

THE LAST GILLNETTER



Jon Westerholm looks over mementos at the Columbia River Fishermen's Protective Union office in Astoria.

Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Magazine documented the life of fishermen

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Daily Astorian

They cleaned out the office after Christmas. Into the moving van went the old signs and the newspaper clippings documenting achievements and battles for river fisheries. Out went the boxes filled with index cards listing the names of past Columbia River Fishermen's Protective Union members — and the dates they died. And the faded photographs and paintings of fishing boats that have sunk, sold or come to rest in museums. And boxes of old Columbia River Gillnetter magazines, a union publication founded in 1969.

Jon Westerholm, who has edited the Gillnetter since 2003, sifted through papers as his son, Erik, loaded the van. Each picture of a fishing boat sparked a memory, sometimes the name of the fisherman who had owned it. But, Westerholm would often note, "He's gone now."

The office on Gateway Avenue was a collection of vanished and vanishing things.

For years, Westerholm kept the union office open as a volunteer. In addition to editing and publishing the Gillnetter, he also coordinated a recycling program to gather up old gillnets. But at 83 years old, he is transitioning into a different phase of his life. A new issue of the Gillnetter hasn't gone out since 2015.

"I'm not ready to throw in the towel," said union president Darren Crookshanks, a commercial fisherman based out of Longview, Washington. At 49, he's the union member Westerholm and secretary Jack Marincovich call "the young guy."

For more than 140 years, the Columbia River Fishermen's Protective Union, first as an aid organization and later as a union, advocated on behalf of the river's gillnet fishermen and salmon conservation. But longtime union members, volunteers and fishermen like Westerholm are aging out of the work and stepping down from roles they've filled for decades. Union

membership has dwindled in step with fishing opportunities on the Columbia River and no one has raised their hand to take over the magazine.

"I'm going to get ahold of all our active members, going to start politicking and see if we can't get some new, younger members to help out," Crookshanks said. "I'm going to do what I can to keep the doors open."

The fishery the union defended for more than a century and the Gillnetter documented remains in limbo.

The push and pull of endangered salmon species listed on the Columbia River, changes to regulations about where and when and how much fishermen can fish, the ever-present tensions between sport fishing and commercial fishing — all contribute to a gillnet fishery that today is hemmed in.

'Back of the pipeline'

Gillnetting used to be an easy way to feel out a career in fishing. Men like Westerholm and Marincovich grew up with Columbia River gillnetters all around them. As teenagers they'd be recruited to help out on an uncle's or family friend's boat.

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Surf Pines man found guilty in 'peeping Tom' case

Cazee guilty on 23 counts

By JACK HEFFERNAN
The Daily Astorian

A Surf Pines man was found guilty Friday of 23 charges stemming from several "peeping Tom" incidents in his neighborhood.

Kirk Richard Cazee, 56, peered through bedroom windows and recorded videos of residents during private moments, a jury found after a four-day trial.

Cazee was convicted on multiple counts of using a child in a display of sexual conduct, each of which carries a minimum of nearly six years in prison. He was also convicted of invasion of personal privacy, stalking and criminal trespass.

The Clatsop County Sheriff's Office had been investigating a potential prowler in the Surf Pines area, based on numerous complaints from residents, for more than a year leading up to Cazee's first arrest in February. After his release from jail on those charges, he was arrested again in April following further investigation by the sheriff's office. He has since been held in jail on \$2 million bail.

The victims included several young women — some of whom were under 18 years old — and one man. During the trial, some of the victims — sometimes with tears streaming down their faces — recalled seeing a subject on their property. A witness also recounted confronting a shadowy figure from a distance in his backyard before the man ran away. Witnesses believed Cazee was the prowler but were unable to unequivocally identify him.

Much of the case was based on videos obtained from Cazee's phone. The videos often displayed the victims in a state of nudity and, occasionally, performing sexual acts. The videos do not reveal who took them, but they at times appear to record the voice of a man sexually pleasing himself.

"How many other people have video of the victims in this case?" Chief Deputy District Attorney Ron Brown rhetorically asked the jury during closing arguments.

Cazee was charged with two counts of criminal trespass after his original arrest. Around 10 p.m. that night, sheriff's deputies found Cazee walking in the area without a flashlight minutes after yet another complaint of a man searching through windows. Just before his arrest, deputies found that Cazee was carrying a pair of binoculars and some toilet paper.

Cazee told deputies that he brought the binoculars to observe wildlife, but Brown called the optical aid one of the "smoking guns" in the case.

"Good luck unless the wildlife is standing under a streetlight that doesn't exist in Surf Pines," Brown said.

Brown also presented evidence that Cazee, a surgical nurse in Portland at the time, had stolen mail from one of the victims and kept it at his Portland mobile home. Cazee's wife and son testified that he often went for walks by himself late at night.

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Kirk Richard Cazee

Local baker, chef sets his own table

Davis finally has place of his own

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian



After more than 25 years of managing other people's restaurants and bars, Taz Davis said he feels fortunate to have a place to call his own.

He and business partner Julian Villanueva recently opened Table 360 Bakery & Bistro inside the former Curious Caterpillar children's store. A lounge and global dining room is slated to open upstairs in the spring. Greet-

ing passers-by in the display windows and on the main floor is a wide assortment of breads, cakes and other pastries baked by Davis each morning.

"We're French countryside meets Astoria waterfront," he said of the bakery's style.

A native of Southern California, Davis moved to the North Coast several years ago from Portland, laying roots, buying a house and man-

aging the Sand Trap Pub in McMenamins Gearhart Hotel. He took over as general manager of the Port of Call Bistro & Bar last year when owner Marvin James Sawyer was taking on the operation of the Astoria Event Center.

Port of Call was forced out of its location at Ninth and Commercial streets last year after falling behind on rent. But a private catering operation Davis started in 2016 and took to Astoria Sunday Market was growing in reputation, he said, and he yearned to get back to his roots in cooking and baking.

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Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian

Taz Davis, co-owner of Table 360 Bakery & Bistro, features a rotating cast of breads, cakes, cookies and other pastries.

