

FRIDAY EXTRA!

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Weekend Edition



Photos by Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

Gustavo Aguilar prepares a pesto pumpkin seed taco at the River People Farmers Market in Astoria.

TALKING TACOS, WITH A SIDE DISH OF TRUTH

Aguilars use historic trail as path to cultural awareness

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

Following in the steps of the Corps of Discovery, Gustavo Aguilar estimates he's made more than 900 pumpkin-seed pesto tacos through 11 states over the past two months.

To create a dialogue around cultural citizenship, Gustavo and his wife, Gaelyn Aguilar, have been following the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, making their tacos and asking people what it will take to truly live interculturally.

The couple's "taco encampment," as they refer to it, took up a brief residence near the end of Lewis and Clark's journey last week at the River People Farmers Market in Astoria. On his portable, single-burner cooking stove, Gustavo spread a green pesto paste made from pureed green-hulled pumpkin seeds, garlic cloves and cilantro over a corn tortilla, adding a sprinkle of cheese before frying them in olive oil for anyone wanting a taste.



Joyce Senior, left, shares a laugh with Gaelyn Aguilar, right, and Gustavo Aguilar (not pictured) at the Aguilar's taco booth at the River People Farmers Market in Astoria.

'Lewis and Clark's journey was seen as an epoch of discovery. Our twist is that our trip is an epoch of unlearning.'

Gaelyn Aguilar

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cook who, along with her husband, is generating dialogue around cultural citizenship as they travel along the the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail



Astoria resident Jean Balkins chats with Gaelyn Aguilar, right, as she takes notes at the River People Farmers Market.



Gaelyn and Gustavo Aguilar are setting up their booth, cooking tacos and talking with people across the country about cultural diversity and acceptance.