

Nominate deserving educator for teacher of year

If you know of a special teacher who has changed your life or your child's life, consider nominating them for the 2021 Oregon Teacher of the Year.

Nominations close Friday, Jan. 31.

Each year, exceptional teachers are honored in 19 regions across the state, with Oregon's Teacher of the Year selected from among the regional finalists.

The Teacher of the Year program was created to recognize exemplary public-school

educators — Oregon teachers who inspire students and make a positive impact in the communities in which they live.

The award celebrates knowledge, dedication, innovation and leadership.

Thanks to the Oregon Department of Education's partnership with the Oregon Lottery, the Oregon Teacher of the Year receives a gift award of \$5,000 as well as a special fund to cover all travel costs for the year.

In addition, a matching gift

of \$5,000 goes to the Teacher of the Year's school.

The winner also receives gifts and recognition from the Council of Chief State School Officers, founder of the National Teacher of the Year Program.

Finalists and their school each receive a \$2,000 cash award, and regional winners receive \$500 as a part of the Oregon Department of Education's partnership with the Oregon Lottery.

Nomination forms are available at oregonteacher-oftheyear.org.

Annie sing-along for lovers of 'hard-luck' story

An Annie sing-along, for those who love the Broadway musical, will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 25, at the Liberty Theatre, 1203 Commercial St., Astoria.

Participants are encouraged to wear costumes. Tickets are \$8; those 18 and younger pay \$5. Doors open at 1:30 p.m. with will-call tickets available in the box office two hours before showtime.



Little orphan Annie began as a comic strip, then became a Broadway musical and a film.



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Nordic park fundraising at 63 percent of goal



Astoria Scandinavian Heritage Association President Loran Mathews and Astoria Nordic Heritage Park Committee Chair Judi Lampi.

The association working to build the Astoria Nordic Heritage Park has raised \$750,000 so far.

A benefit dinner is in the works for March. Committee members have been working since 2015 on the project. The design and engineering phases of the project are finished and have passed review by the city of Astoria.

A construction management firm, Urban Resources of Portland, is updating the initial estimate of \$1.2 million for construction of the park. Construction will begin when fundraising is complete.

A Nordic Lights Benefit Dinner at Caruthers Restaurant is scheduled for March 28. Tickets are \$150 per person and include a five-course Nordic-themed dining experience.

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

Teens sought for 4-H leadership retreat

A retreat designed to foster leadership in young people is seeking applicants.

The 4-H "Winter Wonder WORLD (Western Oregon Retreat for Leadership Development) will be held Feb. 15-17 at the Salem 4-H Center.

The retreat, organized by teens from throughout Western Oregon, includes

leadership classes, pancake art, team challenges, public speaking, rock painting, yoga, hiking, needle felting, friendship bracelets, line dancing, and knitting.

Four Clatsop County teens, Tully Daire, Austin Lacy, Lacey Arwood, and Sidney Owsley, sit on the governing planning board.

Teachers from Clatsop

County are Baylee McSwain and Emily Bergerson.

The cost is \$130 and includes two nights lodging, five meals and various activities.

The retreat is aimed at those in grades 7-12. Registration deadline is Jan. 31.

To learn more, contact Sandra Carlson at 503-325-8573.