



COLIN MURPHEY PHOTO

Megan Postlewait of Astoria, center, wipes away tears as she is crowned the 2017 Astoria Regatta Queen during the coronation ceremony at the Liberty Theatre.



DANNY MILLER PHOTO

Kids leap for candy during the 2016 Astoria Regatta Grand Land Parade in downtown Astoria.

The four-day annual event begins with the Past Queen's Reception at 5:30 p.m. at the Liberty Theatre to honor 2017 Regatta Queen Megan Postlewait, a recent Astoria High School graduate. The Regatta wraps up Saturday, Aug. 11, with the Columbia River Symphony Concert, though Astoria Yacht Club sailboat races continue on Sunday, Aug. 12.

Other highlights include the Kiwanis Junior Parade; the Regatta Square at Duane Avenue and 12th Street, the Grand Land Parade and the Highwater Boat Parade. A full schedule of events can be found on the Astoria Regatta website.

Regatta Square includes a fun zone for kids, healthy food courtesy of Columbia Memorial Hospital, fire department trucks and a health fair with several disciplines in attendance, such as orthopedics and general surgery. A band made up of entirely CMH staff plays throughout the day. For the first time, Regatta Square is sponsored and organized by Columbia Memorial Hospital.

"(The Square) is going to look a lot different than it has in the past," said Julie Flues, this year's Regatta president.

In January, Flues won the George Award, the Astoria-Warrenton Area Chamber of Commerce citizen of the year award. It is her first time as a dignitary.

"It's been really nice to get involved with something that's been a part of our local tradition for so many years," she said.



"Astoria Regatta, 1890s" by Leslie Peterson.

Other dignitaries are Heather Seppa as Regatta Admiral, Nicolle Landwehr as Admiral's Aide and Skip Hauke as Regatta Parade Grand Marshal.

groups from when they are chosen in February to Regatta week in August.

This year's court is composed of princesses Danielle Morinville from Knappa High School, Tapales from Warrenton High School, Nikkole Sasso from Astoria High School and Katie Zagata from Seaside High School, and 2017 Regatta Queen Postlewait.

Penny Cowden, the executive director of the CMH Foundation and this year's mentor for Sasso, arranged meetings for Sasso with local public relations and communication professionals. It's Cowden's first year as a mentor.

"It's been one of the best volunteer experiences I've ever had," Cowden said. "It's been really rewarding. I've enjoyed it so much."

### Giving up the crown

This year's queen will be chosen at the long-awaited Regatta Queen's Coronation and Reception at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 8, at The Liberty Theatre. Queen Postlewait said she'll miss the community of the court and the experience of the Regatta when she gives up her crown this year.

Postlewait graduated from Astoria High School in the spring and plans to attend Clarkson University in Potsdam, N.Y., as a computer science major.

"I think it's going to be really sad," Postlewait said. "I've wanted to be on the Regatta Court for so many years. Now I'm the queen, and it'll be different for me to not have that dream because I've wanted it for so long ... It'll be bittersweet." CW

### The Regatta Court

The Regatta is also represented by five local high school girls who make up the Regatta Court. The court attends local parades and gives speeches to community

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