

Bert and Debbie Little named Warrenton citizens of the year

The Columbia Press

Bert and Debbie Little were named Warrenton's citizens of the year during last weekend's Astoria-Warrenton Chamber of Commerce's annual banquet.

The couple were instrumental in finishing plans made decades ago to bring a veterans memorial to downtown. They spent time speaking to groups, raising funds and ensuring everyone was on the same page.

They didn't let the momentum drop.

"The veteran's memorial is perhaps the most obvious example of this couple's dedication and heart for their community," Mayor Henry Balensifer said in presenting the award. "They worked with the city of Warrenton and ODOT to get the project approved, raised funds and in-kind donations, transported pieces of the monument back and forth from the artist's home in Seaside to the foundry in Damascus and collected names of area residents who served in the military to add those names to the memorial.

"They poured their souls into this project as a way to recognize all the men and women who have served our nation and our community."

The 2018 Richard Ford Distinguished Service Award is named for a former city building inspector and fire chief who volunteered his time helping residents and was established by his family after he died.

About 230 people attended the annual banquet at the Clatsop County Fairgrounds, which included awards for Astoria's top citizens and an outstanding business.

The Littles were recognized not only for their dedication to the veterans memorial, but their service with the state and local VFW, where he is quartermaster and she is auxiliary president.

He serves on the board of the Warrenton Warming Center and the city's Parks Advisory Committee.

She wrote the grant for the veterans memorial, runs the concession

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Peggy Yingst/The Columbia Press
Debbie Little speaks at the veterans memorial dedication in late August.



Bert Little stands, shovel at the ready, at the ground-breaking for the veterans memorial in early 2018.

High school's career training center gets sparked by grant for welding

The Columbia Press

Warrenton High School has two new welding stations for its Career Tech Center, which is being built this spring.

The Pacific Power Foundation awarded the Warrenton Hammond School District a \$2,000 grant to help purchase the MIG/TIG welders.

Next school year, Warrenton High School is excited it can offer welding and automotive technology classes on campus, said Vice Principal Josh Jannusch, who is in charge of career training and STEM (science, technology, engineering and math).

Jannusch wrote a grant application on behalf of the high school that won \$436,286 from the Oregon Department of Education to help revitalize career and technology programs on campus.

The grant allowed the school, among other things, to remove a shed on campus and seek bids for construction of a prefabricated career training building in its place.

The new career training building, a 120-foot by 60-foot steel building



Two new welders sit in Warrenton High School's library, waiting for installation in the campus' new Career Tech Center.

worth \$76,000, was donated by the owner of R&M Steel of Caldwell, Idaho. Four district teachers have been or are in the process of being certified to teach career-oriented classes in graphic design, natural resources and manufacturing/technology and others will be hired and certified for auto and welding to meet state STEM requirements.

"The Pacific Power Foundation grant has helped to provide much needed funds to begin to fully stock the build-

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Tillamook woman named Miss Clatsop

The Columbia Press

Ranisha Speed, a 24-year-old college student from Tillamook, was named Miss Clatsop County 2019 during the competition held last weekend.

Speed, is working on a master's degree in business administration from the University of St. Mary in Leavenworth, Kansas, and works in the human resources department for Near Space Corporation in Tillamook.

Speed wowed the judges with her



Speed

academic accomplishments and speaking skills.

Other contenders for the spot were Viola Soprano, 18, of Seaside; Kayla Worwood, 22, of Astoria; Samantha Wozniak, 20, of Seaside; and Katie Zagata, 18, of Seaside.

The Miss Clatsop County Scholarship Competition is the official preliminary for the Miss Oregon Pageant

and is part of the Miss America Organization.

Speed will represent Clatsop County at the state pageant in June.

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