

## Cidery: Call recently put out for a restaurateur interested in subleasing

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Station with fermentation and finishing tanks and opening up the outdoor patio to customers on sunny days. He recently put out a call for a restaurateur interested in subleasing a kitchen inside the cidery, similar to The Woods, a tasting room in Seattle with food provided by a food cart turned brick-and-mortar restaurant. He is stressing fast and fresh food, wanting to largely avoid pub grub staples like burgers and fries.

"It's for someone who knows how to manage the margins of food," he said. "Because if you're doing farm-to-table or something really specific like that, the margins are a lot less."

In the basement beneath the former Deja Vu, Towsey-French is planning an unticketed theater for up to 49 people showing classic movies. Not charging for tickets or playing newer movies makes the licensing for the venture affordable, he said.

"We'll run a week of (Alfred) Hitchcock, a week of David Lynch, that kind of stuff," he said. "Just having something where you can go down into it and



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian  
**Paul Caruana discusses the renovations to the Norblad Building in downtown Astoria.**

it's a dark, warm and cozy lounge area. Grab some cider. Grab a popcorn."

Towsey-French's preferred location connects via a stairwell on the main floor and basement with the Norblad Hotel. Caruana has been renovating and expanding the number of hotel rooms to 17, along with a nearly equal number of monthly rentals.

"It's kind of the perfect marriage between those two businesses and locations," Caruana said of

Reveille.

The departure of The Harbor, the region's advocacy group for victims of sexual and domestic violence, to the former Snow & Snow law firm near the Clatsop County Courthouse left Caruana with several empty storefronts. Besides Reveille, he's close to bringing in the offices of the Lower Columbia Hispanic Council on Duane Street, and Lagom, an integrated mental health center, on Exchange Street.

## Homeless: 'We look at how we can build a foundation for a person'

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Clatsop Community Action, which offers a number of services and housing programs, often catches homeless people in the middle of a dark place. When people come in to use the agency's phone, caseworkers have overheard conversations where they talk about committing suicide, or the subject will come up in routine case management interviews and assessments.

"We see a fair number and immediate intervention is really needed," said Elaine Bruce, the group's executive director.

Sometimes a homeless person they've been working with will come in one day looking really bad, Bruce said.

"We ask them if they're OK because you never know what has happened to them out in the community. Homeless people can get victimized a lot ... People are kind of scared of homeless people, but actually they're the ones that get victimized."

If someone appears to be seriously contemplating suicide, the agency's first step is to contact Clatsop Behavioral Healthcare's

mobile crisis team. But the crisis team serves the entire county and may not have a crisis worker nearby. In that case, the first responder is a police officer, who can drive the person to the hospital to wait.

### 'Lost'

Alan Evans, the director of Helping Hands, which provides re-entry and substance abuse treatment programs to the homeless, believes an internal poll of the nonprofit's clients would reveal that most of them have contemplated suicide at some point.

"There's not a road that leads to our door," he said. "You come to us or get sent to us because you are lost."

It's a struggle Evans knows personally. He grappled with suicidal thoughts and made several suicide attempts earlier in his life when he was homeless, dealing with mental health issues and addicted to drugs.

Because of the difficulties inherent in such a life, "in the back of people's minds, suicide is an option," he said.

For Evans, one of the more crushing realizations was the fact that he did not have anyone to call. His

long history of problematic behavior had eroded his social support and pushed people away.

One of the most important first steps organizations like Helping Hands can take with clients is simply to listen, while at the same time removing some of the stresses of living on the streets.

"Sometimes just offering them an ear and a place to live is just enough to make that thought of suicide go back in the mind," Evans said, adding, "We look at how we can build a foundation for a person to at least give them the hope that change can happen."

Baker and others believe most people are aware of the services available to them in Clatsop County. But Baker said homeless people likely face the same stigma, the same reticence to seek help, that nearly everyone experiences when struggling with depression and suicidal thoughts.

"For all the things you may think about when you see someone who is homeless, you're still talking about a human being who may experience despair to the point that they want to end their lives," she said.

## Ducklings: During duckling season, be on the lookout for ducks crossing roads

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The Wildlife Center of the North Coast takes in just over 100 local ducklings on average each year. The partnership with Audubon could send several hundred more their way, said Pauline Baker, rehabilitation coordinator for center.

"We're anticipating more and more through June,"

Baker said.

The ducklings will be released when they are around 4 to 5 weeks old. The ones that came from Portland will go back into their home watersheds.

For now, volunteers place feather dusters in the ducklings' enclosures — stationary stand-ins for absent parents — and ferry them to small pools so they

can practice swimming and foraging.

During duckling season, Herman warns people to be on the lookout for ducks crossing roads and to leave nests alone.

"The best thing to do with nests — even if they're in weird places — is to try not to disturb them and allow mom to take care of them on her own," she said.



**Ginger Nealon carefully loads the ducklings into a container before moving them to the swimming pool.**

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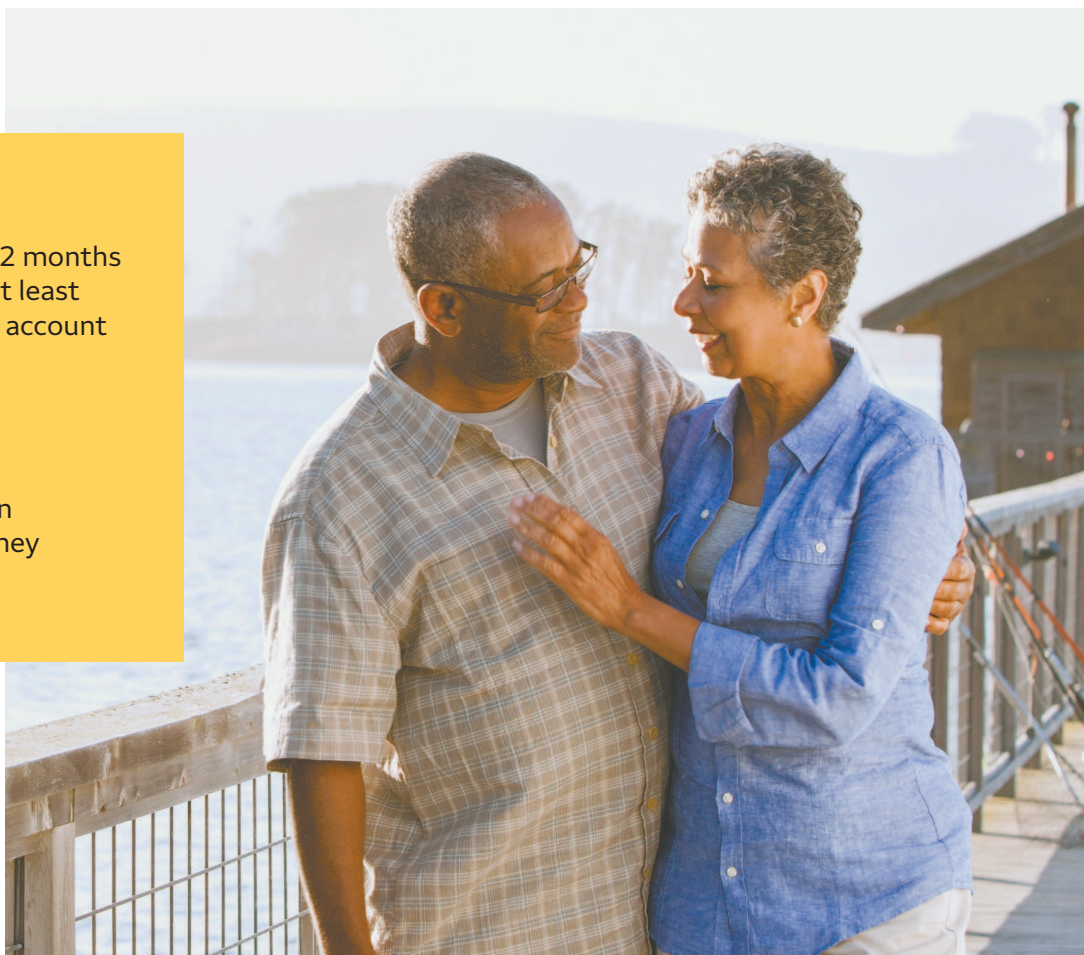
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