

A SAILOR'S DREAM FINISHES IN ASTORIA



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Tracy Hollister, a carpenter and homebuilder from Hood River, raises his fist in celebration as he turns into the West End Mooring Basin aboard the Ingrid Princess. Hollister's arrival in Astoria marked the end of a 49-day solo journey sailing across the Pacific Ocean from Japan.

Hood River man completes 49-day journey from Japan

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

The hull of Tracy Hollister's boat, the Ingrid Princess, appeared around the breakwater at the West End Mooring Basin just before 2 p.m. Friday. A friend and fellow sailor, Brian Thom, waited on a paddleboard to greet him, while Hollister's wife, Michelle, whooped and waved her hands on the docks, eager to see her husband for the first time in nearly three months.

Hollister, looking haggard, sidled his boat up to the dock, started tying up, hopped off and embraced his wife.

Hollister's arrival in Astoria marked the end of 49 days sailing alone across the Pacific Ocean from Japan, and the culmination of a two-year, on-and-off journey around much of the Pacific Rim.

"It was an out-of-body experience," Hollister said of first seeing the mouth of the Columbia River. "I felt like I was dreaming. All day (Friday) felt like a dream, until I woke up (Saturday) morning and realized I'm not dreaming."

"I can relax now, finally. I have been on watch for the last 50 days and needing to be ready for anything. It's got me worn out."

Crossing the ocean

Hollister, 42, a carpenter and homebuilder from Hood River, left Chichijima, Japan, a small island about 600 miles south of Tokyo,



Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian

Michelle Hollister shouts to her husband coming into the Port of Astoria's West End Mooring Basin after crossing the Pacific Ocean alone on the Ingrid Princess.

Aug. 29 and headed east-northeast, following the clockwise winds and currents on the north Pacific toward the West Coast.

Hollister said he took two months worth of water and food, since the usual trip takes 36 to 40 days in fair weather. But Hollister found himself skirting about five different storm systems along the way, amid a record storm season driven by El Niño.

"At one point, I could have gotten stuck in a super-typhoon," Hollister said. "Fortunately, that did not materialize. The worst I experienced was 50 knots of wind and 25-foot seas, and that wasn't that bad."

Hollister is the fifth owner of the Ingrid Princess. Flanking him Saturday at the West End

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Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Bornstein Seafoods aids in seafood recall

Local processors voluntarily pull cans after FDA inspection

By ERICK BENDEL
The Daily Astorian

Bornstein Seafoods Inc. of Astoria is voluntarily recalling canned pink salmon, smoked tuna, sardines and sturgeon it received from Skipanon Brand Seafood of Warrenton, because the products may pose a risk of botulism, a condition that can cause life-threatening illness or death, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration announced.

The Bornstein recall is an extension of the larger voluntary recall Skipanon Brand Seafood launched a week and a half ago following a routine FDA inspection that turned up a lack of documentation and potentially underprocessed products.

No contamination-related illnesses have been reported, the FDA said. However, the agency warned consumers not to use the products "even if they do not look or smell spoiled."

Bornstein Seafoods distributed the products to retail and Internet customers nationwide from www.bornstein.com, the food-regulating agency said.

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Bonamici troubled FERC won't extend time

Lawmaker says 60 days is just not enough time for LNG comments

By ERICK BENDEL
The Daily Astorian

U.S. Rep. Suzanne Bonamici responded this week to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's decision not to extend the public comment period on the commission's draft environmental review of Oregon LNG's terminal and pipeline project planned for Warrenton.

"It is disappointing that FERC did not formally extend the comment period on the draft environmental impact statement for the Oregon LNG project," she wrote. "FERC did indicate that it will consider comments received after the comment period has expired, but it is not clear whether those comments will be given appropriate weight or be part of the record."

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Out with the hole, in with the new

City of Astoria invites ideas on Heritage Square

By DERRICK DePLEDGE
The Daily Astorian

The public can get an early peek Wednesday at the potential future of Heritage Square.

The city and Walker Macy, a Portland landscape architecture firm, will display basic schematic designs for a new public library, streetscape and open space for the downtown block marred by the unsightly hole where a Safeway once stood.

At a daylong open house at Fort George Brewery and Pub-

HERITAGE SQUARE OPEN HOUSE

The city and Walker Macy, a consulting firm, will hold an open house on the concept design and redevelopment of Heritage Square from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesday at Fort George Brewery and Public House's Lovell Showroom.

The Astoria Downtown Historic District Association will present a NEDTalk — "What's Up Alley-Cat: A New Look for the 13th Street Alley" — at 6 p.m. during the open house.

lic House's Lovell Showroom, residents will be able to inspect the different concepts and offer feedback.

The Astoria City Council has asked city staff to look at a mixed-use development project with a new library and workforce housing, but public feedback could help influence the direction of the project when it

comes back before the council in November.

"Heritage Square is the largest redevelopment opportunity that we have downtown in a generation," said Kevin Cronin, the city's community development director, who is consulting with Walker Macy on concept

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Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Heritage Square has been home to a printing press, auto repair shop, dry cleaners and, most recently, a Safeway before the city acquired the property for redevelopment in 2003.

