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Clatsop County's Independent Weekly Newspaper

## Warrenton shined in Astoria's 2019 Regatta



Warrenton High School's Mara Dowaliby was crowned Regatta queen during last week's event.


The Columbia Press
Warrenton High School's Mara Dowaliby was named 2019 Astoria Regatta Queen and for the first time ever, the Junior Regatta Parade was held in Warrenton.
"It was a huge honor; I was beyond excited," said Dowaliby, 17, who will be a senior in the fall as well as student body president.
She and three other local teens (Serena Moha of Warrenton, Kayla Helligso of Astoria High and Caitlin Hillman of Seaside High) spent eight months preparing for last weekend's big event, which included boat races and parades, a concert, a seamen's memorial, rose planting, dinners and other events.
They tackled public service work, speaking events, and generally represented

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## Student loan debt continues growing for state's borrowers

The Columbia Press and news sources As the cost of attending college increases, student loan debt continues to affect the future for students in all schools in the country, according to a study released this month.
Fifty-five percent of Oregon's 2018 college graduates borrowed money to attend and those students walked away with an average debt of $\$ 28,627$. Nationally, outstanding student loan debt sits at $\$ 1.52$ trillion, making it the second largest form of consumer debt trailing only mortgages.
It's the fourth year that LendEDU has conducted the nationwide survey
of student debt. The Hoboken, N.J., company runs a website to help consumers learn about and compare financial products, including credit cards, insurance products and student loans. The company analyzed debt at 1,000 four-year private and public colleges in the nation.
Three of Oregon's colleges -- Corban University, Linfield College, and Pacific University -- ranked in the top 250 for highest student debt. Western Oregon University and Reed College fell in the ranks of colleges with the lowest.
The figures come from licensing data in the annual Peterson's financial aid survey.

## By the numbers

Western Oregon Univ.: \$19,246
Reed College: \$22,697
University of Oregon: \$26,729
Warner Pacific University: $\$ 27,540$
Oregon State University: \$28,482 Eastern Oregon University: \$28,975
University of Portland: \$29,186 NW Christian University: \$29,617 Willamette University: \$31,740 George Fox University: \$32,043 Lewis \& Clark College: $\$ 32,379$
Pacific University: \$35,373
Linfield College: \$35,792
Corban University: \$40,239

# 'Warrenton for Warrenton is the new mantra Mayor talks change in state of city address 

By Cindy Yingst<br>The Columbia Press

It's time Warrenton asks for better and demands more of itself, Mayor Henry Balensifer said during his State of the City speech Tuesday night.
"It's time we invest in ourselves; not for others, but for our own sakes," he said. "It's the difference between having a house and having a home. .. I'm not interested in chasing tourists. I'm interested in shaping our future for ourselves immediately and in the long term."
Balensifer talked about ways the city has changed in the past decade and ways it needs to change in the future.

Sense of place

The vast majority of comments he and other commissioners hear center on how Warrenton has changed and a desire to preserve the city's quality of life.
"We have changed
 both in landscape/ . ensifer said "Whil braphics," Balmulative chang preth new and mulative changes present challenges, they also present opportunities."
He proposed forming several historical districts based on the several towns that came together to form the city of Warrenton: New Astoria, Lexington, Skipanon, Flavel and Yellow Bank/Upper Landing.
The first district, already in the works, is Hammond Heritage District.

See 'State of City' on Page 5

