

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

The Harbor featured at benefit night

Fort George Benefit Night, which is being held in the brewery’s upstairs dining room, starting at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, is raising funds for The Harbor, a Clatsop County advocacy center.

The evening features a silent auction and music by Barney Perrine and Myshkin Warbler with Jenny Q.

Proceeds from all upstairs sales for the night will go to the local nonprofit, which provides no cost help, and hope, for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking.

For information about The Harbor, go to harbornw.org

Free feral cat spay/neuter services available

The Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon is offering free spay/neuter services in February for feral and stray cats. This special is in honor of Spay/Neuter Awareness Month and World Spay Day on Feb. 25.

Individuals who are feeding feral or stray cats qualify for this special offer, regardless of income or where they live. Services include spay/neuter surgery, vaccines, flea treatment, pain relief medication and an ear-tip for identification.

The coalition has humane live traps available to safely catch and transport cats, and instructions on how to use them successfully.

Surgeries are performed at the coalition’s spay/neuter clinic in southwest Portland. To schedule an appointment, call 503-797-2606 or go to feralcats.com

Bus offers Rider Appreciation Day

The Sunset Empire Transportation District has announced that its annual Rider-ship Appreciation Day is Tuesday, when it offers free bus service on all regular routes within Clatsop County in a gesture of appreciation to bus riders and the local community for their support throughout the past year.

The public is invited to attend an open house from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday at the Astoria Transit Center, 900 Marine Drive. The event offers information on available services, including several upcoming route changes, refreshments, drawings and prizes.

Ridership Appreciation Day is also scheduled to coincide with the annual Project Homeless Connect event Tuesday, which is being held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Seaside Convention Center, 415 First Ave.

For information, contact Mary Parker at 503-861-5370 or mary@ridethebus.org

Grant writing series offered

Rural Development Initiatives Inc. is presenting “Ready, Set Grant: Warrenton/Astoria 2020,” a comprehensive grant writing workshop series in three sessions, in room 310 Towler Hall at Clatsop Community College.

Session 1, “Grant Ready: Setting up for Success,” is Feb. 18; Session 2, “Set: Defining the Details,” is March 10; and Session 3, “Go: Getting to Work,” is March 31. The sessions are held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., with lunch provided.

The registration deadline is by the end of the day Feb. 13, and the cost is \$129. Scholarships are available, and course credit is offered by the college. For information, and to register, go to conta.cc/3alTo8H

For questions, contact Jessie Katon at jkaton@rdiinc.org or 541-684-9077, ext. 5.

Encore Dance holds Cartwheels for Canned food event

Encore Dance Studio is hosting its 13th annual Cartwheels for Canned Food event at 11 a.m. Saturday at the Warrenton studio, 737 E. Harbor Drive. The program began in 2008 as a way to offer a free tumbling class to local children while also collecting donations for the Clatsop County Regional Food Bank.

The class is open to children age 4 and older who should bring a donation of nonperishable food and wear activewear (but no jeans). Parents will need to sign a waiver for their child to participate.

For information, call 503-861-1637 or go to the “Cartwheels for Canned Food” event page on Facebook.

— The Astorian



Members of Spruce Up Warrenton receive a grant check for \$40,000 from Lacey Sortman of the Reser Family Foundation.

Spruce Up Warrenton

Spruce Up Warrenton awarded grant

The Astorian

The Reser Family Foundation recently awarded a \$5,000 grant to local nonprofit Spruce Up Warrenton, with an additional \$5,000 offered as a 1:1 match for any community donations.

The funding renews annually for four years, for a total of \$40,000 over the duration of the grant. The grant decision was made

public in October 2019. Lacey Sortman, grant and program coordinator for the Reser Family Foundation, presented the check to the nonprofit at its meeting on Jan. 16.

Spruce Up Warrenton is an all-volunteer organization that is part of the Oregon Main Street network. Its mission is developing and promoting revitalization and beautification, while stressing cultural and historic preservation, in downtown Warrenton and

the district of Hammond. The grant funds will be used for expenses such as equipment purchases, technical assistance and a flower planter program for downtown Warrenton.

Currently, additional fundraising is ongoing, and help is needed to meet the \$5,000 community match goal. Donations can be sent to Spruce Up Warrenton, P.O. Box 97, Warrenton, OR 97146. For information, go to fb.me/SpruceUpWarrenton

Wildlife art competitions announced

The Astorian

Artists are invited to compete in one or all three of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife’s 2021 stamp art competitions. The winning artist in each contest receives a \$2,000 award.

Art entries for the Habitat Conservation Stamp must feature an eligible species from the Oregon Conservation Strategy in its natural habitat. See the contest rules and entry form for a list of eligible species at bit.ly/2twXlkE

All entries for the Upland Game Bird Stamp Contest must feature the spruce grouse in its natural habitat setting. Rules and the entry form are at bit.ly/2Rahzz7

Waterfowl Stamp Contest art entries must feature western Canada goose, surf scoter, cinnamon teal, or snow goose in its natural habitat setting. For rules and the entry form, go to bit.ly/2G9KP2A

Entries can be delivered or shipped to state fish and wildlife’s headquarters between Aug. 28 and 5 p.m. Sept. 25 at 4034 Fairview Industrial Drive S.E., Salem, OR 97302.

A panel will judge artwork based on



Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

‘Canary Rockfish,’ by Karin Wares, 2020 Habitat Conservation Stamp winner.

artistic composition, anatomical accuracy of the species and general appeal. All qualifying submissions are displayed for public viewing at state fish and wildlife’s annual November art show.

Collector’s stamps, art prints and other

promotional materials are produced from first place artwork. Proceeds from product sales are used for habitat improvement, research surveys and conservation projects.

For information, go to bit.ly/36aUNvt

Seaside students receive Elks awards

The Astorian

Kara Spell, Emma Meyer and Emma Brown, seniors at Seaside High School, were each awarded scholarships by the Seaside Elks Lodge.

Spell will receive \$1,000 from the Seaside lodge; Meyer and Brown will each receive \$500 scholarships. Spell also won

\$1,800 in the Oregon State Elks Association Northwest District competition, and will attend its awards banquet at the Salem Elks Lodge on Feb. 15 to receive further scholarships.

Exalted Ruler Jim Fettig noted that these Most Valuable Student awards are given for superior scholastic achievement as well as outstanding qualifications of citizenship and



Emma Brown Emma Meyer Kara Spell

leadership, using judging criteria from the Elks National Foundation.

Yingst honored by Spruce Up Warrenton

The Astorian

Local citizen group and nonprofit Spruce Up Warrenton presented a certificate of appreciation to Cindy Yingst at its monthly meeting in January — the first award presented by the committee.

Yingst, owner of Warrenton businesses The Columbia Press and The UPS Store, was selected for recognition based on her longtime support of the Warrenton business community and her dedication to improving the downtown corridor. Yingst and her husband, D.B. Lewis, have owned The

UPS Store since 2006.

Through their two businesses, Yingst and Lewis have supported Spruce Up Warrenton, the Warrenton Community Library, the American Red Cross, local ham radio clubs and the Warrenton Community Emergency Response Team. The UPS Store collects donations through the Toys for Tots Literacy Program, resulting in the purchase of 400 new books for Warrenton’s Start Making A Reader Today program. Yingst also coordinated Warrenton’s Fourth of July parade and festivities from 2009 to 2018.



Spruce Up Warrenton
Cindy Yingst, left, receives a certificate of appreciation from Spruce Up Warrenton chairwoman Brenda Hoxsey.

Nordic park fundraising tops \$750,000

The Astorian

Astoria Nordic Heritage Park committee members cheered as committee chairwoman Judi Lampi gave Astoria Scandinavian Heritage Association President Loran Mathews \$99.01 in cash, bringing the total raised for the park to \$750,000.

Committee members have been working since 2015 on this project. The design and engineering phases are finished, paid for and have passed review by the city of Astoria.

ria. Construction begins when fundraising is complete.

A Nordic Lights Benefit Dinner for the project is being held at Carruthers Restaurant on March 28. Tickets cost \$150 per person, and include a five-course Nordic-themed dining experience.

To receive an invitation, contact Lampi at clatsop41@yahoo.com or call 503-791-9156.

For information about the park, go to AstoriaNordicPark.org



Astoria Scandinavian Heritage Association President Loran Mathews, left, receives \$99.01 in cash from Astoria Nordic Heritage Park Committee Chairwoman Judi Lampi, bringing the fundraising effort for the park to \$750,000.

RELIGION BRIEFS

Grace Episcopal

At Grace Episcopal Church, 1545 Franklin Ave., Sunday is Hunger Awareness Sunday. There is an ingathering at the 10 a.m. service for the hunger ministries at the church; both monetary and nonperishable food items are requested. Hearty soups and canned chili and corn are especially needed.

The 156th annual meeting is being held

following the service. A meal is shared, then reports from the various ministries and committees are presented.

The first annual meeting was held in 1846, before the original church building was completed in 1867, where the Spexarth Building stands now. The congregation then moved to the present location where the first service was held on Easter in 1886.

A community dinner is served in the Parish Hall at 4 p.m. Sunday. Those willing to help should come at 3 p.m. to set up and at 5 p.m. to clean up.

The annual books, media, art sale is Feb. 14 and 15. Donations of books, CDs, DVDs, are requested, and may be dropped off mornings, but no encyclopedias, Reader’s Digests, magazines or VHS tapes. Also requested are pieces of art.

For information, call the church at 503-325-4691 or go to graceastoria.org

First Lutheran

There is one worship service, which includes special revival music, at 10 a.m. Sunday at First Lutheran Church, 725 33rd St. Following the service, the congregation holds the annual meeting and a luncheon.