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ONE DOLLAR



A double shot of trademark trouble

Astoria distiller has changed name twice after lawsuits

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

Facing legal pressures, Larry Cary is changing his Astoria distillery's name for a second time.

His business — Pilot House Spirits — will become Pilot House Distilling as part of a settlement with House Spirits Distilling, a Portland-based distillery that filed suit against Cary over trademark infringement.

The Portland distillery announced a voluntary dismissal of the case last week. For Cary, the name change is a frustrating, but necessary, move to avoid a legal battle and focus on growing his nascent distillery.

Cary opened North Coast Distilling on Duane Street in 2014. In October, he was sued by California-based North Coast Brewing, and spent about \$10,000 changing his name to Pilot House Spirits.

Then Cary was sued in January by House Spirits Distilling, which claimed his new name violates "established valuable trademark rights and goodwill throughout the United States." The distillery, known for Aviation American Gin, has registered "House Spirits" and "House Spirits Distillery" with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

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Another ex-staffer files suit

Lawsuit alleges unlawful actions at county mental health agency

By DERRICK DePLEDGE
The Daily Astorian

A former program manager who was fired from Clatsop Behavioral Healthcare has filed a federal lawsuit claiming she was let go after complaining of unethical and illegal management practices and seeking medical leave for severe work-related stress.

Cheryl Varese, a program manager for the developmental disabilities unit, said she lodged an official complaint with the mental health agency's board of directors last July that described a hostile work environment.

Later that month, after Varese informed the agency that her doctor recommended a week off for a health condition and she turned in medical leave forms, she was fired for allegedly violating multiple agency policies.

Varese, according to the lawsuit, had feared retaliation because she was associated with two former staffers — Richard Holmes, a case manager who resigned; and Colleen Studinarz, a program supervisor who was fired — who alleged discrimination after they left in April 2015.

The lawsuit, filed in U.S. District Court in Portland in late April, names Sumner Watkins, the agency's executive director; and Nick Benas, the director of business operations.

Varese is represented by Robert Meyer and Christina Stephenson, Portland attorneys who have also filed a federal lawsuit against the agency on behalf of Holmes and Studinarz.

Clatsop Behavioral Healthcare could not immediately be reached for comment. Benas,

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Warrenton library teeters toward danger

Building inspection points to possible move to another spot

By ERICK BENGEL
The Daily Astorian

HAMMOND — The Warrenton Community Library in Hammond is in extremely poor condition, has outlived its useful life and is becoming dangerous, according to a memo by City Manager Kurt Fritsch.

A recent inspection of the building indicated that "the situation is critical and we cannot stay in the existing facility much longer," he wrote.

The city did emergency repairs to the front porch, which had separated from the building and become a tripping hazard, Site Manager Nettie-Lee Calog said.

In addition, "The roof is in poor condition structurally, the floor is collapsing, and the building has sunk several inches in the front (and is) starting to separate from its support," Fritsch wrote, based on information from Building Official Jim Byerly.

"Mr. Byerly believes it would cost more to repair the building than construct a new facility," the memo states, adding that the structure is "too small and does not meet present or future needs beyond book storage."

The Warrenton City Commission plans to meet with the library board next month to discuss the library's future, where it could be relocated and how much the move could cost.

Fritsch's memo says the library land is an "asset of substantial value" that could be sold for housing, then reinvested in constructing a new facility, or in purchasing or improving an existing facility.

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Photos by Erick Bengel/The Daily Astorian

ABOVE: Nettie-Lee Calog, site manager of the Warrenton Community Library, said the bookshelves shake when patrons walk briskly or heavy-footed through the narrow building. **TOP:** The Warrenton Community Library, housed in the former Hammond Town Hall building, currently operates on a five-year tax levy that expires in 2017.

'The situation is critical and we cannot stay in the existing facility much longer.'

Kurt Fritsch
Warrenton's city manager

Upkeep again falls behind at Ocean View

Astoria having trouble finding seasonal parks employees

By DERRICK DePLEDGE
The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — On Mother's Day, many families dropped by Ocean View Cemetery to leave flowers and reconnect with their loved ones. Some had not visited for awhile or had brought out-of-town guests for a special moment.

"Disaster," one woman wrote on Facebook. "Disgraceful," another exclaimed. "It just made us sick," a woman concluded.

Long grass and weeds marred patches of the cemetery, the latest example of the Astoria Parks and Recreation Department's losing struggle with maintenance.

Families who in some cases spent thousands of dollars for the promise of perpetual care at Ocean View



Erick Bengel/The Daily Astorian

Several families complained about long grass and weeds at Ocean View Cemetery on Mother's Day.

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