

Brewery: 'Currently, we can't keep up with demand'

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With the new equipment, Fort George now has eight 120-barrel fermentation tanks and three 120-barrel brite tanks, a system Nemlowill said can create 20,000 barrels a year.

Growing steadily

"Currently, we can't keep up with demand," Nemlowill said, noting one of the brewery's more popular varieties, Quick Wit Belgian-style ale, is out of stock. "The goal is to not run out of beer."

Since it opened, Fort George has experienced exponential growth, brewing 400 barrels its first year, compared to about 11,500 barrels in 2014. It has quickly climbed the ranks of Oregon-based brewers selling beer in Oregon, from 57th largest in 2007 to 12th in 2014, just ahead of Oakshire Brewing in Eugene and behind Hopworks Urban Brewery in Portland.

The Oregon sales catch a majority but not all the sales of Fort George, which reaches throughout Washington and Idaho. Nemlowill said



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Crews from Fort George Brewery position a fermenting tank inside the brewery Monday.

the brewery projects sales of upward of 15,000 barrels this year, and more than 18,000 in 2016.

"At one point, it works fine to grow a gazillion percent each year," Harris said. "We've kind of decided (on) growing 15 to 20 percent a year. We're trying to keep it in those parameters, because it seems manageable."

Nemlowill and Harris said the brewery has been busy retrofitting its equipment. It recently had 800 new kegs delivered. It is upgrading its boiler system, in part to keep up with its brewing schedules and for the steam to power a new keg-washing and filling station it will add in the coming months.

"It will be a system much

easier on people's backs," Harris said. Fort George is now one of the largest employers in Astoria, with about 85 people. Most work in the Astoria brewpub, which Harris said still consumes about 12 percent of Fort George's beer. The company has nine brewing staff members and seven employees in distribu-



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Alix Daggatt, with Fort George Brewery, helps unpack a new brite beer tank outside the brewery Friday.

Focus on the small things

Sweet Virginia stands behind the main pub in the Fort George building, still a working girl.

"Anything we don't package, we brew over there," Harris said.

Fort George has a myriad of smaller-batch specialties. The 3-Way IPA collaborative beer with three other breweries — this year with Georgetown Brewing Company in Seattle and Pfriem Family Brewers in Hood River — releases Friday with a party at Cannon Beach Hardware and Public House. Fort George employees were

recently seen in the woods collecting fresh spruce buds for its spring seasonal, Spruce Budd Ale, coming out in late May to early June.

Harris said he didn't think more tanks could fit in the Lovell Building last time Fort George increased its capacity. Now, he added, tanks would probably have to be dropped in or put outside in the Fort George courtyard. But for now, he said, Fort George is focusing on getting the recent arrivals leveled, pumped with glycol jackets for temperature control and brewing next week.



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Jessica Smith appears next to defense attorneys William Falls, back, and Lynne Morgan, foreground, at the Clatsop County Courthouse for a status hearing Tuesday.

Hearing: Judge Matyas set a deadline of Jan. 29 for both parties to find expert witnesses

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Smith, of Goldendale, Wash., is accused of aggravated murder and attempted aggravated murder for allegedly drugging and murdering her 2-year-old daughter, Isabella Smith, and attempting to kill her 13-year-old daughter, Alana Smith, in a Cannon Beach hotel July 31.

Falls has not yet identified an exact diagnosis or found an expert to testify. He has submitted records on postpartum psychosis to the state, according to the District Attorney's Office.

"This case, from all statements, indicates to me there was an implosion," Falls said. "There are multiple ways I can tell a jury she had a mental breakdown."

Judge Matyas set a deadline of Jan. 29 for both parties to find expert witnesses, including those in the mental health field.

Marquis questioned Falls' intention of a mental health defense, since claiming a "disordered mental state," is not common language used in state law.

"I filed this so they know that is probably the road we are going," Falls told the court.

Again, considering the way Smith is perceived in court, her defense lawyers asked the court Tuesday to let Smith appear at the trial free of restraints and in street clothes.

At the trial, Smith can wear regular clothing, but will be fitted with ankle restraints with the capability to stun her.

For the remaining pretrial hearings, Smith will remain in her yellow jumpsuit — indicating she is a maximum security inmate — and ankle restraints and a chain around her waist that attaches to her wrists, as required by Clatsop County Jail.

Smith is currently in Tillamook County Jail, which



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Judge Cindee Matyas speaks at the Clatsop County Courthouse during a status hearing for Jessica Smith on Tuesday.

contracts beds with Clatsop County.

Clatsop County Jail commander Lt. Shelley Morgan testified at the Tuesday hearing about two incidents of strange behavior from Smith while she was in custody.

Smith apparently requested a second mattress in Clatsop County Jail, claiming she had a back issue. She was given the mattress, but staff later determined she did not need it. When the mattress was removed, Smith claimed she could not walk and crawled on the floor saying she was paralyzed.

Smith did the same thing in Tillamook County Jail, requesting a second mattress and crawling on the floor when it was removed, Morgan testified.

In addition, Marquis and his co-counsel Dawn Buzzard said at the hearing they received a report of Smith flushing her food down the toilet in an attempt to starve herself and go to the hospital.

Despite the odd behavior, Smith's defense counsel pointed out that she has not attempted to escape or acted violently while in jail.

During the three-hour hearing Tuesday, Smith's defense

lawyers brought up their motion to bar the death penalty if Smith is convicted. The lawyers noted in their motion that social norms have changed regarding the death penalty, particularly for those with a severe mental illness.

Marquis has not decided if he will seek the death penalty, but said in court Tuesday that it cannot be barred so long as it is legal in Oregon.

"This is a Hail Mary pass to ask this court to go against the flow of state and federal law," Marquis said.

Another request from Smith's lawyers focused on receiving more evidence from the state, especially communication between Smith's ex-husband Greg Smith and a woman believed to either be his girlfriend or wife.

"That is information that is important in our case," Falls said.

Judge Matyas set another status hearing for 10:30 a.m. Aug. 28. Additional motions and requests will have to be filed by Dec. 31, for hearings scheduled in February. The trial date remains June 28, 2016.

"I intend to be ready for the trial date this court has set for next year," Falls said.

Fundraiser: CMH contributed nearly \$6 million in medical services to the community in 2014

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ensure that members of our community would have local access to advanced cancer treatment, including radiation therapy."

The Nygaard Family, in Memory of Doris Nygaard, donated \$100,000. Jeff and Cathy Leinassar, representing the Leinassar family, gave \$60,000. The Autio Family; Phillips Family Revocable Living Trust, represented by David and Marcy Phillips; Jan and Willis Van Dusen, representing the Van Dusen family; Edith Henningsgaard and her five children, in memory of Dr. Blair Henningsgaard; and Constance Waisanen each gave \$50,000.

Mayor Arline LaMear, representing the Astoria City

Council, gave \$25,000 from the Astor East Urban Renewal District. The Samuel S. Johnson Foundation also donated \$25,000. The Fund-a-Need appeal raised an additional \$26,600 from smaller donations, down to \$100 per person.

A silent and live auction raised \$50,535; a raffle \$8,250; sponsors \$40,000; a casino \$1,100; and another \$5,325 from nonsponsored guests.

A big need

A standing ovation from the event's 240 attendees greeted Chief Executive Officer Erik Thorsen of CMH as he announced the creation of the collaboration and its goal of bringing radiation therapy to Astoria. Thorsen has said the project will cost \$8 million to \$10 million in total, with

construction starting in 2016 and opening as early as the first quarter of 2017.

CMH contributed nearly \$6 million in medical services to the community in 2014 for which it was uncompensated. While its existing OHSU/CMH Cancer Care Center provides chemotherapy and other cancer treatments, the closest radiation therapy is in Longview, Wash., and Portland, where some local patients must travel up to five days a week.

For more information on the collaboration, or to make a donation, call the CMH Foundation at 503-325-3208; email foundation@columbiamemorial.org; log on to www.cmh-foundation.org; or visit 2111 Exchange Street in Astoria.

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