



Craft Beer
microbrew guide

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WEEKEND
EDITION

Clatsop Clash
goes to the Gulls

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ONE DOLLAR



Photos by Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

WATCHING FOR WHALES

In search of his great whale, a photographer encounters other sights of beauty on the river

By JOSHUA BESSEX
The Daily Astorian

With all the reports of whale sightings in the Columbia River the past few days, I've spent hours scanning the coast with my camera hoping for my chance. So far, my search has yielded zero whales, but plenty of other amazing wildlife scenes along the coast.

Here are a few of my favorite images from Wednesday's outing.

If you have a whale-related tip that can help out a desperate photographer, please email me at jbsex@dailyastorian.com.



TOP: A seal pokes its head out of the waters of the Columbia River Wednesday evening.

LEFT: A fisherman pulls in a seagull he accidentally hooked while casting his line into the Columbia River Wednesday. The seagull was safely removed and flew away.

BELOW: A pelican flies above a trio of sea lions in the Columbia River Wednesday.



Hood to Coast may be toast in Seaside

Will relay race shun town after broadsides?

By R.J. MARX
The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — Hood to Coast executives plan to be at the Seaside City Council Monday night to respond to complaints that the late August relay is too disruptive during the busy summer tourist season.

While not ready to end a long-time relationship with the city — the final stop of a 198-mile relay from Mount Hood — Hood to Coast may be seeking an alternative.

"I run a business, and every business needs to have a backup option for every single opportunity," said Dan Floyd, the chief operating officer of Hood to Coast, who will attend the council meeting with relay founder Bob Foote. "That means our start line, our finish line, our exchanges.

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Hole left by Danish Maid's closure

A family emergency locks doors, for now

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

There is no timetable for the return of the Danish Maid Bakery, a local staple that has been serving cookies, doughnuts, pastries and other treats downtown for 90 years.

The Commercial Street bakery, which also supplies baked goods to local shops like Peter Pan Market and Astoria Coffeehouse & Bistro, has been closed since earlier this month. A white sheet of paper posted on the store's glass door proclaimed that the store will be closed until further notice.

Jan Lindstrom, the bakery's co-owner, said the closure started after her husband and fellow co-owner John had a leg amputated and an infection afterward.

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Craft brewers shield farmers from beer titan merger

Smaller beer makers use more hops per barrel

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI
Capital Press

The proposed merger of two global beer titans isn't likely to harm hop and barley producers, who are increasingly selling to craft brewers, experts say.

Anheuser-Busch InBev, a Belgium-based brewer with \$21.5 billion in annual sales, recently confirmed that it has proposed a union with SABMiller, a brewer based in the United Kingdom that generates \$26.3 billion in annual revenues.

The combined entity would control roughly 70 percent of the U.S. beer market, which is bound to spark antitrust concerns with federal regulators, said Bart Watson, economist for the Brewers Association, which represents craft brewers.

Worries about the influence this behemoth would have over beer ingredients are tempered by the competition from craft brewers, Watson said.

While craft brewers only produce about 11 percent of the beer consumed in the U.S., they use a disproportionately large amount of hops and barley — particularly specialty varieties that are largely ignored by industrial brewers, he said.



Mateusz Perkowski/Capital Press

A worker cuts hop vines in preparation for harvest. Hop and barley growers aren't likely to suffer from a proposed merger between two major beer companies due to competition for ingredients from craft brewers, experts say.

"It's hard for a large brewer to use market power when they're not participating in that market," Watson said.

As the number of major companies in an industry shrinks, the remaining buyers have every incentive to wield their power and try to reduce prices for ingredients, said Peter Carstensen, a law professor specializing in agricultural antitrust at the University of Wisconsin.

However, this phenomenon is less of a concern when producers have alternative sales channels, he said.

"If there are a lot of other outlets, then it won't have as much effect on them," Carstensen said.

Large brewers traditionally used a quarter pound or less of hops per barrel, but craft brewers use an

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