

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Decision coming on Bumble Bee purchase

BANGKOK — Thai Union Group said Nov. 24 it expects U.S. regulators to decide Dec. 18 whether to approve its proposed \$1.5 billion acquisition of rival Bumble Bee Seafoods, according to Reuters news service.

Thai Union is the world's largest canned tuna producer, already owning the Chicken of the Sea brand, which it will divest if the Bumble Bee deal goes through.

Bumble Bee is the largest canned tuna and sardine producer in North America. Now based in San Diego, the company was founded in Astoria in 1899 as the Columbia River Packers Association.

The Bumble Bee acquisition by Thai Union has been in the works for a year, but has been delayed by a U.S. Department of Justice antitrust investigation.

Pacific County joblessness notches upward

LONG BEACH — Pacific County's estimated jobless rate rose slightly to 7.8 percent in October, up from a revised 7.1 percent in September and down from 10.0 percent in October 2014. Based on statistical modeling, rural county rates reflect general trends.

All eight of Washington's farther western counties saw unemployment significantly higher than the statewide rate of 5.0 percent in this latest report from the employment Security Department. The northeast corner of the state was Washington's other pocket of higher joblessness.

Pacific County's civilian labor force was estimated at 8,067 in October, compared to a record of 9,140 in October 2003.

Clatsop added 380 jobs in year ending in October

ASTORIA — Seasonally adjusted unemployment rates edged downward in October in northwest Oregon, after months of slight increases as the summer busy season wound down, according to data from the Oregon Employment Department.

Clatsop County employers cut 470 jobs in October, 90 fewer than expected. The changes left total nonfarm payroll employment at 17,540, 380 more than the same point last year, for a growth rate of 2.2 percent.

The county had a seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 5.9 percent in October, down one-fifth of a percent from the previous month and down three-fifths of a percent from a year ago. Clatsop has the ninth-lowest unemployment rate of Oregon's 36 counties.

Clatsop college hosts career-exploration event

ASTORIA — Clatsop Community College will host "an opportunity to explore new career options" on Tuesday, Dec. 8, from 5 to 7 p.m. in Columbia Hall, 1651 Lexington Avenue, Astoria. Dinner will be provided for registered participants. Register for this free event at www.clatsopcc.edu/newcareer.

"Take this opportunity to identify career paths that make the most of your skills and interests," according to a press release from the college. "Learn about what's hot on the regional career front. Consider new training at CCC to help launch your new direction. Information about CCC admissions and student support programs will also be available."

For more information, call 503-338-2411.

CMH nurse honored by March of Dimes

ASTORIA — Nurse Laura Brown was named the 2015 Nurse of the Year in Women's Health for Oregon and Southwest Washington by the March of Dimes during an award ceremony in Portland on Nov. 13.

Brown is a labor and delivery nurse and an International Board Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC) with the Columbia Memorial Hospital Family Birthing Center. She was one of 15 Nurse of the Year finalists employed by CMH.

"We are truly blessed to have a nurse of Laura's caliber among our CMH family," said Trece Gurrad, CMH's vice-president of patient care services.

Brown joined CMH in 2006 to establish an inpatient lactation program. She has expanded the program to include two nurses with seven-day-a-



Laura Brown

week phone consultation coverage.

"She has been instrumental in expanding the resources available to breastfeeding women in Clatsop County by developing them at CMH and by partnering with regional organizations, including Bras2Moms and the Northwest Mother's Milk Bank," the hospital said in a press release.

CMH's other Nurse of the Year finalists were Ingrid Boettcher, Colleen Fletcher, Kendra Gohl, Lisa Harris, Jenny Jacques, Amy Karsten, Shannon Lackey, Rose Larson, Mihaela Lebo, Jamee Meier, Zachary Melton, Brooke Roberts, Sarah Salerno and Becky White.

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