

Continued from Page 8

from Portland, Seattle and all over the country.”

A time-honored tradition

The chamber originated the event in the early 1980s as part of an initiative to bring more people to the coast during the off-season. The organization's inaugural one-day Great Astoria Crab Feed and Seafood Festival drew about 6,000 people and featured 30 booths offering food, Oregon wine and crafts. Attendees also got tours of commercial and charter fishing boats and viewed films of local sea life.

Since then, the festival has evolved in various aspects, moving locations several times along the way until finding its current home at the fairgrounds in 2002. At the core, though, the festi-



Photo by Don Anderson

Rosemary Siipola of the Willapa Harbor Chamber of Commerce fries fresh Willapa Bay oysters at the 2016 Crab, Seafood and Wine Festival.

val remains unchanged in its purpose of showcasing the North Coast's plentiful bounty.

“We do get some folks who lament the fact that it's not by the water anymore,” Balensifer said.

Relying on tents outdoor during April's unpredictable weather, however, has historically posed a concern and even occa-

sional problems. Moving a majority of the festival indoors makes it more secure and reduces the chance “something could go wrong in regards to the weather,” she said.

Opportunities for everyone

The festival is one of the Astoria-Warrenton chamber's largest events



Photo by Scott Docherty

Music abounds at the 2018 Astoria Warrenton Crab, Seafood and Wine Festival.

of the year in terms of length and the volunteer labor required to run it. The payoff is boosting the local business community during an empirically slow time of year.

Not only do businesses participate as vendors, but festivalgoers also tend to make a weekend trip for the event and spend ample time about town, visiting restaurants and shopping. The chamber also hires local companies to handle various aspects of the

event, including security and temporary toilet facilities, and provides volunteer opportunities to non-profit groups in exchange for a monetary donation.

Additionally, some regional organizations use the festival as their own personal fundraising opportunity. The Astoria Clowns group sells its popular Clown Bread — a prepared dish featuring French bread slathered with a secret sauce and topped with crab or shrimp

and then grilled. And a group representing the Willapa Harbor Chamber of Commerce comes down from Washington to peddle the region's world-renowned oysters in both fried or shooter form.

“It's one of our biggest fundraisers, helps keep the chamber alive, and, darn it, we make a good fried oyster,” Willapa Harbor Chamber Director Michelle Layman said.

They use the much-desired extra small oyster for their shooters, paired with cocktail sauce or fresh-squeezed lemon, and also sell packages of oyster breeding crafted from their special recipe. Layman and other volunteers generally take turns vending and enjoying the festival throughout the weekend.

“It's just a great time of people getting together, trying wine, enjoying the seafood,” Layman said. 

WELCOME TO THE
2019
Crab Festival!



BOGH
ELECTRIC

Tony Bogh Owner
503.325.5000
CCB # 188326

Trust your vehicle safety
to the professionals at

DEL'S
O.K. TIRE
point S
TIRE and AUTO SERVICE

GET TO THE POINT.
Expert Service. Guaranteed.




71 years of
the same local
owners putting
you first!

503-325-2861
35359 Hwy 101 Business
Astoria

STORE HOURS:
Mon-Fri, 8-6; Sat. 8-4
Closed Sunday

L&D RACE
TECH INC.



WE ARE YOUR
ONE STOP
DIRT BIKE AND ATV
HORSEPOWER SHOP

SALES • SERVICE •
PARTS APPAREL •
ACCESSORIES • ATV'S •
MOTORCYCLES •
NEW & USED

ARCTIC CAT **TEXTRON**
OFF ROAD

SPY+ **Thor** **KTM**
Husqvarna **HYOSUNG**

1035 Marlin Ave.
Warrenton
503-861-2636
Mon-Sat: 9am-6pm • Sunday: 9am-3pm
LandDRaceTech.com



The Freedom
MARKET

YOUR #1 PREMIER CANNABIS RETAILER

LARGEST SELECTION
FRIENDLY & KNOWLEDGEABLE STAFF
ELITE PRODUCTS
— For Washington Residents —

Ilwaco	Cathlamet	Kelso	Longview
(8am - 10pm)	(8am - 10pm)	(8am - 12am)	(8am - 12am)
360-261-7200	360-849-4504	360-636-0420	360-703-3229
133 Howerton Ave	327 WA-4	820A West Side Hwy	971 14th Ave

WARNING: This product has intoxicating effects and may be habit forming. There may be health risks associated with the consumption of this product. For use only by adults 21 and over. Keep out of reach of children. Marijuana can impair concentration, coordination, and judgement. Do not operate a vehicle or machinery under the influence of this drug.