

SPANNING 50 YEARS



'We wanted to build something to last forever'

Astoria Bridge anniversary is marked Saturday amid much ado

By KYLE SPURR
The Daily Astorian

The summer after he graduated from Seaside High School, Jim Gallegos went to work as a cement finisher on the Astoria Bridge. Like many other bridge workers, Gallegos spent months working high above the Columbia River, in all types of weather, to complete the final link of U.S. Highway 101.

The Astoria Bridge opened 50 years ago this month.

Gallegos, 71, who retired to Utah, returns to the North Coast for vacations and high school reunions. When he visits, he drives up to the Astoria Column and watches as ships travel under the bridge he helped build five decades ago.

"We wanted to build something to last forever, and I think we did," he said.

Rededication
The 50th anniversary of the Astoria Bridge will be marked Saturday morning with a rededication ceremony. The public is invited to meet at 9 a.m. at the Maritime Memorial Park under the bridge.

Guest speakers include state Sen. Betsy Johnson, Astoria Mayor Arline LaMear, Oregon Department of Transportation Director Matt Garrett, Washington State Secretary of Transportation Roger Millar, and Washington State Gov. Jay Inslee's representative Schuyler Hoss.

McAndrew Burns, the executive director of the Clatsop County Historical Society, said the rededication is inspired by a ribbon-cutting ceremony that took place in 1966. At the time, the dedication drew Oregon and Washington governors, Miss Oregon and Miss Washington and a delegation from Astoria's sister city of Walldorf, Germany.

A relative of the Walldorf delegation 50 years ago will be in attendance Saturday.

"50 years ago, this was the first time a full contingent from our sister city Walldorf came over," Burns said. "It is a big deal for both cities."

In addition, 1966 Miss Oregon Estrelita Schid — now Lita Grigg, will attend the

See BRIDGE, Page 10A



The Astoria Bridge project is announced April 21, 1959, after clearing its final legislative hurdle by a 44-15 vote in the Oregon Legislature.



Astoria in 1959, sans Astoria Bridge.



On Aug. 27, 1966, The Daily Astorian announced the ribbon-cutting of the Astoria-Megler Bridge.

Walmart gets one more year

Retail giant looks to build in Warrenton

By ERICK BENGEL
The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — Walmart has been given another year to break ground in Warrenton.

The City Commission on Tuesday approved a one-year extension of the retailer's site design permit to build at Ensign Lane and U.S. Highway 101 in the North Coast Retail Center. The commission first granted the land use permit in August 2013 and has extended it three times, this time until next August.

But this time the vote wasn't unanimous. Mayor Mark Kujala and Commissioners Pam Ackley and Tom Dyer voted for the extension; Commissioner Rick Newton voted against it. Commissioner Henry Balensifer was absent.

Asked after the meeting why he opposed the extension, Newton said, "I don't think it will make life better in Warrenton" to have a Walmart.

See WALMART, Page 10A



Flickr Via WikiMedia
A Walmart store in Southington, Conn.

Pearl on the Prom gets more pushback

Neighbors concerned about property values

By R.J. MARX
The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — Variances for a new luxury motel on the Prom in Seaside could disrupt their property values, neighbors say.

By submitting appeals to the City Council, neighbors Susan and Dan Calef of 25 Avenue A and Avrel Nudelman of 341 Beach Drive each seek a denial of the Planning Commission's July decision to approve variances for the Pearl of Seaside.

Nudelman and the Calefs say their voices in opposition were "brushed aside," and commission findings were "both inadequate and not based on substantial evidence."

Pearl of Seaside owner Antoine Simmons of Haystack Lodgings responded he was working with neighbors to mitigate impacts, and that reductions in the plan's scope could make the 48-room motel unfeasible to build.

See HOTEL, Page 5A

Community remembers 'Mayor of Uniontown'

Goforth was a 'driving force' in neighborhood

By KYLE SPURR
The Daily Astorian

Anyone who spends time in Uniontown can immediately see the impact of Rae Goforth.

The honorary "Mayor of Uniontown" was known for her contributions to the Maritime Memorial and Doughboy Monument, leading historical tours and the overall revival of her neighborhood.

Goforth, 87, died in Astoria

July 31. "She was the driving force on pretty much everything that happened down there for years and years," Astoria City Councilor Russ Warr said.

Warr, the owner of Astoria Granite Works in Uniontown, said he knew Goforth for about three decades and always respected her service. He developed an enduring respect for the community advocate.

"She knew what she wanted and she never wanted to give up," Warr said.

When Goforth moved from

Northern California to Astoria in 1970, she opened Fiddler's Green Family Pub, which she ran for 20 years. She changed the name to Cafe Uniontown when the neighborhood became a historic district.

Reclaiming Uniontown

In the early 1970s, Uniontown looked like a junkyard filled with abandoned cars and boats.

Over the years, Goforth led efforts to restore the area.

See GOFORTH, Page 5A



Rae Goforth



Rae Goforth, left, instructs Ella Hill in the art of Victorian garnish behind the scenes during a Flavel House plum pudding tea in 2000. Goforth's idea to raise money for the Clatsop County Historical Society in the late '80s became an anticipated holiday tradition for many.

The Daily Astorian File Photo

