

Food: 'I wanted to have a universal appeal' Resort: Clatsop County mentioned as potential site

Continued from Page 1A

Vegan bowls

Astoria's closest approximation to a food cart pod, other than the food court at the Astoria Sunday Market, has been at the corner of Sixth and Duane streets, outside Astoria Indoor Garden Supply. Since June, DJ's Vinyl Vegan and Good Bowl have pulled up next to each other, taking advantage of the River People Farmers Market Thursdays and operating through the weekend.

DJ's, named after owners David Drafall and Jared Mitchell, spins vinyl from every musical genre and serves up a vegan take on classic comfort food staples, including Philly Cheese Steak (seitan), Phish and Chips and Mac Attack. The cart is a partnership between Mitchell, Drafall, Becky Gauthier and Nadia Papaloukas, a chef from San Francisco who rode to Astoria on a bike trip from Seattle, stayed and helped design DJ's menu.

"I wanted to have a universal appeal," Mitchell said of Vinyl Vegan's attempt at luring non-vegans — including himself, Drafall and Gauthier — with fried comfort food, such as the former Astoria Bad Vegan food hut did with its vegan fast food.

Next to DJ's is Good Bowl, a partnership between



EDWARD STRATTON — The Daily Astorian
Gab Meik hands out a wrap at O Falafel at the Astoria Sunday Market. O Falafel is one of the oldest mobile restaurants in the region, offering Mediterranean and Middle Eastern cuisine for the past five years.

Andrea Mazzarella and Olaf Ydstie, both longtime local cooks. They transformed a former juice cart into a kitchen turning out mixes of beans, rice, fresh produce, cheeses, handmade sauces, eggs and avocado.

"Our emphasis is on healthy fast food," Ydstie said, adding they try to source as much product locally as possible, buying much of their produce at the Thursday market. Good Bowl creates different variations of their base of rice, beans and fresh produce,

including the Mexico (salsa and chipotle sour cream) and the Morocco (feta and curried yogurt sauce), along with veggie and other bowls.

The owners of Snackle Box, DJ's and Good Bowl all said they hope to keep their operations going past summer, adjusting their menus to the changing seasons.

Creating a food cart pod

Across downtown, in a vacant lot on the corner of Marine Drive and Sixth Street, the Bechtolt family has

assembled a motley grouping of antiques, collectibles, artwork, wood carvings and other vendors for the official launch of Riverwalk Food-Carts and Marketplace Fourth of July weekend.

The only food cart, per se, was Greg Knutson's Over Here Bar-B-Que, a large, custom-made trailer grill he has been serving barbecue out of for the last 22 years. Knutson, a long-haul truck driver by day, said his hope is to get a food truck and make Over Here his full-time business.

Warren Bechtolt Jr., a main organizer of Riverwalk Food-Carts, said his other food vendors are probably two weeks out, along with produce stands. "The biggest thing, of course, is that nobody wants to be first."

Bechtolt said he hopes to continue the market at least through December, selling Christmas trees on site and eventually adding amenities like a fire pit and performance stage. He has also been trying to lure other local food carts to Riverwalk.

O Falafel

A veteran of the food cart scene in Astoria, Omri Siklai has operated O Falafel for the past five years, moving between locations in Astoria and the Astoria Sunday Market, Cannon Beach Farmers Market on Tuesdays and otherwise parked at Texaco in Astoria. From July to October, he said, the tourist season provides ample customers, albeit seasonally.

"But Astoria is still a northwest coastal town," he said, "and I don't think it's prepared to have an explosion of pods."

Still, Siklai said, he could see a permanent gathering spot within a couple years in Astoria. To start one, he said, takes an investment by a property owner in water, electricity and other amenities, the same as an RV park.

"We are moving ahead in Astoria," Siklai said. "We have a lot of work to do before we are able to have a real center."

Continued from Page 1A

The bill specifically lists Clatsop County as a potential site.

Jefferson County had previously allowed resorts in the area.

Under the 2009 bill, resort property owners in the Metolius River Basin had until June 29 of this year to apply to use development credits that would allow them to build "small-scale recreation" communities elsewhere in the state.

There were two qualifying destination resort properties: the Metolian with more than 600 units combined of tourist lodging and single-family homes, and a 2,500-unit development proposed by the Ponderosa Land and Cattle Co.

The bill to extend the deadline by three years would allow the small resorts to be built in Clatsop, Morrow, Sherman, Umatilla and Wheeler counties, or any county with a June 29, 2009 unemployment rate more than 110 percent of the state average.

The Willamette Week newspaper first reported last week that hearings and amendments to House Bill 3431 suggested Lundgren might be interested in developing a resort in Clatsop County.

The "small-scale recreation" communities allowed under the 2009 legislation would have smaller footprints than the destination resorts built elsewhere in Oregon. They would be limited to 320 acres, 240 units to be used primarily for tourist lodging, recreation facilities and one restaurant up to 5,000 square feet. Golf courses are not allowed, and state law imposes other conditions such as recycling irrigation water.

So far, no one has contacted Clatsop County land use planners about locating a small resort in the area, division director Heather Hansen wrote in an email Monday. The only entity to request information was the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development, which asked for GIS data in order to map areas eligible for that type of development in late March or early April. The agency produced the map at the request of state lawmakers, who added Clatsop County as an area eligible for small resorts by amending the bill in June.

Lundgren said he asked lawmakers to add Clatsop County to the list of areas where he could build a resort, because of its proximity to Portland.

"You can't really build something that's too remote and expect people to show up," Lundgren said. Any development proposal would likely include a mix of single-family homes and tourist lodging. "The one piece that resonates is you have to have a mixture," Lundgren said.

"Based on our experience here, we really want to be very respectful or sensitive to the local area," Lundgren said. Specifically, he acknowledged that many Oregonians are "cautious about overdevelopment."

Lundgren, whose family also owns House on Metolius resort near Camp Sherman, said he has been on a quest to return capital to the investors in the planned eco-resort known as the Metolian.

"They invested quite a bit of capital," Lundgren said.

Lundgren was optimistic Monday that the idea of a "very small, very low-key" eco-resort will gain support, and said the plan is "not a subdivision development."

According to a legislative document, the three-year extension was necessary because the "recession and housing crisis of the late 2000s" slowed development in the state.

"We couldn't get anything financed" during the recession and real estate crash, Lundgren said. Investors also shied away after the Legislature banned destination resorts in the Metolius River Basin and Lundgren said they told him, "Show us they're not going to pull the football from under you again."

House Bill 3431 could help send that message. "I think the Legislature's trying to help us," Lundgren said.

Power: Fourth of July brings thousands of visitors to Seaside

Continued from Page 1A

The power company called in a specialized crew from Portland to replace the transformer, extending the time it took for power to return. Some of the affected customers were back on the grid by 10:06 p.m.; the rest returned about 10:22 p.m., just as the fireworks show concluded.

Fourth of July tends to be one of Seaside's busiest days, with thousands of visitors descending on the city to partake in festivities. Those who were set up on the beach or already checked into their rooms for the night likely were not as heavily impacted.

"On some level, we can make an assessment that a lot of those people weren't affected," Rahl said.

Numerous businesses, from Rite Aid to the Human Bean, were forced to close early or at least for a few hours.

Not to exaggerate the importance of the holiday, every

day is almost like the Fourth of July at this point in the year, Dooger's Wiese said. The whole summer is busy. Still, he added, "One of our very large days was adversely affected."

Manual credit cards, acoustic music

The morning after the Fourth of July, he spent about three hours dealing with the aftermath, or getting the computers back online, recovering credit cards that were not closed at the time of the power outage, redoing credit card charges done manually and other tasks.

Nancy McKeown, the co-owner of Nonni's Italian Bistro, McKeown's Restaurant and Bar and the Irish Pub, said they had planned to close all the restaurants at 8 p.m. so the employees could "get situated for the celebration and fireworks with their families."

"We figure that we lost around 30 percent of our daily sales as those four to five

hours before the fireworks are usually the busiest," she said. "We never reopen after the fireworks, so that did not affect us."

At the Crabby Oyster, employees finished serving customers already at the restaurant before shutting down. Owner David Posalski calculated they lost about \$4,000 to \$5,000.

His other business, Tsunami Sandwich Co., fared better.

With an iPad-based point-of-sale system, the shop was able to keep running until the hot soup, ice cream and sandwich meat ran out. Although, even then, patrons could get cheese and bread. Some did not have the necessary cash, but they were fed anyway, Posalski said.

By the end, it was nearly 95 degrees in the shop and employees were using cellphones as flashlights until about 9:40 p.m., when it became impossible to keep going, Posalski said.

"We were pleased by the

time we got to the end of the day," Posalski said, adding he was especially proud of his crew for their perseverance.

Usually Tsunami Sandwich closes for the fireworks show and then reopens afterward. Since they had run out of prepped sandwich fixings, they opted to stay closed after the fireworks, but it didn't affect the restaurant too much, Posalski said.

"Our sandwich shop did just fine," he said.

Other businesses also found ways to make the best of a bad situation. Denise Fairweather's Fairweather House and Gallery was part of the First Saturday Art Walk downtown.

"We were real fortunate that all three of us in the Gilbert District kept our doors open and actually took the art to the street," she said.

At SunRose Gallery, the musicians moved outside and played acoustic rather than electric music. Some patrons were seen using their cell-

phones as flashlights to see the art better.

An artist who was scheduled to paint at Fairweather House and Gallery moved to the front entrance "and took advantage of the natural light and painted live" using watercolors, Fairweather said.

"We had perhaps double the usual crowd because people saw what we were doing closer, rather than in the back of the gallery," she said, adding, "I appreciate the artists. Everyone stayed and kind of thought outside of the box and created an event that everyone will remember."

In addition to restaurants, several grocery stores were affected, as well.

The Seaside Rite Aid closed during the power outage, but customers were able to pick up any necessary items, including prescriptions, from the corporation's store in Warrenton, said Kristin Kellum, a Rite Aid public relations specialist.

South County festivities punctuate Fourth of July

EO Media Group

The 2015 Fourth of July celebration for Seaside brought with it the traditional festivities — a well-attended parade, old-fashioned social and hordes of people — as well as a few differences — such as a spectacular fireworks show without the accompanying soundtrack and a large power outage.

During the mid-morning hours, spectators started lining the streets of downtown Seaside in anticipation of the annual parade which featured 63 entries.

At the parade's conclusion, throngs of people made their way to the Seaside Museum on Necanicum Drive for the Old Fashioned Social and Silent Auction, a nearly 30-year-old tradition. Vendors, many of whom were from local nonprofit and service organizations, served hot dogs, hamburgers, clam chowder, pies, drinks and other treats. The event also featured face-painting, bingo, live music and a continuous cake walk.

The silent auction featured donated items, and the event is run by volunteers.

"It's something that we feel is a privilege to do for the town and the visitors," Seaside Museum and Historical Society President Steve Wright said. "This is Seaside's chance to get together with a whole lot of friends."

Also during the afternoon, the Portland-based Oregon Crusaders and two other drum and bugle corps — Impulse and Eruption — put on a full-fledged Drum and Bugle Corps Concert at Broadway Park.

At about 5 p.m., the city was hit by a large power outage. The Seaside Police Department urged the hundreds of motorists to use extreme caution when traveling through town, as intersections were also without power.

Seaside's fireworks show, one of the largest in Oregon and produced by pyrotechnics company K-Pyro, still took place. However, the music K-Pyro had painstakingly arranged to accompany the



JEFF TER HAR — For The Daily Astorian
Olivia and Lukas Esnard having fun at the Gearhart Independence Day parade.

fireworks display was not available because of the outage. Even so, thousands took to the beach and the Promenade, or stood on hotel balconies, to watch the show.

Power had returned by the end of the show, with street lamps and traffic lights back just in time for visitors and locals making the long journey home through stop-and-go traffic.

Gearhart

The Gearhart Fourth of July parade is a phenomenon — this tiny city of only 1,500 swells with thousands of visitors dedicated to celebrating the American spirit. This year, with the sun shining and perfect temps for urban visitors and small-town parade-goers alike the town came alive. They lined up near McMenamin's and made their way up Marion Avenue, with children throwing taffy and candies into the crowd. Surreys and trikes and Captain America marched by, along with the crowd-pleasing Tiki bar float and rescue dog brigades.

Bob McEwan, 92, the patriarch of Gearhart, was accompanied by great-grandson Eddie and black Labrador retriever Pearl, riding in the cart behind Pancho, the proud red-white-and-blue bedecked donkey.

The parade rounded left onto Pacific Way, where crowds lined the row, and some spectators even found perches among the shingles of local buildings. At the Gearhart Market, the line was eight deep for cold drinks and snacks. Down the road the fire station hosted a July Fourth hot dog feast, with firefighters serving up the fare and cold bottles of water available free. What happened next was a townwide celebration, as gatherings were to be found on nearly every porch in town.

Cannon Beach

The Independence Day celebration in Cannon Beach includes long-running community traditions, but more visitors are stopping by to partake in it. It's hard to gauge just how many

stepped foot in the town of about 1,690 during the Fourth of July weekend, but Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Courtland Carrier noted there were at least 300 a day based on those who came into the Visitor Center seeking information, a slight increase from last year.

And nearly every bed-and-breakfast, hotel room and camping spot in Cannon Beach was occupied — 1,700 rooms overall.

Carrier actually had to refer some motorcyclists to Tillamook one evening.

Only the two most expensive rooms, costing more than \$500 a night, didn't sell out, he said.

"That's getting very, very busy," he added.

George Vetter, who owns Village Centre featuring shops like A&J's Ice Cream Plus and Ocean Spa, said many businesses called it a good weekend.

"It couldn't have been better," he said, with the nice weather.

Carrier also pointed to the weather — it was nice on the beach, but scorching hot in the valley — as a factor.

Cannon Beach's big event was the annual Fourth of July parade, run by American Legion Post 168. It got its start in 1993 when residents Bob and Nancy Teagle decided there needed to be an Independence Day celebration. Bob has since died, but Nancy is still a member of the Legion.

"It's just blossomed over the years," American Legion's Patrick Hegrenes said.

Hegrenes noted that 397 people officially signed up for the parade this year, but that there "had to be well over 400" with those who joined in as the celebration rolled through downtown.

"It was a very good turnout," he said. "It was one of the bigger parades we've had." He added that anyone could participate, which makes "you feel good and proud."

— Kate Lacaze, Dani Palmer and R.J. Marx contributed to this report.