

# the Astorian

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## CORONAVIRUS



## PRIDE

**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP:** Tesla Dobson, left, and Lucy Hart dance together at Astoria Pride on Saturday. The Lower Columbia Q Center organized events throughout the city over the weekend to celebrate the LGBT community. • The Turnback Boyz, a queer boy band from Portland, perform at Pride. • A Pride attendee does a TikTok dance. • Taz Davis as Miss Ariel View lip syncs to 'And I Am Telling You I'm Not Going' by Jennifer Hudson.

Photos by Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian



## Great Columbia Crossing set to return

Held virtually in 2020 because of the pandemic

By ALYSSA EVANS  
The Astorian

Grab your best running or walking shoes.

After nearly two years, hundreds of walkers and runners in October will cross the Astoria Bridge by foot for the Great Columbia Crossing.

The 10K run or walk will be held in-person on Oct. 10. Participants travel from Washington state, across the Astoria Bridge, to Astoria. As of now, event coordinators expect the event to look like previous years, but details are subject to change based on health and safety regulations tied to the coronavirus pandemic.

"Event planning during this pandemic is challenging and we appreciate your patience," Bayly Lay, the event coordinator for the Astoria-Warrenton Area Chamber of Commerce, said in a statement.

The event, like many others on the North Coast, was held virtually in 2020 because of the pandemic. The race is one of the chamber's largest fundraisers.

"The reason we plan these events when we do is we want to increase commerce in the area when it's not necessarily happening ... We try to get our runners, especially those from out of town, to get into the area

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## Cities plan a range of Fourth of July celebrations

Astoria to host biggest fireworks show

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ  
The Astorian

Astoria is planning its biggest Fourth of July fireworks show ever — even bigger than the surprise display that boomed over the city last year.

But as other North Coast cities cancel annual fireworks shows again because of the coronavirus pandemic or clamp down harder on fireworks restrictions, Astoria could be the only show in town.

"I will happily tell (Astoria Mayor Bruce Jones) that we're sending everybody his way," Cannon Beach Mayor Sam Steidel joked at a recent City Council meeting.

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## State dismisses an ethics complaint against Cannon Beach public works director

City claims La Bonte a target of harassment

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ  
The Astorian

CANNON BEACH — A second ethics complaint against Karen La Bonte, Cannon Beach's public works director, has been dismissed.

The complaint concerned how La Bonte disposed of surplus city

fencing material in 2018. It was filed by Manzanita resident Rusty Morris, who has lodged other complaints against La Bonte in recent months. He has also begun to circulate a petition online calling for her dismissal.

A preliminary review completed by an investigator for the Oregon Government Ethics Commission concluded that more investigation was needed to determine if La Bonte had abused her position to benefit

financially or skirt state conflict of interest provisions.

Last week, the ethics board voted to dismiss the case rather than investigate further.

"The commission did not find cause to proceed with an investigation," Ronald Bersin, the commission's executive director, wrote in a letter. "Therefore, the matter is dismissed and no further action will be taken."

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A sign in Cannon Beach during the coronavirus pandemic.



Carol Shepherd

Longtime Hammond resident Carolyn Shepherd.

## Shepherd known as the 'first lady of Hammond'

Family has deep roots in the region

By GARY HENLEY  
The Astorian

Every small town has its "first families." Familiar names and descendants that go back to the town's beginning, or even led to the naming of the town itself.

In Hammond — incorporated and originally named New Astoria in 1899, then later named for Andrew B. Hammond — the list of pioneer families would definitely include the Petersens and the Shepherds.

Specifically, Carolyn Shepherd — the "first lady of Ham-

mond." It sounds royal enough. And it is fitting.

When Lewis and Clark and the Corps of Discovery got out of their canoes after they arrived at the lower Columbia River in 1805, one of Shepherd's ancestors — a legendary Chinook Indian chief — was there to greet them.

Later, Shepherd's father, Conrad Petersen, and her late husband, John Shepherd, were influential community members, from the early days until 1991, when Warrenton annexed Hammond.

Petersen was a local business owner, and John Shepherd — among his many duties, was a fire chief, business owner and town councilman for nearly 30 years. Shepherd is closing in on



her 90th birthday, which she hopes to celebrate in 2022.

### A life in Hammond

Shepherd has spent much of her 89 years in Hammond, where she and her friends rode their bikes as kids, coming and going as they pleased in the cannery and the grounds of Fort Stevens during the days of World War II.

She remembers spending time at the train depot, going in the back door of the cannery to

watch the workers, and spending a dime to watch movies in the Fort Stevens theater.

Then there was the June night in 1942, when the sleepy hamlet of Hammond was wide awake.

"I was at a neighbors house for a sleepover that night," Shepherd said. "We were awake and we knew what was happening. Once in a while, the fort would have nighttime practices, but it didn't sound like that, that night. We could hear the shells coming in, and they were exploding not too far from us."

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