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CORONAVIRUS



Edward Stratton/The Astorian
Sondra Carr of Weird Sisters Freak Boutique is planning a night market.

Night market in the works

A parking lot off 10th Street

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Astorian

Sondra Carr, who runs Weird Sisters Freak Boutique in the Astoria Underground, is exploring a night market on 10th Street as soon as October.

The quarterly Portland Night Market brings together food, drink, cultural and art vendors to an industrial warehouse on the east bank of the Willamette River. The event has continued through the coronavirus pandemic, albeit with limited attendees and vendors.

Carr is reaching out to the organization for help to organize an Astoria variant, depending on the severity of the pandemic. She recently came before the Sunset Empire Transportation District for permission to rent a parking lot at the Astoria Transit Center as part of a larger market between Marine Drive and the Astoria Riverwalk.

"The side of town that the bus terminal is in is sort of becoming a more quirky and creative center of town," Carr said. "And so, I've been talking with some of the other businesses in the area about things that we could do to pull more people who are interested in that sort of thing down to our side of town."

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Edward Stratton/The Astorian

Bob Goldstick plans to play the piano daily from his studio in the Astoria Underground and on YouTube starting in April.

Pianist turns to 'safe busking'

Goldstick able to find new audiences

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Astorian

When the coronavirus pandemic emptied Seaside streets and restricted visits to retirement homes, local pianist and busker Bob Goldstick lost the audiences he loved to entertain.

The veteran of piano bars and busking turned to Twitch, an online streaming platform more synonymous with video gamers, and amassed a global audience until he was recently

EVERYDAY people

hacked and went offline.

After a short break, Goldstick plans to start "safe busking" in April from his studio in the Astoria Underground, playing behind a glass window for audiences in the underground mall and on YouTube for everyone else.

Goldstick, 78, hails from Philadelphia, where his parents started him playing piano at 6. He played classical until he was a teenager, when he started seeing acts like Nat King Cole and Liberace on the television.

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STATE VIRUS RELIEF HELPS THE ARTS

Kirista Trask is one of Astoria's artists who received a relief grant from the Oregon Arts Commission.



Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

The Liberty Theatre is among the arts organizations recently awarded state grants.

Over a dozen artists, groups received funds

By ALYSSA EVANS
The Astorian

As coronavirus vaccines become more available, local arts venues are beginning to decide how to reopen. In April, the Charlene Larsen Center for the Performing Arts is set to host an in-person concert for the North Coast Chorale. The Liberty Theatre will host two livestreamed concerts featuring Blind Pilot.

"(I remember) we thought it'd be two weeks and we couldn't imagine what the theater would do, being closed for two weeks," Jennifer Crockett, the Liberty Theatre's executive director, said. "I hesitate to say it's harder now but it's just as hard because it's a judgment call. How soon is too soon? Will I jump the boat too soon? We don't want to get ahead of comfort zones but want to start showing some things on our stage."

But getting to this point has been the biggest battle for the arts and culture sector. The Oregon Arts Commission recently provided local artists and art

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Alyssa Evans/The Astorian

Oscar de' Masi stands by some of his work.

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