



PHOTO BY SCOTT DOCHERTY

The Regatta Court, from left: Princess Sydney Ordway, Princess Rebecca Sprengeler, 2016 Queen Aubrey McMahan, Princess Mackenzie Strain and Princess Megan Postlewait

Astoria Regatta celebrates 123rd year

By **KALIA NEAL**
COASTWEEKEND

The Astoria Regatta, a festival now in its 123rd year, is continuing its unique traditions — hence, this year’s theme: “Full Steam Ahead” — including an opening highlight: the Queen’s Coronation.

On Wednesday, Aug. 9, Aubrey McMahan, the 2016 queen from Knappa, will pass her crown to one of four Regatta princesses.

As Regatta Court members, the young women are constantly in the spotlight. And McMahan — the student Knappa High School has relied on to sing the National Anthem at sporting events — is used to being in the public eye.

But when she joined Regatta, she said the attention



became more frequent, and a reminder of the importance of personal responsibility, treating others with respect and maintaining one’s reputation.

“It made me strive to be a better person,” McMahan said. “People know you’re a hard worker. It was about proving it

to myself.”

As advice for the future queen, McMahan said not to panic about being the center of attention; the community will support her. “Everyone who cares about Regatta cares about your well-being,” she said. “You are who you are, and that

is the most fantastic thing about you.”

‘That’s a princess!’

This year’s festival is a five-day event beginning with the Queen’s Luncheon at noon Wednesday, Aug. 9, followed by the Queen’s Coronation at 6 p.m.

“I think it’s going to be rewarding yet bittersweet when they announce the new queen,” McMahan said.

Several signature events follow, including the Regatta Square, Admiral’s Reception, Grand Land Parade, Highwater Boat Parade, fireworks show and Seamen’s Memorial.

“My favorite is still the Seamen’s Memorial,” said U.S. Coast Guard Capt. Dan Travers, this year’s Regatta president, who has spoken at the memorial twice. “It’s a touching event.”

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EVENTS SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 9

Queen’s Luncheon

Noon • Astoria Golf and Country Club

Queen’s Coronation

6 p.m. • Free (\$10 suggested donation) • Liberty Theatre

THURSDAY, AUG. 10

Regatta Junior Parade

5:30 p.m. • Free • Downtown Astoria

Movie night and BBQ in Warrenton

7 p.m. • Free • Warrenton City Park (next to Community Center)

FRIDAY, AUG. 11

Gathering of past admirals and presidents

Noon • \$35/person • Patriot Hall, Clatsop Community College

Seamen’s Memorial

3 p.m. • Free • Maritime Memorial Park

Admirals Reception

5:30 p.m. • \$20/person • The Barbey Center

SATURDAY, AUG. 12

Portland Royal Rosarians Rose Planting

9 a.m. • Free • Lighthouse Park

Regatta Square: BBQ, beer garden, live entertainment, kids fun zone

11 a.m. to 4 p.m. • Free • 12th Street and Duane Avenue, downtown Astoria

Regatta Grand Land Parade

Noon • Free • Downtown Astoria

Sailboat Races

1 p.m. to 4 p.m. • Free • Astoria Yacht Club, West Mooring Basin

Highwater Boat Parade

5:30 p.m. • Free • Astoria, Columbia Riverfront to West Basin Marina to Columbia River Maritime Museum

Regatta Fireworks Show

Dusk • Free • East Mooring Basin

SUNDAY, AUG. 13

Sailboat Races

1 p.m. to 4 p.m. • Free • Astoria Yacht Club, West Mooring Basin

Regatta Concert

3 p.m. • Free • Astoria High School Auditorium