

J.C. PENNEY CLOSURE

'It's like losing a friend'



Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian
People walk by the J.C. Penney on Commercial Street Friday in downtown Astoria. The store is slated to start liquidating its stock April 17, and to close June 18. It is among 138 slated for closure.

Store's customers saddened by loss of local mainstay

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

J.C. Penney customers expressed dismay over the closure of the local branch, which celebrated its 100th anniversary last April.

J.C. Penney Co. announced the closure of 138 stores on Friday, including Astoria's and four others in Oregon, as the company adjusts to competition from online and

niche retailers. Astoria's store is expected to start liquidation April 17 and close June 18.

Employees have not been allowed to speak with the news media, but customers shared their memories over the weekend.

"It's like losing a friend," said Carla Pitts, who's been shopping at the downtown store since she moved to Astoria in 1992.

Susan Jackson of Warrenton said she was shocked after hearing of the closure. "I remember sitting down here selling Girl Scout cookies" in grade school about 30 years ago, she said.

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Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian
A gillnet fisherman collects a fish into his boat in August on Youngs Bay in Astoria.

Gillnet harvests trimmed in summer

Commercial fishermen given fall allocation

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI
Capital Bureau

CORVALLIS — The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission has voted unanimously to curtail gillnet fish harvests, altering an earlier decision that was more favorable to commercial fishermen.

Rules adopted by the commission in January retained use of the controversial fishing method for Chinook salmon along the main stem of the Columbia River during summer, which conflicted with Washington state's regulations for the same water body.

The earlier rules also diverged from Washington's by allocating a larger proportion of harvestable fish to commercial fishermen.

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Brewers and brew fans find bliss



Damian Mulinix/For The Daily Astorian
Logan Marks of Stickmen Brewing chats with patrons at Pouring at the Coast Saturday at the Seaside convention center.

Craft beer is the star at Seaside 'Pouring' event

By R.J. MARX
The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE —The "brotherhood of brewers" was on display at the Civic and Convention Center Saturday for the Pouring at the Coast Craft Beer Festival. Beer fans from throughout the Pacific Northwest grabbed a glass and had a sip at the fest, presented by the Seaside Chamber of Commerce.

"This event is huge," Logan Marks of Stickmen Brewing Co., based in Lake Oswego, said. "For a brewery our size, it means the world."

Marks was pouring Stickmen's F1 IPA. "We dry-hop it twice," he said. "It's super

aromatic, with a nice fruity body."

Brent Nygard from RiverBend Brewing Co. poured an oatmeal stout and an IPA.

A small Bend brewery with a capacity of only 5,000 barrels, Nygard said the Seaside festival allows his brewery "to reach out and get our beers out there."

Local brews

Participants from Astoria included Fort George Brewery and Public House, Buoy Beer Co., Wet Dog Brewery, Reach Break Brewing and Rogue Ales and Public House. The South County was represented by Seaside Brewing Co., and Pelican Brewing and Public Coast Brewing, both of Cannon Beach.

Dan Hamilton founded Buoy Beer in the garage of his house in Seaside. "It's a fantastic thing to see craft beer really bring people out," Hamilton said. "We've got people of all ages and all taste-bud sets."

Hamilton said Buoy Beer focuses on traditional European lager beers and North-

west ales. "We have some protocols in the brew house that border on philosophy," Hamilton said. "We use extremely clean yeast strains. The brewers are very dedicated to making sure the beers are absolutely balanced."

Shaun Barrick, head brewer with Astoria Brewing Co., said of Astoria's six breweries: "We all kind of fill a different niche in the market and get along great, so the more the merrier, as far as I can see. Craft beer is such a great boon. It helps keep dollars in local communities, it provides jobs and a great outlet for creative energy."

Barrick showcased the company's Harbor Coffee Cream Ale and Slack Tide IPA.

Far and wide

One of the most creative pouring stations — and certainly the one with farthest distance traveled — was Melvin Brewing from Jackson Hole, Wyoming.

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Da Yang violated labor laws

Astoria fish processor docked \$60,000 in fines

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

Da Yang Seafoods, a fish processor on the Port of Astoria's Pier 2, has been fined \$60,000 for meal, rest period and overtime violations.

The state Bureau of Labor and Industries received employee complaints in 2015 and started an investigation. Compliance specialists determined that between August and October 2015, Da Yang failed to provide meal periods to 146 employees on 1,393 occasions.

Da Yang also failed to provide rest periods to 77 employees on 213 occasions. On 40 occasions, the company worked employees in excess of 13 hours, violating maximum hour requirements for manufacturing establishments.

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Grant coordinator to focus on teen drug, alcohol abuse

Castaneda to grow partners with \$125,000 annual grant



When she worked for the Pacific County Health and Human Services Department in Washington state, Carly Castaneda was the youth coordinator for Well-spring Community Network, a grassroots community wellness group that received one of the nationally coveted grants from the Drug-Free Communities Support Program.

Castaneda said she witnessed firsthand the effects the grant had in helping better organize local efforts to help youths, leading to lower rates of teen drinking and more mental health counselors in schools.

Castaneda was recently hired as the coordinator for the same Drug-Free Communities grant received by North Coast Prevention Works, through which she

will help better organize efforts in Astoria and Warrenton to prevent teen drug and alcohol abuse.

The five-year grant, worth \$125,000 annually with a possible five-year extension, pays for Castaneda's salary and to fund various partnerships, wellness campaigns, training and education. Castaneda is an employee of nonprofit Warrenton-Hammond Healthy Kids Inc., the fiscal agent for the grant.

She said much of the work will be to increase partnerships between existing organizations and strengthening awareness of North Coast Prevention Works. The

coalition formed in 2009 and includes the Reduce Underage Drinking Task Force, Tobacco Free Coalition, Northwest Parenting, and the Youth Suicide Prevention Task Force. The group has sponsored various substance abuse prevention events since the 2000s.

Quality of life

Castaneda said the grant will focus on underage drinking and marijuana use, two of the most prevalent issues locally and nationally. Cutting down on bad behaviors isn't about just telling

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Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian
Carly Castaneda is the new coordinator of a Drug-Free Communities grant to help improve drug and alcohol prevention in Clatsop County.