

Scandinavian festival princesses announced

The Astorian

The court for the 54th annual Astoria Scandinavian Midsummer Festival has been announced. As ambassadors for the festival, the princesses are speaking to local lodges in preparation for their "What My Heritage Means to Me" presentations in mid-June.

The Senior Court members are: Sofia Morrill, of Warrenton, who attends Oregon State University, is Miss Finland 2019 and Miss Scandinavia 2020; Lila-June Anderson, a junior at Astoria High School, is Miss Denmark; Emma Biederman, a senior at Astoria High School, is Miss Finland; Grace Maier, a senior at Tigard High School, is Miss Norway; and Kaisa Liljenwall, a freshman at the University of Southern California, is Miss Sweden.

The Junior Court members are: Salome Kancharla is Junior Miss Denmark;



Constance Waisanen,
Junior Court
chaperone



Max Rathfon,
Crown Bearer



Petra Cereghino,
Junior Miss
Sweden



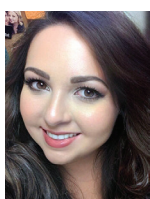
Kilee Svensen,
Junior Miss
Norway



Avery Hoyer,
Junior Miss
Finland



Salome Kancharla,
Junior Miss
Denmark



Carole Chase,
Senior Court
chaperone



Kaisa Liljenwall,
Miss Sweden



Grace Maier,
Miss Norway



Emma Biederman,
Miss Finland



Lila-June Anderson,
Miss Denmark



Sofia Morrill,
Miss Finland
2019 and Miss
Scandinavia
2020

Avery Hoyer is Junior Miss Finland; Kilee Svensen is Junior Miss Norway; and Petra Cereghino is Junior Miss Sweden.

Carole Chase, of Warrenton, is the Senior Court chap-

erone; Constance Waisanen, of Knappa, is the Junior Court chaperone; and Max Rathfon is the Crown Bearer.

The Astoria Scandinavian Midsummer Festival started in 1968 and is sponsored

by the Astoria Scandinavian Heritage Association.

This year the festival is being held June 18, 19 and 20 but will be limited. For information, go to AstoriaScanFest.org

4-H offers two youth activities

The Astorian

Two youth activities are being offered by 4-H.

A 4-H babysitting training series is being offered via Zoom from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. May 5, 12, 19 and 26 for youth ages 10 to 19.

Registration is open until the class is filled. To register, go to bit.ly/31AZVZM; for information, contact Dani Annala at 541-386-3343, ext. 38260.

The 4-H Commit to Be Fit 30-Hour Challenge, which takes place now through

April 30, is for youth ages 5 to 19. Go to <https://beav.es/JjP> to download the tracking grid and goal sheet to begin logging hours.

Turn the form in to the 4-H Office at 2001 Marine Drive, Room 210, or use the "Register" button at [https://](https://beav.es/JjP)

beav.es/JjP at the end of the month to submit online.

Every entrant who completes at least 30 hours will be entered into a \$100 prize drawing. For questions, contact Sandra Carlson at sandra.carlson@oregonstate.edu

People find escape outdoors during pandemic

By PAT GRAHAM
and TALES AZZONI
Associated Press

For those venturing off the beaten path, be advised — it's a little crowded out there.

By nature's standards, anyway, as the great outdoors has become the great escape.

Hiking trails, parks and other open spaces were packed in 2020 with a cooped-up population searching for fresh air during the coronavirus pandemic. Locked down, shut in or just fearful of crowds, people took up hiking, biking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, camping, tennis and golf — to name several — in significant numbers.

"It's both heartening and a little bit mind-blowing to think how things are going this year," said Richard Hodges, the Nordic director at White Pine Touring in Park City, Utah. "It's been really fun — a lot of work, but really fun. All we're doing is trying to get people outside to go play in the snow."

BY THE NUMBERS

8.1M

more Americans went hiking in 2020 compared to 2019.

7.9M

more went camping last year.

3.4M

more participated in freshwater fishing.

Outdoor enthusiasts are certainly stepping outside to play in whatever environment — when pandemic restrictions permit it, of course, and in accordance with stay-at-home guidelines. But the numbers illustrate that many are heeding the call to the wild:

— 8.1 million more Americans went hiking in 2020 compared to 2019, according to a preview of an upcoming outdoor partici-

ipation report from the Outdoor Foundation, the philanthropic wing of the Outdoor Industry Association.

— 7.9 million more went camping last year.

— 3.4 million more participated in freshwater fishing.

The foundation's research also reflected a decline in inactivity for most age groups and across all income levels. There was a 52.9% surge in outdoor participation, an increase from 50.5% in 2018 and 50.7% in 2019.

The upward trend in hiking doesn't come as a surprise to Sandra Marra, the president and CEO of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy.

From nearly day one of the pandemic, a myriad of hikers have been trekking along the Appalachian Trail, which encompasses about 2,200 miles, traverses through 14 states and sees about 3 million-plus visitors a year.

Word of caution before going: Check the weather reports and dress accordingly. And don't park on

someone's property, even if the trailhead lots are full.

"What's happened is a whole bunch of people that never really recreated outdoors like this, suddenly discovered the fact there are these easily accessible trails not that far from their backyard," Marra explained. "That's wonderful. But we're finding a lot of people are out there not prepared for just how rugged this trail is. It's not a walk on the bike trail in the middle of the city."

Daily walks — "constitutitional" in another era, perhaps — are on a rapid rise, too. No numbers needed to reflect that — just meander down any block or street in any city or any country.

In New York City, when the weather is good, people are out in droves — conjuring images of Edith Wharton characters strolling the promenade. It just so happens there is an Edith Wharton Walking Tour in New York. For now, it's limited to an online stroll through the Gilded Age.

SELF-HELP GROUPS

Al-Anon (Astoria) — For information, call 503-325-1087.

Al-Anon (Clatskanie) — For information, call 503-728-3351.

Al-Anon (Nehalem) — For information, call 503-368-8255.

Al-Anon (Seaside) — For information, call 503-810-5196 for information.

Al-Anon (Tillamook) — For information, call 503-842-5094 or 503-730-5863.

Al-Anon Family Groups information — Oregon Area Al-Anon website, oregonal-anon.org

Alateen (Tillamook) — For information, call 503-730-5863.

Alcoholics Anonymous — To find a meeting in Clatsop County, call 971-601-9220, in Tillamook County, call 503-739-4856, or go to aa-oregon.org

Celebrate Recovery — Faith-based 12-step recov-

ery from hurts, habits and hang ups. For information, call 503-738-7453.

Sexual Purity Recovery Group — Part of the Pure Life Alliance (purelifealliance.org) in Portland. For information, call the confidential voicemail at 503-750-0817 and leave a message.

Narcotics Anonymous — For full schedule details, as well as upcoming special events, call the helpline at 503-717-3702, or go to na.org

Overeaters Anonymous (Astoria) — For information, call 425-287-0806.

Overeaters Anonymous (Seaside) — For information, call 503-738-0307.

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) (Astoria) — For information, call Trisha Hayrynen at 503-298-9058.

TOPS (Seaside) — For information, call 509-910-0354.

TOPS (Warrenton) — For information, call Cheryl Nitz at 503-338-2132.

Phillips places at FFA events

The Astorian

Jack Phillips competed in March at the FFA sectionals for the job interview career development event, designed for FFA members to develop, practice and demonstrate skills needed in seeking employment.

Phillips placed second in sectionals and moved on to compete at the state level, where he placed sixth.



Jack Phillips

Church offers clothes bank

The Astorian

WARRENTON — A free good condition clothes bank, for children in sixth grade to infants, is being offered from 3 p.m. to

6 p.m. Friday, and from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, at Warrenton First Baptist Church, 30 N.E. First St. For information, contact Sandi Bridgeman at 503-338-6073 or 503-791-7522.

RELIGION BRIEFS

Astoria Christian Church

For service information and updates, go to astoriachristian.org or bit.ly/AstoriaChristian, call 503-325-2591 or email Astoria-Christian@gmail.com

Astoria First Baptist Church

First Baptist Church, 349 Seventh St., holds an in-person worship service at 10:45 a.m. Sunday. Social distancing is practiced, face coverings are required and hand sanitizers are available. The service is also broadcast at www.facebook.com/astoriafirstbaptist

Sunday school starts at 9:30 a.m. There is no child care, but children are encouraged to join the service. For information, call the church office at 503-325-1761.

Astoria First United Methodist Church

For livestream service information and updates, email the church office at office@unitedmethodistastoria.org or call 503-325-5454.

Grace Episcopal Church

For updates, food pantry hours and in-person and livestream service information, call the church at 503-325-4691, email graceastoria4691@gmail.com or go to graceastoria.org or fb.me/GraceAstoria

Pacific Unitarian Universalist

A Pacific Unitarian Universalist Fellowship service is being held via Zoom at 11 a.m. Sunday. Speaker Cliff Taylor, a member of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska, talks about his book, "The Memory of Souls," part memoir and part letter to young Native Americans. For Zoom information, go to pacuuf.org

Peace First Lutheran

For service information, go to astoriafirstlutheran.com under "Worship & Music/Videos & Resources" or bit.ly/FLCAstoria. To receive a DVD of the services and bulletin, call the office and leave a message.

Pioneer Presbyterian Church

WARRENTON — For service information, call the church at 503-861-2421 or go to pioneerchurchpcusa.org

St. Mary, Star of the Sea Parish

For information about the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry hours, and service and livestreaming information at both the Astoria church and Hammond mission, call 503-325-3671, email office@stmaryastoria.com or go to stmaryastoria.com or bit.ly/stmaryastoria

Mathews named grand marshal of Scandinavian festival parade

The Astorian

The Astoria Scandinavian Midsummer Festival Association has named Loran Mathews of Astoria the grand marshal for the 2021 Midsummer Festival Optog Parade.

The drive-by event will be held from 11 a.m. to noon on June 19 in front of the Columbia River Maritime Museum.

Mathews arrived in Astoria in 1958 when he served in the U.S. Coast Guard. He married Astoria native Corleen Johnson in 1963, who shares her Norwegian heritage with him, making him "Norwegian by marriage." Mathew's involvement in the midsummer festival began in 1972, when Ella Simonsen asked him to be chairman of the parade committee.

The next year, Mathews became chairman of the fes-

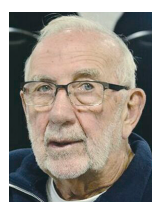
tival. He has since served as chairman, co-chairman, budget officer, logistics chairman and downtown flags and signs chairman.

Mathews is president of the nonprofit Astoria Scandinavian Heritage Association.

He is also the retired director of support services for the Astoria School District and a former Astoria city councilor.

He serves on the city budget committee and as treasurer for the Astoria-Warrenton Area Chamber of Commerce. He is also a motorman for the Astoria Riverfront Trolley and a member of the Sons of Norway Lodge.

The Astoria Scandinavian Midsummer Festival Association will not hold an in-person festival in 2021, but there will be many virtual and drive-by events. For information, go to AstoriaScanFest.org



Loran Mathews



Now more than ever, you're ready for a vacation. Kick off your journey with a low-rate loan on the RV, boat, motorcycle, ATV, or wave runner you've always wanted.

4.74% APR*

We practice Rate Equality, so every qualified member gets the same low rate. We'll even refinance loans from other lenders so you can **save big**.

Apply Online or in a Branch Today!

For more information, text: **Adventure** to **360-351-4111**

*Annual Percentage Rate effective 3/1/2021 and subject to change. Ten year old recreational vehicle or newer. 84 month term at this rate. Extended term available at a higher rate.

REDLEAF organic coffee

Full-service coffee shop inside and drive-up order & delivery outside at our Warrenton branch!

TLC
A DIVISION OF Fibre Federal CREDIT UNION

85 W Marine Dr Astoria
2315 N Roosevelt Dr Seaside
1771 SE Ensign Ln Warrenton
www.tlfcu.org • 503.842.7523

[FibreFamily](https://www.facebook.com/FibreFamily) [ILikeTLC](https://www.facebook.com/ILikeTLC)

WANTED

Alder and Maple Saw Logs & Standing Timber

Northwest Hardwoods • Longview, WA

Contact: John Anderson • 360-269-2500