

Gillnetter: 'It's been a keeper of memories'

Continued from Page 1A

For a young fisherman just getting started, a gillnet boat and gear were an investment but usually a safe one. You could step your way up into something bigger and if money was tight or fishing was bad elsewhere, seasons on the river remained an option.

"The Columbia River salmon fishery was not the first non-native fishery on the West Coast, but it has been the foremost," said Hobe Kytr, director of Salmon For All, a commercial gillnetting advocacy organization based in Astoria. "The Columbia is the mother of all salmon streams."

In 2012, then-Gov. John Kitzhaber, along with Washington state fishery managers, put into motion a plan to phase gillnet gear off the main stem of the Columbia River by 2017 and replace it with other types of gear that would, in theory, be more selective in the fish it caught. Oregon's fish and wildlife commission has since tried to walk back from the plan, unsuccessfully pushing to give gillnetters back time on the river last year.

Washington state has continued to move forward, testing gear such as purse and beach seine nets. The gillnet fishermen said the plan would kill their way of life. In the last five years it has certainly taken its toll, said Jim Wells, president of Salmon For All.

In 2017, there was no spring season on the main stem, and no summer season for the first time in many years. There were only seven main stem openings in the fall. To contrast, the gillnetters had 53 openings on the river main stem in the summer and fall in 2014, according to Wells. An extended spring season in off-channel areas brought in salmon during the spring, but not enough to build a life around.

The Gillnetter

Sally the Salmon was always on the cover of The Gillnetter. A simple illustration, she posed seductively, one fin on her fishy hip, the other back against the side of her head like a World War II pinup. She had big, long-lashed eyes and — to put it politely — anatomy. And she had opinions.

"Too many sea lions in the Columbia River could be the death of me!" she noted in the 2006 winter edition.

She told jokes ("Why do some salmon develop hooked noses? They bumped into dams when they were young"); she honored the memory of deceased fishermen; she made an argument for global warming; she said salmon are here "for equal use and consumption among all people."

"Such a great river, the Columbia," she said in 2006. "What would it be without me?" She reminded readers often: "I have been here to see it all."

Closing the Columbia River Fishermen's Protective Union office right before the new year was like closing a book, one Westerholm does not expect to open again. Though it may not be the end



Photos by Colin Murphy/The Daily Astorian

The office of the Columbia River Fishermen's Protective Union was full of photographs, paintings, old newspaper articles and many other items documenting the history of the fishery.



Boxes of index cards with information on union members and fishermen were also removed from the old office by Jon Westerholm and his son, Erik.



Jon Westerholm looks through old paintings and photographs while closing the office of the Columbia River Fishermen's Protective Union.

of the union, it does mark the end of the Gillnetter magazine, as far as he can tell. Erik Westerholm hopes they can put out an official farewell edition, but he isn't sure if that will be possible.

When Don Riswick started the magazine in 1969, the Gillnetter was a hub for stories, information about policies and regulations and news. Riswick passed the editorship to Westerholm in 2003 when he was 86 years old. He died two years later, leaving, as Westerholm wrote in a tribute to the founding editor, "a void in the senior leadership of our fishing industry."

Under Westerholm's editorship, the focus of the magazine shifted slightly, tending more towards histories and stories than news. Westerholm and his contributors published opinion pieces decrying plans to push gillnets off the river, calling for

robust conservation efforts and questioning the states' plans.

"The Gillnetter was important in defining and defending the legacy of commercial gillnetting on the Columbia River," Kytr said. "It's been the keeper of memories."

"It's something else," Jon Westerholm said, looking around the office, a narrow room with a door at one end and a window at the other. He used to be in and out just about every other day. "We've been practically living in here for pretty close to 10 years now I guess."

"What it stood for," he mused. "How we worked into it. Maybe it's not quite as important to people now as it was to me and to people of my age group."

A way of life

Jack Marincovich glanced at the front page of the day's

newspaper, paused to look at a photo of an Astoria high school senior kicking a football, flipped back and settled down to read the obituaries.

"All our old friends are dying," he said.

For years Marincovich has been the executive secretary for the Columbia River Fishermen's Protective Union, though these duties have taken a back seat over the years. He and his wife, Georgia, have been vocal opponents of what became known as the Kitzhaber Plan to phase gillnets off the main stem of the Columbia River. Georgia Marincovich still bristles at the memory of a fish and wildlife official calling the gillnet fleet the "mop up fishery."

Like Westerholm, they are part of a generation that can remember the river's heyday. Jack Marincovich, 85, comes from a long line of Croatian

fishermen. He started fishing when he was teenager. He fished in Alaska as well as the Columbia River. His last trip was in 2007 when he was 75. He can remember when the union included numerous fishermen up and down the river. Now he reads the obituaries, looking for familiar names.

He hadn't intended to be a fisherman, he said.

"You wanted to do something else, but it was a part of life," he said. "It just kind of stuck to you."

Gillnetters now fish areas once considered supplementary fishing grounds, off-shoots like Youngs Bay or Tongue Point — what the states refer to as "select areas," and what Wells calls "the back of the pipeline."

Hundreds of sport fishing and guide boats crowd both sides of the river nearly every day during the popular Buoy 10 season in the summer. When the weather heats up, shallow Youngs Bay is not as attractive to fish and commercial fishermen must also compete with other river res-

idents, hungry sea lions and fish-eating birds.

"You get the scraps," Wells said. "To think that this is going to replace our main stem fishery, no way."

The commercial fishermen believe they could and should get a bigger slice of the fishing pie. Sport fishermen can only target so many fish, they argue. Meanwhile, a large number of the fish made available by state fishery managers goes uncaught. Wasted and unavailable to the consuming public, the commercial fishermen maintain.

It's a battle the gillnetters have been waging for years, and one they seem no closer to winning. The only glimmers of hope Kytr sees are changes at the two states' fish and wildlife commissions. Commissioners who have, in the past, pushed to move gillnetters off the river have started to change their minds or have been replaced with new commissioners who may be more sympathetic to the gillnetters' pleas, he said.

He is waiting to see what the new year will bring.

Cazee: Sentencing hearing set for February

Continued from Page 1A

One of the victims, due to repeated suspicions of someone prowling outside her home, placed a surveillance camera outside her residence in early 2017. That camera footage, on two occasions, displayed a man whose face was not visible because his hood was up.

The man was wearing a camouflage jacket in one of the videos. Cazee was wearing a camouflage jacket at the time of his arrest, though attorneys debated whether the jacket was the same one that appeared in the video.

Lawyers also argued about whether the various states of nudity in the videos warranted certain charges and if Cazee made sufficient contact with the victim to justify the

'You've got a trail of circumstances that leads you to believe that a certain thing happened.'

Chief Deputy District Attorney Ron Brown

stalking charges.

Ryan Colvin Connell, Cazee's Hillsboro-based attorney, pointed out that a number of victims recalled the peeper as being "tall and skinny," arguing that his client's appearance could not be described as thin. He also highlighted the fact that there was no witness testimony or physical evidence conclusively proving that Cazee recorded the videos.

"This case is a pretty classic example of a time when

the state is trying to make evidence fit a specific person as opposed to just following the evidence," Connell said during closing arguments. "When their witnesses say there's nothing here to say, 'This person made this video.' If you say he does, you're speculating, you're guessing, you're filling in blanks that they're saying is not full."

But Brown likened his case to that of a child caught at the end of a trail of crumbs that begin at an open

cookie jar.

"You've got a trail of circumstances that leads you to believe that a certain thing happened," Brown said.

At minimum, Cazee will be sentenced to nearly 30 years in prison for using a child in a sexually explicit display. He may face more prison time depending on whether the sentences are imposed concurrently or consecutively. A sentencing hearing has been scheduled for February.

Davis: 'We think, that food should be food, fun and family'

Continued from Page 1A

He and Villanueva, a massage therapist in Northern California, met at Bill's Tavern & Brewhouse in Cannon Beach, where they hatched the idea of Table 360 on a napkin.

"The Table 360 is representative of what we think, that food should be food, fun and family," Davis said. "And then our tagline is 'Gather, Toast, Nosh, Repeat.'"

Table 360 will hold a grand opening during Second Saturday Art Walk, featuring the oil paintings of truck driver-turned-artist Terry Freeman. The show will also serve as a precursor to the globe-trotting bistro they want to open

in the spring.

"The landing is going to be a lounge-like area," Davis said of the mezzanine overlooking the bakery. "What started out as a wine bar idea has now turned into more of a lounge of a few classic cocktails, and of course wine pairings with cheese and charcuterie plates. And then the back dining room, which is the bistro side of it, will actually be tapas and small plates, appetizer kind of things."

The bistro's menu will rotate every couple of months, visiting new continents and cuisines.

"We may take you to Africa for eight weeks," Davis said. "We may take you to Spain for eight weeks."