Regatta: Teens prepare for festival

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•Activities: Pizazz Dance Team captain, Miss North Coast Outstanding Teen in 2020, STEM, camping.

•Quote: "Clatsop County is home to a lot of history and attracts many tourists. ... I think it's cool that people come from all over just to visit us and see the many cool sites."

ALEJANDRA LOPEZ NESTOR

- •A Warrenton High graduate
- •Activities: Founder of high school's Multicultural Club,

co-director of State of Students, hiking, taekwondo, wrestling.

•Quote: "I appreciate and am grateful for the support teachers give students. Teachers in Warrenton genuinely want students to succeed in school and beyond."

TIANA REHWALD-QUICKE

•Warrenton High School graduate

•Activities: Band and choir, vice president of high school's Multicultural Club.

•Quote: "I'm so excited to be a part of this community's tradition and I can't wait to get even more involved in our beautiful little community."

AALIYAH WATSON

- •Attends Warrenton High School
- •Activities: Camping, volley-ball, cheer team captain.
- •Quote: "I love how Warrenton has a 'small town' type feel and everyone is either known or knowable. The family-friendly atmosphere really makes this town feel like home."

Astoria Regatta

What: One of the state's oldest festivals, Astoria has hosted sailboat races and more since 1894. This year's event includes maritime memorials, the Grand Land Parade, a fun run, a family carnival and movie night, live music, booths, and kids activities.

When: August 10-13, with various events in Astoria and Warrenton.

The Queen's Coronation and Reception are at 7 p.m. Aug. 10 at the Liberty Theatre, 1203 Commercial St., Astoria.

Town Hall: VFW to acquire building

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structurally unstable to hold dozens of shelves of heavy books.

"I wouldn't give you a hundred-dollar bill for that," Commissioner Rick Newton said of the building in 2020, when the city began discussing what to do with it.

On Tuesday night, during a public hearing on the sale, he said "I want to see it gone. It is an albatross around our neck."

Commissioners voted 4-0 to give the building to the VFW. Mayor Henry Balensifer is out of town. He'd sponsored a town hall meeting in April to ensure the public's opinion was heard and he has been a supporter of giving it to the nonprofit military veterans group.

The gift does not include the property, which the city will keep, and the gift comes with a reversionary clause. If the VFW stops using it as a public meeting place, it will revert to the city.

The old building once was a barracks at nearby Fort Stevens and is at least 100 years old, Balensifer has said.

"It would be great to see this in the hands of a nonprofit who could use it for a good purpose," City Manager Linda Engbretson said. The city's ability to rehabilitate the structure was limited, but there are grants the nonprofit group can leverage, she said.

The VFW plans to use the building as its meeting hall – currently the group meets in the Masonic Lodge – and would allow scout groups and others to meet there. Soon the VFW will have a place to hang its plaques and photos, Bert Little said. There are no plans to add a canteen or lounge.

The transfer is expected to go through within a month.

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