

# SCRATCHPAD

## Scratchpad: Q&A with Lower Columbia Q Center leader

By **ALYSSA EVANS**  
COAST WEEKEND EDITOR



**A**head of this year's Astoria Pride celebration, Tessa Scheller, the Lower Columbia Q Center's chair, gave some background on Pride Month, as well as ideas on how community members can get involved.

### Coast Weekend: What is Pride?

**Tessa Scheller:** Pride started back in the late 60s with the Stonewall Riot. It's important to recognize that people who are oppressed, kicked and harmed will rise up eventually. Violence is not what any of us

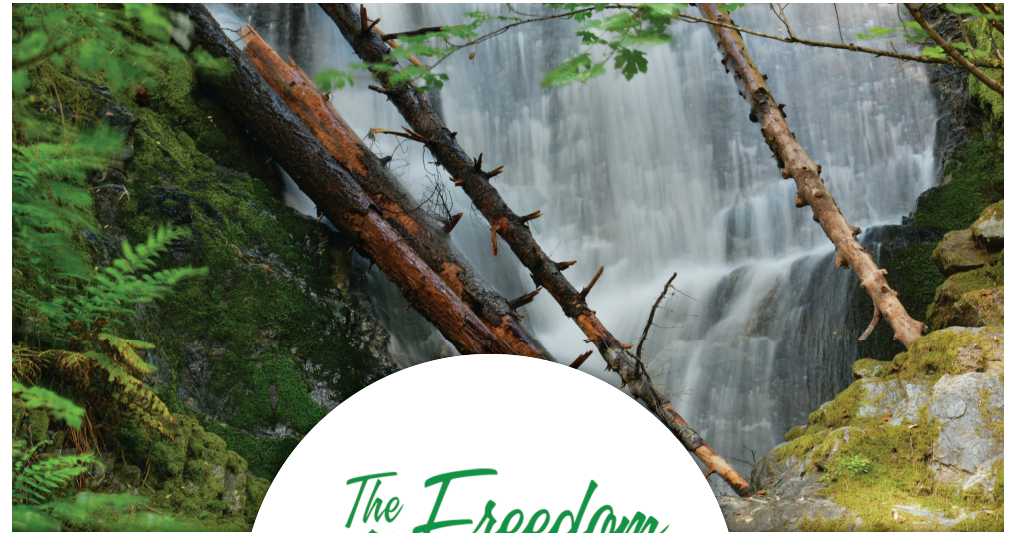
prefer but it's the way people have traditionally secured rights.

I'm not going to compare our fight for rights to people of color because they're different but we support them. We still don't have equality for people who are queer, transgender or identify in other groups.

The generic term, Pride, represents the need for us to stay visible, to be part of the spectrum of people that are recognized as neighbors, community members, friends, family, doctors and so on.

Until the day I retired in 2008, I could've lost my job because I'm queer. It did impact my career because of people who were

See Page 4



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# our coast weekend

ON THE  
COVER

A previous Astoria  
Pride parade.  
COLIN MURPHEY/  
THE ASTORIAN



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