



2018 READERS' CHOICE AWARDS

POWERED BY COAST WEEKEND

SEE THE FULL LIST OF WINNERS INSIDE

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ONE DOLLAR

On Valentine's Day, love is in bloom



Photos by Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Rosie Samp puts together a floral arrangement at Erickson Floral Co. in Astoria for Valentine's Day.



Elizabeth Demello arranges flowers at Erickson Floral Co.



Elizabeth Demello, left, and Rosie Samp fill orders at Erickson Floral Co.

Miss Oregon winners want more answers

Fallout from a settlement with longtime directors

By R.J. MARX
The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — Twenty-three former Miss Oregons want more answers after a settlement between the state Department of Justice and former pageant directors Steve and Dana Phillips.

The couple agreed to step down from any roles with the pageant and pay \$150,000 through the Oregon Community Foundation to the Tiffany Phillips Memorial Scholarship Fund, named for their late daughter.

The former Miss Oregons want to make sure all pageant scholarships have been delivered.

"It has also come to our attention that various titleholders and scholarship winners have had difficulty receiving their awards in a timely fashion," JuliAnn Berg Blam, Lynette Boggs-Perez, Jana Peterson DeCarli and Elizabeth Simmons McShane wrote in a letter approved by 19 other former titleholders.

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College sees flat state funding

Tuition increases are still possible

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

Clatsop Community College is planning for contingencies, including potential tuition increases, if state funding doesn't come in significantly higher than what Gov. Kate Brown has proposed.

While keeping K-12 funding fairly steady, Gov. Brown's proposed two-year budget recommended \$543 million for community colleges, a \$27 million cut from this cycle.

Christopher Breitmeyer, the college president, has said that funding level could result in a local budget shortfall of around \$100,000 and possible tuition increases of less than 5 percent to help cover the gap.

Brown has also recommended an investment budget of \$646.7 million. The plan would keep current service levels, limit tuition increases, fully fund the Oregon Promise program covering tuition for transferring high schoolers, add \$70 million for career-technical initiatives and expand the Oregon Opportunity Grant by \$121 million. But the

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Whiskey bar planned on 13th Street

Building was home to Columbia Travel

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

The Duane Street corridor, home to two breweries, a cidery, a distillery and a bottle shop, will soon add a whiskey bar.

Business partners Seth Howard and Michael Angiletta recently signed a lease in the Columbia Travel building, where they plan to open Blaylock's Whiskey Bar in the spring.

Blaylock's, a reference to his grandmother's maiden name, is the brainchild of Howard, who has worked in retail management the past 20 years. A magician, his initial thought had been to open a magic shop.

"I love being a magician," he said. "It would be great. I wanted to do something different that fits in Astoria. And then I mentioned to some friends, 'Man, I really wish there was a great whiskey bar in town,'" he said. "And they go, 'We should do that.'"

Howard, who moved to the North Coast five years ago from Portland, batted the idea around over the past year and eventually partnered with his friend, Angiletta, a transplant several years ago from San Francisco who has experience in technology and starting businesses. The two began planning Blaylock's in earnest last spring with the advice of local business owners and bartenders, while looking for a location.



Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian

Seth Howard, left, and Michael Angiletta are starting Blaylock's Whiskey Bar in the Wieweseik Building, the former home to Columbia Travel on 13th Street in Astoria.



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