

Anchovies pick up where sardines left off in Astoria



SeaA Inc. employee David Pocaca moves ice on Thursday at the SeaA Inc. fish-processing building in Astoria.

SeaA Inc. hopes to process more species, become year-round operation

By ERICK BENGEL
The Daily Astorian

The factory sounds and briny scent of fish processing has returned to the Astoria Riverwalk at Ninth Street after a two-year lull.

SeaA Inc., a business that sorts, freezes and conveys anchovies wholesale to domestic and international markets, has reanimated the warehouse and processing plant once occupied by Astoria Holdings Inc.

From late afternoon until midnight, the workers take the day's haul, separate the damaged fish and pack the rest into plastic-lined boxes.

The packages are frozen, loaded onto refrigerated trucks, transported to Tacoma, Washington, and shipped to markets in Japan, China and western European countries for use as food and bait.

In summer 2014, Astoria Holdings, a sardine-only business that opened in 1999, shuttered after the Pacific Fishery Management Council set unexpectedly low catch limits for the year's sardine season.

Marine scientists had documented a plummeting sardine population, prompting the council to scale back traditional quotas.

"That pretty much stopped us," said Rick Parker, a SeaA Inc. engineer who had worked for Astoria Holdings.

The council, which regulates Oregon, Washington state and California fisheries, shut down sardine fishing for the 2015 and 2016 seasons.

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Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

Anchovies move along a conveyor belt before packaging at the SeaA Inc. building.



R.J. Marx/The Daily Astorian

This 40-foot gray whale with no tail washed ashore Friday in Arch Cape.

Dead whale on the move

Whale carcass eludes researchers

By R.J. MARX
The Daily Astorian

ARCH CAPE — Researchers gathered in Falcon Cove were prepared to conduct a necropsy of the humpback whale washed ashore Friday night. Although the whale had been dead for several days, they hoped the examination would provide clues as to the mammal's demise.

But when they arrived at the secluded and tide-driven Cove Beach, the whale was gone. "The whale washed back out," Tiffany Boothe of the Seaside Aquarium said. "It probably will wash back in deeper into the Cape Falcon Marine Reserve — an area we can't access because of the boulders."

The carcass could wash up on another beach or it could "rot away" somewhere, the aquarium's General Manager Keith Chandler added.

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Ray Pitz/Sherwood Gazette

Jason Goodding's No. 85 jersey was scheduled to be retired during a Sherwood vs. Lakeridge football game Friday in Lake Oswego.

Sherwood team retires Goodding's number

Former teammates, family to attend

Pamplin Media Group

The No. 85 football jersey of slain Seaside Police Sgt. Jason Goodding is scheduled to be retired during the Friday matchup between Sherwood and Lakeridge high schools at Sherwood.

The presentation will feature family, teammates from Goodding's 1993 Sherwood football team and words from football coach Greg Lawrence. Goodding was shot and killed in February in Seaside.

He grew up in Sherwood, and played basketball, baseball and football.

A recent golf tournament in his honor raised more than \$60,000, funds that will help not only Goodding's family, but also will be used to establish a scholarship fund and a second fund to help other families who may suffer similar tragedies in the future.

Pro-painkiller lobby shaped policy amid drug epidemic

By MATTHEW PERRONE and BEN WIEDER
Associated Press
and Center for Public Integrity

For more than a decade, members of a little-known group called the Pain Care Forum have blanketed Washington with messages about prescription painkillers' vital role in the lives of millions of Americans, creating an echo chamber that has quietly derailed efforts to curb U.S. consumption of drugs like OxyContin, Vicodin and Percocet.

In 2012, drugmakers and their affiliates in the forum sent a letter to U.S. senators promoting a recent report on a "crisis of epidemic proportions": pain in America. Few

knew the report stemmed from legislation drafted and pushed by forum members and that their experts had helped author it. The report estimated more than 100 million Americans — roughly 40 percent of adults — suffered from chronic pain, an eye-popping statistic that some researchers call deeply problematic.

The letter made no reference, however, to another health issue that had been declared an epidemic by federal authorities: drug overdoses tied to prescription painkillers. Deaths linked to addictive opioid drugs had increased more than fourfold since 1999,



AP Photo/Toby Talbot

OxyContin pills arranged for a photo at a pharmacy in Montpelier, Vt.

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