

Astoria farmers market takes flight from a new launch pad

River People Farmers Market is open June 23 through Oct. 6

ASTORIA — The North Coast Food Web welcomes the abundant summer season with its annual River People Farmers Market. The sixth year of the market promises a lot of reasons to celebrate.

“We are so grateful to the city of Astoria for providing a location for us,” said Merianne Myers, board president of the food web. “The plaza on the corner of 12th and Exchange will be our new home on Thursday afternoons from 3 to 7 p.m.



COAST WEEKEND FILE PHOTO
The berries by A & B Farms are ripe and fresh.

beginning June 23 and continuing through Oct. 6.”

River People Farmers Market features local produce from many favorite and new area farms as well as lamb and beef from Meadow Harvest Farms in Nehalem, Blue Scorcher breads and pastries, flower bouquets, live music, hot meals from Monte Alban



SUBMITTED PHOTO

North Coast Food Web Board President Merianne Myers helps organize the River People Farmers Market in Astoria, which starts Thursday, June 23 at its new location at 12th and Exchange streets.

restaurant, pies from the North Coast Food Web — which you can win during pie walk — and more.

This year, the market was chosen to be part of the Double Up Food Bucks program, which benefits 51 farmers markets across Oregon. Funding for the program was initiated by a \$500,000 grant from the USDA’s Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive Program.

“River People has always offered a \$10 match to our SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) shoppers each week. With the Double Up Program we can offer affordable access to healthy local food to even more folks in our collective communities,” Myers said.

Beyond being a place to shop for food, River People Farmers Market offers other ways to contribute to the



PHOTO BY NANCY MCCARTHY

Miki'ala Souza, left, a nutrition educator with the Oregon State University Extension Service, prepares a salad at the farmers market. The extension service, which operates the Taste of Place booth, will offer food demonstrations and recipes using food from the market through the summer.

local agricultural economy and interact with the community.

The market will once again host Sprouts Market Camp with children’s activities and a chance for kids to shop for a healthy snack with their free Sprouts token.

Rotating nonprofits will share the market’s com-

munity booth to visit with market attendees.

And Oregon State University Extension Service will once again offer food and recipe demonstrations. “Shoppers can sample something scrumptious created with whatever is fresh that week and pick up recipes at the Taste of Place booth,” Myers said.

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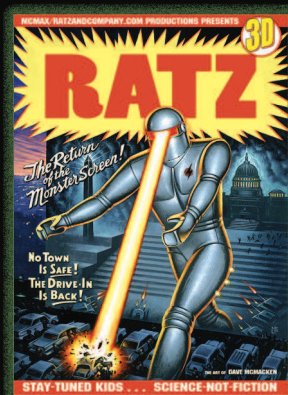
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