

Food cart downtown goes local with sausage

Sasquatch serves up creativity at Astoria Station

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

On a frosty Wednesday night, Miles Peacock and Mari Inaba found themselves alone in the lot outside Reach Break Brewing. The two business partners seasoned, ground and pumped 30 pounds worth of pork butt into pig intestine casings, twisting them into 6-inch, 1/3-pound sausages inside their green, nondescript, 128-square-foot food cart.

Last weekend, Peacock and Inaba debuted Sasquatch Sausage, the first in a nascent food cart pod forming outside the brewery as part of the new food and drink destination, Astoria Station.

Peacock, an experienced butcher most recently of Gully's Butcher Shop in downtown Astoria, said he enjoys the creativity in endless varieties of sausage. He and Inaba met at Gully's.

"He kind of taught me how to do it, and we were making sausages and thinking, 'Wow; these are selling really well, you know. We could probably do a sausage cart,'" Inaba said.

Peacock said he relishes lifting the veil behind how the sausages are made, using locally sourced meats, spices, herbs and other ingredients the pair spend several hours a week grinding up and pumping into



Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian
Miles Peacock and Mari Inaba prepare beer bratwurst in their new food truck Sasquatch Sausage, located outside Reach Break Brewing in Astoria.

their locally sourced intestinal casings.

A minimal menu

The menu is minimal to start out. The beer bratwurst, mixed with Reach Break's India pale ale, comes with sauerkraut cooked down in apple cider with ground caraway seeds and a topping of grilled apples. The pork Korean dog comes topped with sesame-marinated bean sprouts and gochujang, a fermented, spicy Korean condiment. The sausages come served in rolls from Astoria's Home Bakery.

"Everything I've read on food carts is ... don't stretch yourself too thin," Inaba said. "So while we have a million ideas on different types of sausages, let's just do a couple and see how that goes, see if people like it."

The two hope to add bourbon beef, spicy Italian, farro-and-mushroom veggie and breakfast sausages.

"The beauty of it is, we're

not buying cases of premade sausages, so we'll make a 10-pound batch, and see how it sells, if people like it," Inaba said. "And we can keep making that 10-pound batch, or we can switch it up and do something else."

The cart's hours are loosely based around Reach Break, opening from noon to 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and noon to 6 p.m. Sundays and Mondays. Peacock said he is excited about the developing cluster of businesses around Astoria Station. "I have total faith that within a year, this is going to be an amazing spot," he said.

Astoria Station

Sasquatch Sausage will soon be joined by Hot Box BBQ, a food cart with two locations in Portland run by Daniel and Abbie Rhoads, who are moving to Astoria.

"I think it's great," Daniel Rhoads said of Astoria Station. "It's kind of like the food

carts in Portland are doing, trying to pair with brewers. It's sort of a restaurant with a variety of choices, a place where people come to gather."

The cart the couple are bringing has been parked outside Portland's Base Camp Brewing. The couple is also bringing a catering truck Daniel Rhoads said they had increasingly been driving out to the coast for weddings and other events. He said Hot Box should be open by early March, offering pulled pork, chicken and barbecue tofu dishes.

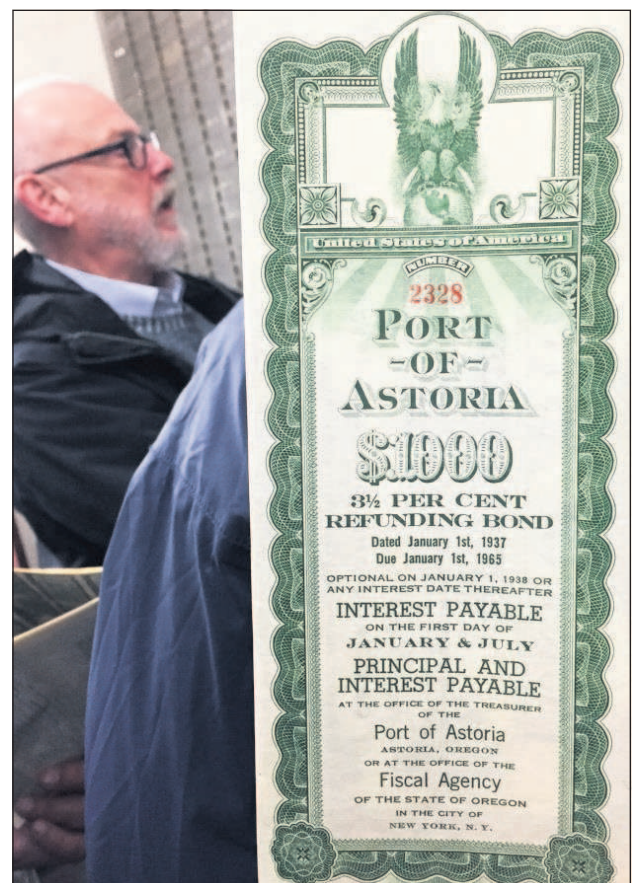
Charles and Leigh LeMay, who recently relocated to Astoria from Houston, are starting the two-seat Astoria Barber in a 165-square-foot corner storefront at the Astoria Station next to Reveille Ciderworks.

"We're going to do men's haircuts and grooming," Charles LeMay said. "We'll have a small retail selections of men's products."

Leigh LeMay, who still helps run a chain of salons in Texas, said there seemed to be a demand for haircuts in Astoria. The two will start building out the storefront next week and hope to open in mid-April.

Claudine Gregory, the widow of late Astoria Station founder Warren Williams, said there will also be a Thai food cart coming to Astoria Station, after which she will see how they do before adding any more. Once everyone is in place, she said, Astoria Station will hold a grand opening to honor Williams.

"This is Warren's vision," she said. "I'm just finishing it for him."



Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian
Port of Astoria Executive Director Jim Knight led a contingent of Port commissioners and staff to U.S. Bank Thursday to open a safety deposit box Port staff recently discovered. The box contained \$3,000 worth of refundable bonds the Port sold in 1937.

Port opens mystery deposit box

Unearthed piece of forgotten history

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

When Port of Astoria staff recently learned of a safety deposit box the agency held at U.S. Bank, the great mystery became what was inside.

The only living signer on the box was Port Commissioner James Campbell, who had also served on the Port Commission in the mid-1960s.

The Port hired a safe-cracker to open the box Thursday at U.S. Bank,

revealing a piece of history.

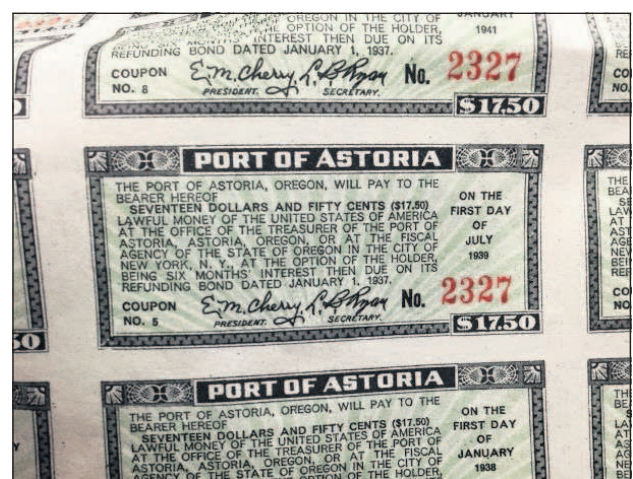
"There's \$3,000 worth of coupons in there," Port Executive Director Jim Knight said.

He and Campbell pulled out refundable bonds the Port had sold in 1937 to help finance a project.

"This is another way back then that people would save their money," Knight said adding municipal bonds were seen as a safe investment.

The bonds were sold \$1,000 at a time. They could be redeemed by the buyer from the Port in semimonthly increments of \$17.50.

The unsold bonds have no monetary value in themselves. But Knight said the Port will contact the Clatsop County Historical Society about preserving the historical documents.



Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian
People who bought the Port of Astoria's bonds in 1937 could redeem them in increments of \$17.50.

Oregon officials react to prospect of likely federal pot crackdown

By PARIS ACHEN
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Oregon lawmakers have condemned a White House statement suggesting the U.S. Justice Department will enforce the federal prohibition on recreational marijuana in states that have legalized it.

When Oregonians legalized recreational pot in 2014, they knew there was a risk of a federal crackdown with future presidential administrations, said state Senate Majority Leader Ginny Burdick, D-Portland.

"The approach we're taking is to have effective regulations and to stamp out the black market to the extent that we can," said Burdick, who is co-chairwoman of the Joint Committee on Marijuana Regulation. "We really want to have the kind of program that will, if they do decide to enforce, put us at the bottom of their list."

The comment by White House spokesman Sean Spicer Thursday marks the strongest indication so far of a potential crackdown on recreational use of the drug, The Associated Press reported. It came even as a new survey showed most Americans believe cannabis should be legal.

"I do believe you'll see greater enforcement of it,"

Spicer said in response to a reporter's question at a White House briefing. He suggested enforcement would target only recreational marijuana, as Congress has passed laws to protect medical use.

"I am hoping they come to their senses because you know with the recent election cycle that put Trump in office it also put marijuana in place in a number of states, including in California, which is the sixth largest economy in the world," Burdick said of the Trump administration.

Spicer's comment conflicts with the administration's claim that it favors states' rights, said U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley, D-Oregon. For instance, the administration announced a day earlier it would allow states to decide the issue of transgender restroom access.

"I urge the Trump administration to follow its own rhetoric on 'states' rights,' and to respect the voters of Oregon and the many other states who have decided at the ballot to legalize recreational marijuana use," Merkley said.

Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum said she would explore options for protecting voters' decision to legalize recreational pot and work with attorney generals in other states with similar laws.

"In my role as state AG, I

plan to continue to work hard to make sure Oregon's growing marijuana industry flourishes," Rosenblum said.

She said she would prefer to focus Oregon's limited law enforcement resources on more dangerous drugs and crimes of violence.

U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Oregon, echoed that sentiment during a visit to Medford Thursday.

"Wasting taxpayer dollars and burdening our law-enforcement agencies to go after law-abiding recreational marijuana users distracts from going after criminals and threats to our safety. I will fight hard against ridiculous federal government intrusions into our state," Wyden said via text message.

Just days ago, a bipartisan team of U.S. representatives, including Oregon Democrat Earl Blumenauer, formed the nation's first Congressional Cannabis Caucus. The caucus formed with the intent of reconciling federal law with state laws that permit medical and recreational use of marijuana.

"I am deeply disappointed by Sean Spicer's statement that

he expects states to see 'greater enforcement' and crackdown on adult use of marijuana," Blumenauer said in a statement Thursday. "The national prohibition of cannabis has been a failure, and millions of voters across the country have demanded a more sensible approach. I'm looking forward to working with the leadership of our newly formed cannabis caucus to ensure that Oregonian's wishes are protected and that we end the failed prohibition on marijuana."

Earlier this month, Republican Rep. Dana Rohrabacher of California introduced legislation that would shield people from marijuana-related prosecutions under the federal Controlled Substances Act, provided that they complied with state laws.

Oregon voters created a medical cannabis program through Ballot Measure 67 in 1998. Voters legalized recreational use of the drug with Measure 91 in 2014.

Recreational marijuana has brought in more than \$60 million in state revenue since the state started taxing sales in January 2016.

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