstone. Seaside will play Banks on Saturday for the state championship. See **Sports • 10A**

UP NEXT: STATE CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

• Banks Braves (10-1) vs Seaside Seagulls (10-1) • Saturday, 6 p.m. at Hillsboro Stadium
Radio: KSWB 840 AM • Online: nfhsnetwork.com/channels/oregon



Gary Henley/The Daily Astorian

Astoria woman with heart disease becomes peer mentor

Bernards diagnosed about 10 years ago

By JACK HEFFERNAN
The Daily Astorian

After years of learning how to live with heart disease, an Astoria woman is beginning to teach.

Teresa Bernards, diagnosed about 10 years ago, graduated in October from the four-day Science and Leadership Symposium at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. She was one of nearly 50 women selected for the symposium,



which teaches how to provide peer support for the disease that affects about 48 million women.

Bernards, 69, moved to Astoria about 2 1/2 years ago after teaching at the University of Stuttgart in Germany. Now retired, she regularly participates in the Columbia Memorial Hospital cardiac rehabilitation program.

The program has three phases: consultations with a



Teresa Bernards will provide peer support to women with heart disease.

cardiologist about diet and exercise needs and three months of observed exercise sessions followed by independent workouts.

"It's really uplifting to see

people come in and they're really, really ill. The staff gives really great attention to people and helps them make their own program," Bernards said. "You have to push yourself, but with each success, it pushes you to continue. It's a really good cycle."

Bernards learned about the symposium through the local program. She learned that peer support programs coveted people with teaching backgrounds.

"I thought, 'Oh, this would be really interesting,' so I applied," Bernards said. "I felt really fortunate to be included."

Bernards watched several hours of informational videos

before the symposium. But she couldn't prepare for the stories she'd hear once she got there.

One young woman already had two heart transplants. One was diagnosed despite previously running in marathons. Another woman carries a large photo of a soldier whose heart now beats in her chest.

"It was just overwhelming to listen to these stories, in all cases very serious," Bernards said. "There were so many things that were off my radar that I didn't know existed."

With the training, Bernards will now reach out to people with the disease and a

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