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## CORONAVIRUS

# Astoria Regatta canceled

### Second year event called off over virus

By **ALYSSA EVANS**  
*The Astorian*

The Astoria Regatta is canceled for the second year in a row due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The festival is the city's longest standing annual celebration. The event has only been modified four other times, including 2020, after World War I, the Astoria fire in 1922 and World War II.

"It is with regret that the Astoria Regatta Association will not host a festival for the 2021 season," Melissa Grothe, a Lewis and Clark Elementary School teacher and president of the Astoria Regatta Association, said in a statement.

The festival, which celebrates regional maritime history and culture, began in 1894. In lieu of the 2021 festival, the Astoria Regatta Association is encouraging local businesses to decorate their front windows with "their best Regatta regalia," during the week of Aug. 11 to Aug. 14.

The decision to cancel the festival was brought on by the effects of the pandemic. The association's board hopes to reduce stress on local businesses and volunteers.

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"Our board acknowledges the incredible challenge our community has been facing and want to respect the hard work that businesses and individuals are putting in to keep things moving forward," Grothe said. "However, the Regatta festival operates almost entirely through the incredible generosity of our community members both financially and time-wise."

"To ask for donations or do any fundraising at this time would only serve to add more pressure to our local businesses and community members in a difficult season."

Another factor behind the decision was Clatsop County's virus case numbers. The county remains at high risk for the virus under the state's designation.

"With COVID-19 cases still permeating our community, we also want to respect the health and safety of our community members by avoiding additional gatherings," Grothe said.

Annalyse Steele, of Astoria High School, was crowned as Regatta queen during a small coronation ceremony in 2020. She will maintain her role until 2022, when the Astoria Regatta Association "can safely host the festival," according to the press release.

The festival's 2020 court also includes princesses Zoey Alexander, of Seaside High School; Mia McFadden, of Warrenton High School; and Gabrielle Morrill, of Knappa High School. The group attended a few events in 2020, including a "reverse parade" in Tillamook.

Throughout summer and "especially during Regatta week," the Astoria Regatta Association will share photos on social media platforms from past celebrations to "keep the Regatta spirit alive," Grothe said.

"We look forward to a grand celebration next summer and hope you are practicing your best parade wave because ya' gotta Regatta," Grothe said.



Photos by Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

Part of Main Avenue from downtown to Warrenton High School lacks a safe pedestrian route.

# Bonamici advances local projects for federal funding

By **EMILY LINDBLOM**  
*The Astorian*

In the coming years, federal money could help bring a safe pedestrian route to Warrenton, protection against landslides in Astoria and an updated salmon habitat restoration program to the Columbia River.

U.S. Rep. Suzanne Bonamici recommended these local projects to be considered for federal funding through two separate streams.

"There's a tremendous need in our community and I was very pleased to advance these projects," Bonamici said, adding they would not only benefit Clatsop County, but the whole region. "We really looked for projects that need federal investment, are good for the region, create jobs, address public safety, the climate and other issues that are important to our region as well."

The Oregon Democrat advanced a \$1.3 million request from Warrenton for a pedestrian corridor along Main Avenue connecting downtown to Warrenton High School.

The project is meant to create safe, Americans with Disabilities Act-accessible sidewalks, crosswalks and transit access.

The congresswoman said Warrenton Mayor Henry Balensifer told her that sidewalks were a priority for his grandmother when she was mayor.

"Keeping students safe is important to me, and I was concerned to hear that students and pedestrians are struggling to safely navigate this busy stretch of road," Bonamici said. "Addressing safety issues like this one will support Warrenton's future growth, create jobs and bolster the city's efforts to make Warrenton the safest and most welcoming community it can be."

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ABOVE: Astoria could receive \$902,500 to mitigate potential landslides. BELOW: Warrenton students regularly walk along Main Avenue.



Edward Stratton/The Astorian

Andrea and Galen McDermid are reopening the former Arc Arcade in Astoria as Gizmo's Arcade & Eatery.

# Couple brings arcade back to Astoria

### Gizmo's to replace The Arc on Commercial

By **EDWARD STRATTON**  
*The Astorian*

Andrea and Galen McDermid saw the vacant Arc Arcade and the void of options for teenagers when their parents are downtown.

The self-described children of the 1980s are planning to help fill the void in June with Gizmo's Arcade & Eatery, a

retro gaming center with gourmet hot dogs, beer and cider at Commercial and 11th streets.

The Arc Arcade closed in 2017. Bonsai Hollow opened over the summer on Marine Drive, offering a place for board gamers to stock up and hang out. But the nearest arcade, aside from a 21-and-over pinball room in Merry Time Bar & Grill, is in Seaside. "We view it through the



lens of a family," Galen McDermid said. "We have four kids. When we're traveling to Seaside, we know we're going to have to commit to a certain amount of money for food, and then some entertainment. So we wanted to kind of bring that here."

They wanted the arcade to pay homage to their childhood, with tape deck wallpaper and plans for He-Man memorabilia. Instead of card readers, Gizmo's will use old-school tokens to operate machines and offer prizes out of small plastic capsules.

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