



Photos by Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian

The Silver Explorer, the first of six cruise ships stopping this month in Astoria, pulled in Monday.

## LUXURY CRUISE STOPS IN ASTORIA

Silver Explorer is the first of **six cruise ships** expected in May

By EDWARD STRATTON  
*The Daily Astorian*

The start of a busy cruise ship month began with a whisper Monday.

The small luxury cruise ship Silver Explorer pulled into the Port of Astoria on its way upriver.

The ship carries up to 130 passengers on what Willy Fleming, an expedition programs coordinator, called luxury expedition cruising.

"We try to go places where you can't exactly get to by plane, like the whole point of cruising," Fleming said. "The idea with expedition cruising is

to really bring the point of cruising, and going to very, very remote places," he said. "But then also the owner likes to have his ultra luxury service."

The 29-year-old cruiser, built in Finland, was purchased in the mid-2000s by Silversea Cruises and retrofitted for Arctic excursions in the summer and Antarctica in the winter. The ship includes butler service for passengers, along with fine dining, spas, a library, a cognac room and other amenities.

Cruises run between \$6,500 and more than \$20,000.

After visiting Astoria, the Silver Explorer left for Rainier, after which

it will head toward the Puget Sound region, ending the trip in Vancouver, British Columbia. The ship will travel south from Canada, visiting Astoria May 18 on its way to San Francisco.

Bruce Conner, cruise ship marketer for the Port, said there are 43,000 passengers expected this year, up from 38,000 last year.

"We're known as part of the Alaska experience," Conner said.

Astoria will have six cruise ships in May, one in July, 13 in September and five in October. The largest, the Disney Wonder, arrives Sept. 11. A cruise ship schedule is available at portofastoria.com



The Silver Explorer pulled into a freshly emptied logyard at the Port of Astoria Monday.

## Astoria backs park adoption requests

Parks had been set for sale

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ  
*The Daily Astorian*

Two parks the Astoria City Council had considered opening up for sale and development will instead be put up for adoption.

Following presentations by a group from the Alderbrook neighborhood and representatives of the Lower Columbia Preservation Society at a meeting Monday night, city councilors asked the Parks and Recreation Department to work with the groups to develop maintenance agreements for Birch Field in Alderbrook and the Custom House site near Safeway.

The two sites were on a list of underutilized parks the city had considered selling to lighten the load for the parks department.

Final park adoption agreements for the two sites will come back to the City Council for approval. If approved, the parks will join a handful of other parks across the city with adoption agreements in place.

See PARKS, Page 4A

## Republicans tackle abortion, taxes, pensions

Primary winner will face Gov. Brown in November

By PARIS ACHEN  
*Capital Bureau*

SALEM — Oregon Republicans have three distinct choices for their gubernatorial nominee on May 15.

State Rep. Knute Buehler, a Bend orthopedic surgeon, has been laying the groundwork for this election for the past two years. He announced his plan to run well ahead of his opponents, retired Navy aviator Greg Wooldridge of Portland and Bend businessman Sam Carpenter.

But Buehler's moderate social platform prompted some members of his party to seek a candidate who would take a stronger stance against abortion rights and other social issues.

Wooldridge and Carpenter launched surprisingly effective challenges to the then-presumed front-runner, said Jim Moore, political science professor at Pacific University.

Carpenter has modeled himself — though on a smaller scale — after President Donald Trump, adopting the motto, "Make Oregon Great Again."

The EO Media Group/Pamplin Media Group Capital Bureau asked the candidates questions about issues that are important to many Republicans. We have included their verbatim responses.

Each candidate was asked identical questions and provided a limit of 50 words for each answer.

The winner of the primary will face off with Gov. Kate Brown, a Democrat, in November.

See PRIMARY, Page 3A

## Oregon craft beer experiencing slowdown in sales

Marijuana may be a factor

By SUZANNE ROIG  
*Bend Bulletin*

BEND — At a time when craft breweries compete more than ever for shelf space and tap handles in pubs, industry sales are leveling off, even in Bend, known as Beer Town USA.

The slowdown has contributed to slumping sales at Bend's biggest beer success story, Deschutes Brewery, and prompted other brewers to put more effort into their local pubs.

Craft beer sales in Oregon stores where packaged beer is sold grew 0.3 percent in 2017, compared to 13.8 percent in 2014, said Patrick Livingston, a consultant of client insights at IRI, a Chicago-based analytics firm.

In comparison, packaged craft beer sales nationwide grew 3.8 percent in 2017, compared to 14.6 percent in 2014, according to IRI figures.

Craft beer may be a niche market, but it accounts for 28.8 percent of all beer sold in Oregon, Livingston said.

The slowdown in sales is more pronounced in Oregon, Livingston said, because other segments of the market —

wine, spirits, hard seltzers and malt beverages — have shown dramatic growth.

And some believe that legal recreational marijuana, which saw its first full year of business in Oregon in 2016, is a factor.

"I believe cannabis has affected sales," said Deschutes Brewery CEO Michael LaLonde. "It's so potent today. Someone might go and have a beer and do some edibles, and the combination of those two things means they don't consume as much alcohol."

After experiencing the first sales decline in its 30-year

See CRAFT BEER, Page 4A



Andy Tullis/The Bulletin

Mason Joey Boisineau, center, checks the door on one of the outdoor fireplaces he built on the deck of the new Boneyard Pub, under construction in Bend. At a time when craft breweries compete more than ever for shelf space and tap handles in pubs, industry sales are leveling off.

