

Astoria - Warrenton Area Chamber of Commerce

Crab, Seafood & Wine Festival

April 27-29

Clatsop County Fairgrounds



2018 festival to draw the crowds and some great seafood and wine

By CINDY YINGST
The Columbia Press

Thousands of people flood the North Coast each year -- filling hotels, campgrounds and restaurants -- as part of the annual Astoria-Warrenton Crab, Seafood and Wine Festival.

"Crabfest" is the region's biggest festival and, perhaps, its biggest money-maker.

Nearly 300 people volunteer to staff shifts doing everything from taking tickets and coordinating parking to guarding emergency exits. A dozen service groups tackle some of the hardest jobs -- emptying trash, cleaning up afterward -- for a share of the proceeds.

"It's a pretty big event for a lot of different groups," said Kelsey Balensifer, event coordinator for the chamber of commerce. "We're really proud of the whole commu-



Courtesy Astoria-Warrenton Chamber

An Astoria Rotary Club volunteer passes out a crab dinner plate. It is the club's biggest fund-raiser of the year.

nity coming out and being a part of it. We wouldn't be able to do this without com-

munity support."

The hotels are filled. There's hardly a seat at local restau-

Finding the best and freshest seafood at the festival

The Columbia Press

A festival that celebrates the best of the Northwest ought to have some great seafood.

And the Crab, Wine and Seafood Festival doesn't disappoint.

Astoria Rotary Club offers full- and half-crab dinners, along with several sides, in the main event hall.

Most of the other food vendors can be found in the food tent, including the Astoria Clowns with their shrimp or crab melts, and the Willapa

Harbor Chamber of Commerce with its oyster booth.

"Almost all offer some sort of seafood option," said Kelsey Balensifer, event organizer for the Astoria-Warrenton Area Chamber of Commerce.

Pacific Crab Company will have chowder plus crab and shrimp Rangoon.

Café de la Rue has hand-held puff pastry pockets, including lemon-dill salmon (Balensifer's favorite) and dill-dijon crab.

Bell Buoy of Seaside will have a variety of seafood offerings.

There's even an option if you don't want to eat seafood, but wouldn't mind looking at it.

Fred Meyer, the event's presenting sponsor, will have a big booth just inside the main entry with seafood items most shoppers don't ordinarily see or consider, Balensifer said.

These could include octopus, big ugly fish and more.

In this section

- Where to get the best seafood (below)
- Your guide to entertainment (back page)
- Craft and food vendors (inside)
- Getting to the festival (Inside)

rants. Downtown Astoria will be packed with shoppers.

"This is so important to the business community," Balensifer said. "We really feel like it's a good economic driver."

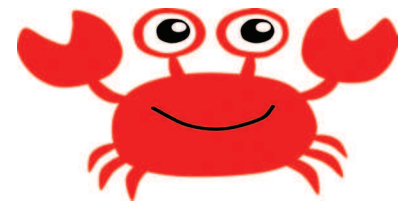
As with most fairs and festivals, there will be top-notch entertainment and a variety of vendors.

"We've always got some new tricks up our sleeves as far as vendors go," she said.

This year's new vendors include Saucy Minx BBQ, Erik Swenson Woodworks, Nomad Leather, a vendor selling children's books and Mugwump, which repurposes old maps, books and records into wallets and purses.

But it is the food and wine that makes this festival stand out.

There are 160 craft and goods vendors plus 60 Northwest wine and alcohol sellers.



Astoria Warrenton Crab, Seafood & Wine Festival



Presenting Sponsor **Fred Meyer**

Celebrate the delicious bounty of the Oregon Coast!

April 27, 28 & 29

AstoriaCrabFest.com

HOURS & ADMISSION

Friday: 4-9pm • \$15/Adult
Saturday: 10-8pm • \$15/Adult
Sunday: 11-4pm • \$10/Adult

Visit website for Senior, Youth & Military pricing.

LOCATION

Clatsop County Fairgrounds
Limited parking.
Shuttles from lodging or park & ride locations.

VOLUNTEER: Join our team & earn free admission.
Sign up online.