Fish market to open in downtown Astoria | Fresh Foods plans

By EDWARD STRATTON The Daily Astorian

Downtown Astoria will

soon have a fish market again. Stephen and Karen Allen, who recently purchased the Josephson Fish Station building, leased part of it recently to the Edison family, which plans to open June 1 as the new location for Edison Bros. Fish Co. It is at the foot of 11th Street on the waterfront

'We're going to be doing all Oregon, Washington and Youngs Bay, Columbia River products," said Jake Edison, who along with his brothers Sam and Max and parents Kathy and Peter will run the business. Helping manage the business will be Duncan Law, the grandson of the late, prominent seafood researcher.

"We started about a year ago," Jake Edison said of the business. "We actually live in Banks right now. I noticed there was a void in fresh seafood in Washington County. So we started doing farmers markets here.'

He said his family has lived in several coastal towns and his father has managed and worked for various fish plants. The market will source a lot of its product from local processors. It will focus on bottom fish, salmon, clams, oysters and other usual seafood market fare, along with smoking its own fish and selling coffee and other local products.

won't be a lot of changes to cent operations, the Wet Dog



EDWARD STRATTON — The Daily Astorian

The Allen family recently leased the former Josephson Fish Station at the foot of 11th Street to Edison Bros. Fish Co., which by June 1 will restart a fresh seafood market there.

the building, which was already outfitted to be a seafood market, including the red and white "Fresh Seafood Market" sign in front.

The 3,488-square-foot Josephson Fish Station, as the building is historically known, was built in 1972 by the Josephson Smoked Fish Company as a fish receiving station. It then transferred to the Fergus McBarendse Company, which used it as a fish receiving station and for retail, and ultimately transferred to George Brugh.

New Life

"There's been so much support for a fish market coming in there," Stephen Allen said. "I've had so many people asking for that."

He and his wife originally Jake Edison said there needed storage for their adja-

Cafe and the newly expanded Astoria Brewing Company. But they ended up with a package deal, buying the Pier 11 mall, the fish station building and the rights to build on pilings north of the Wet Dog between piers 11 and 12. The deal was made with Brugh in October.

Since taking over Pier 11, they have lost the Riverview Buffet and Lounge and Reach the Stars dance studio as tenants but have started adding a number of new businesses.

Rebecca Kraft is opening a wine bar in the former dance studio on the west side of the building; Richard Ewing is opening the Inferno Lounge on the east where Riverview's lounge was located; and Ashley Mundel and Patricia Von-Vintage opened The Shop for Guys & Dolls, a salon and photography studio. And Pier

11's longest-tenured tenant, Bruce McBride's Rollin' Thunder BBQ, is still operating in a trimmed-down footprint.

The Allens, who have added heat and lighting to Pier 11's central mall and have started hosting Second Saturday Artwalk events in the space, are still trying to fill multiple suites in the building. Stephen Allen said the Riverview Buffet space has had some interested parties, but nothing substantial so far. He added that his family has been toying with the idea of adding a commercial kitchen.

"This community loves that building," he said of Pier 11. "We have gotten a lot of support for taking on this project."

• For more information on Edison Bros. Fish Co., visit www.edisonbrosfish.com

to open grocery store in Tolovana

By ERICK BENGEL EO Media Group

CANNON BEACH — The owners of Manzanita Fresh Foods plan to open a grocery store in Tolovana within a year.

Jon Welsh, his brother, Tim Welsh, and their father, James Welsh, purchased a vacant lot of 0.56 acres at 3401 S. Hemlock St. on April 17, according to Cole Horsely of Kamali Sotheby's International Real Estate. The site is across the street from the Tolovana Inn and near the on-ramp to U.S. Highway 101.

The Welshes, who have been planning the new outlet for about eight months, recently tore down an old abandoned building on the site that housed a Mexican restaurant years ago, they said.

The Welshes hope to build a 9,000-square-foot full-service grocery store that offers conventional food yet specializes in products classified as natural, organic and gluten-free à la New Seasons Market, they said. The store could open between January and March.

The Welsh brothers said they came to recognize that natural food is where the grocery industry is headed.

They plan to have a meat department, a produce department, a dairy section, a whole foods section, a health and beauty section, a section for quality wines and craft beer, a deli that sells soups and sandwiches, and a juice bar with a coffee kiosk. The store will have an inside seated area for eating. The second floor will

consist of a 1,000-square foot-mezzanine for offices, said Vito Cerelli, the building designer from O'Brien & Company.

For the moment, their working business name is "Fresh Foods," the Welshes said.

Cerelli is scheduled to bring the grocery store's design plans before Cannon Beach's Design Review Board on May 21.

Over in Manzanita

Meanwhile, Manzanita Fresh Foods continues to show good growth, the Welshes said. The introduction of natural and organic product lines last year is "really paying dividends," Tim Welsh said. "Customers are happy, sales are growing," which has allowed them to pursue the opportunity in Cannon Beach, he said.

Last summer, the Welshes dissolved their relationship with the Independent Grocers Alliance, a trade organization that, the family felt, was not acting progressively enough in the industry.

"We feel the direction we've decided to go has struck a chord with customers," Jon Welsh said.

James Welsh said they anticipate employing 20 to 25 workers at the store, "which I believe will be something that's beneficial to the economy of Cannon Beach."

He added that they will also be looking to hire people prior to opening "Fresh Foods" to work at the Manzanita store, "so that, when we open the doors in Cannon Beach, we will have a crew of employees that can just pick right up from Day One in the operation of the new store."

One of the things the Welshes pride themselves on, Tim Welsh said, is that "we feel we treat our employees pretty good. We ask a lot, to be honest. We don't feel we're unreasonable in our expectations, but we feel we compensate pretty well."

CCC's Small Business Development Center rakes in honors "It was a tremendous hon-

The Daily Astorian

Clatsop Community College's Small Business Development Center took home both regional and statewide honors at a U.S. Small Business Administration ceremony in Portland this month.

Along with its SBDC Excellence and Innovation Award, CCC's center took home the Center of Excellence and Innovation Award for the Small Business Administration's Region X — Oregon, Washington, Alaska and Idaho.

The awards were presented during the Small Business Administration's Portland District's event at the Portland Art Museum. Kevin Leahy, the director of CCC's center, accepted the awards.

or for a center of our size to be recognized with the regional award," Leahy said. "It shows the acknowledgment of the caliber of our center's remarkable staff, and it's wonderful to be able to bring the award back to Clatsop County."

Also attending the event were Clatsop Economic De-

velopment Resources Board President Skip Hauke; executive committee member and CCC President Lawrence Galizio; advisory member Dennie Houle; Dick Powell and Penny Rodgers from the Small Business Development Center office in Seaside; Coast River Business Journal Publisher Matt Winters; and Leahy family members.

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