

Pier 11 once again a mall on the river

A waterfront collection of shops, eateries

By **EDWARD STRATTON**
The Daily Astorian

A steady stream of people perused tables of antiques and other crafts arrayed along the rustic, all-wooden central corridor of Pier 11, a historic feed mill and grain tower converted into a galleria in the 1970s and aptly playing host to Antique Alley Sunday.

More people popped in and out of shops and bought New York-style pizza by the slice and barbecue along elevated walkways.

Since taking over Pier 11 nearly two years ago, the Allen and Huber family have almost entirely filled up Astoria's waterfront mall.

"We didn't have an opinion or philosophy," said building co-owner Stephen Allen, who is also an accountant located next to Pier 11. "We just wanted to fill the building up and get more activity there."

The Allens started their ownership with nine tenants, including longtime stalwart Bruce McBride's Rollin' Thunder BBQ, but said the building could handle nine.

In the past several months alone, Pier 11 has added pizza, retail electronics and repair, home furnishings and interior restoration, an art gallery and homemade household accessories. The new additions joined an already motley collection including Rollin' Thunder, Rich Ewing's Rat Pack-in-



Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian

Pier 11 co-owner Karen Allen has started Antique Alley, which fills the central corridor of the mall with craft vendors each Sunday.

spired cocktail bar the Inferno Lounge and Rebecca Kraft and daughter April Thorgramson's WineKraft tasting room.

Pizza by the slice

Since opening the Inferno Lounge more than a year ago, Ewing has expanded into Pier 11's anchor tenant. Several months ago, he opened Inferno's Pier 11 Pizza, a partnership

with former Pizza Express proprietor and fellow native New Yorker John Kozlowski to provide a slice of the Big Apple. The pizzeria turns out several varieties by the slice from a window inside Pier 11 and inside the Inferno Lounge, and sells custom whole pies to go.

"It looks like New York. It smells like New York. It folds like New York," Ewing said,

adding the shop makes its own dough and sauce, even grating its own cheese.

On either side of Rollin' Thunder, perpetually vacant spaces have recently filled in with Jay Rosen's historic interior and furniture restoration business North Coast FIX, Debra Malachi's Homespun Gifts by Mom and Me and The Art Stall gallery run by Deborah Gordon.

Gordon, who specializes in bronze sculpture, said she hopes to eventually put on dis-



Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian
John Kozlowski, former proprietor of Pizza Express in Seaside, now tosses pies at Inferno's Pier 11 Pizza in Astoria's Pier 11.

play the most local artists of any gallery in Astoria. Making homemade gifts has been passed down through multiple generations to Malachi, who comes from Milwaukie and has worked some of the local markets, and opened the shop full of creations with the help of her mother, Charlene Rudig.

A better view

Seven years ago, Astoria's Best computer store owner Leo Finzi met his partner, Bonnie Murphy, at a Toys for Tots fundraiser inside Pier 11. Last month, Finzi traded the basement he had occupied for several years beneath the Astoria Downtown Market for nearly 180-degree views along the Columbia River from his suite in Pier 11.

Finzi said the move was a combination of his old lease expiring, the rent being hiked and the Allens providing him a reasonable opportunity. While there isn't the car traffic of Commercial Street, he said, there's more parking and foot traffic from the Astoria Riverwalk. Finzi also feels part of the building and city's resurgence.

"When people call up, I tell them I'm in the Pier 11 mall," Finzi said. "It's kind of symbolic of what's happening in Astoria."

Astoria woman sentenced for assaulting officers

By **KYLE SPURR**
The Daily Astorian

An Astoria woman was sentenced Monday to two years in prison for assaulting two police officers after trying to steal a case of beer from the Astoria Mini Mart.

Misty Dawn Monsen, 42, pleaded no contest last month in Circuit Court to two counts of assaulting a public safety officer and third-degree robbery. Other charges of resisting arrest, criminal trespass, harassment and theft were dismissed through a plea agreement.

Astoria Police trespassed Monsen from the Mini Mart on July Fourth 2015. Later that evening, she returned to the convenience store and reportedly tried to steal a case of beer. When she was confronted, she started threatening an employee.

Before being booked in Clatsop County Jail, police transported Monsen to Columbia Memorial Hospital. At the hospital, she dug her fingernails into the arm of Astoria Police Officer Brian Aydt, causing a visible injury and bleeding. Once at the jail, Monsen was unruly and dug her nails into the arm of Corrections Deputy Lynette Shaw, causing the deputy to bleed.

Jail staff had to wrestle Monsen to the ground and pepper spray her.

Monsen, who suffers from mental health issues, is well known by the jail and police for a number of incidents. Her criminal history includes convictions of assault, disorderly conduct, harassment,

criminal trespass, resisting arrest and theft.

A few weeks after being arrested for the Mini Mart incident, Monsen was deemed mentally unfit to proceed in her criminal case. She was transported to the Oregon State Hospital in August 2015 for treatment until her capacity to proceed was restored. By January, Judge Cindee Matyas deemed Monsen was able to aid and assist in her own defense.

As part of her sentence, Monsen will seek substance abuse and criminal violence treatment and mental health evaluation and treatment.



Misty Dawn Monsen

City approves emergency bridge repair work near the Astoria Riverwalk

State had warned of bridge closures

By **DERRICK DePLEDGE**
The Daily Astorian

Declaring an emergency, the Astoria City Council voted Monday night on \$206,000 in repair work to wooden bridges on the north ends of Sixth through 11th streets near the Astoria Riverwalk.

The state Department of Transportation warned the city after inspections that the street-end bridges could have to close to vehicle and trolley traffic unless the repairs were done immediately.

Bergerson Construction won the contract to perform the work, which will be paid for through capital improvement fund money.

The repairs are needed to temporarily sustain the wooden structures until a nearly \$12 million bridge replacement project is completed over the next few years. The project will improve the short bridges that link Sixth through 11th streets with the pier along the riverfront.

The bridge work is one of several challenges for the city near the Riverwalk.

The city's finance staff has now estimated that the city will need to spend \$450,000 for trestle and trail work before next spring. The money will come from tourist dollars in the Promote Astoria fund.

"We're fortunate that we will have the funds this fiscal

year to be able to afford this," City Manager Brett Estes said. Annual maintenance for the trestle and trail could run about \$250,000 a year over the next decade.

Estes said the city is in talks with supporters of the Astoria Riverfront Trolley on potential cost sharing.

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