

Long Beach drive-in theater draws crowds

Neptune theater opened drive-in in January

By **CAITLIN SEYFRIED**
For The Astorian

Do you remember the last time you went to see a movie at a drive-in?

The nostalgic pastime is making a comeback at Neptune Movie House in Long Beach, Washington.

Owner Kaarina Stotts had been renovating the theater for a year-and-a-half when the coronavirus pandemic hit.

“People were asking about gift certificates and asking to come buy popcorn to-go. Then I started doing private showings. Without the community, we would not be open right now,” Stotts said.

Stotts also created a DVD rental program. DVD rentals are \$3 to rent, with \$2 back upon return.

“When we shut down, I brought a bunch of DVDs from my house so that people had something to do. When they came in for popcorn they could rent a movie,” Stotts said.

When she decided to build the drive-in,

IF YOU GO

Neptune Movie House
Open Tuesday to Sunday
809 Ocean Beach Boulevard S., Long Beach, Washington

Stotts put a call out for help on Facebook.

“People were walking in here for popcorn and asking how they could help. The community is awesome,” Stotts said.

With expertise from community members and local businesses, the drive-in was constructed within five weeks.

The drive-in is currently more popular than the indoor showings at the theater, according to Stotts, which she attributes to a reluctance to congregate inside. However, private showings have been popular in the Neptune’s two theaters.

“I’ve done a lot of birthday parties and groups of families that want to get together,” Stotts said.

There are advantages to the drive-in that

See Page 13



Caitlin Seyfried

The Neptune Movie House in Long Beach, Washington.

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