

# Bench: Routes blocked to problematic area

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the area, illegal camping and people driving over the bank.

A work crew blocked access to the bluff with large concrete blocks and small orange cones. Signs warn drivers not to proceed. But there is little to keep them from driving around the barriers on the grass.

The action frustrated Hudson, who said the city missed the point. She wants to protect people who might use the bench. She suggested moving the bench away from the edge or covering it.

"We feel this is the best way to address the illegal activity, at least initially, and maintain the integrity of the remaining dune," Engbretson told Hud-

Signs and concrete barriers were placed warning drivers to keep away from the bluff that includes the teetering bench, visible in the background, middle.



son. "We will discuss your recommendations and concerns regarding the bench itself."

Engbretson could not be reached for comment Wednesday.

The city has formed an advisory

committee that's working on an overall plan for the marina, which includes the bench area. Spoils dredged from the boat basin next winter also will be placed in the area.



Astoria-Warrenton Area Chamber of Commerce's Crab, Seafood & Wine Festival is the largest fundraiser of the year, not only for the chamber, but for many nonprofit groups that participate. Vendors and performers also benefit.

## Crabfest to be a virtual party

What can be done when a health event closes your largest annual fundraiser and de-

prives numerous craft businesses of a good weekend run?

Astoria-Warrenton Area Chamber of Commerce has created a virtual event of what would have been this weekend's Crab, Seafood & Wine Festival.

The online event begins at 9 a.m. Friday, April 24, and runs through Thursday, April 30.

A link to the virtual festival will be posted on the chamber's website and Facebook page as soon as the event opens.

Participants can browse the artisans vendors and performers by viewing photo galleries.

Vendors will have a link to their website or online store with specials allowing folks to shop from the comfort of home. Performers will have links where people can listen to their playlists and browse for merchandise.

Unless purchasing products, there are no costs to participate in the virtual festival.

A suggestion: Share how you're celebrating in the event discussion, post on your own page tagging the chamber, or use #AstoriaCrabFestAtHome.

Those posting will be entered to win four tickets to next year's festival.

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