



Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

The Star Princess brought an estimated 3,000 people into Astoria on Monday.

Cruise ship season peaks in Astoria

Cruise ship season will peak in Astoria this week with nearly 9,000 estimated passengers coming on five ships.

The Star Princess stopped in Astoria on Monday carrying an estimated 3,000 passengers. The Seven Seas Mariner, Coral Princess and Oceania Regatta will arrive Thursday carrying nearly 4,500 passengers. The Volendam, carrying an estimated 1,400 passengers, arrives Friday. The Star Princess is scheduled to stop in Astoria again this coming Monday.

The Seven Seas Mariner and Oceania Regatta will dock at the Port of Astoria's Pier 1 on Thursday, while the Coral Princess, carrying more than 3,000 passengers, will anchor in the Columbia River and shuttle passengers to the 17th Street Dock.

Five more cruise ships are scheduled to finish the season in October, including the Oosterdam Oct. 1, the Norwegian Jewel on Oct. 9 and the Grand Princess on Oct. 15 and on Oct. 22.

— The Astorian

Man rescued after grounding vessel

LONG BEACH, Wash. — A U.S. Coast Guard aircrew hoisted a man off a boat in Willapa Bay north of Leadbetter Point State Park on Saturday afternoon after his vessel ran aground and began taking on water.

An MH-60 Jayhawk helicopter aircrew from Coast Guard Sector Columbia River hoisted the man to safety and transported him to the sector base in Warrenton, where he was evaluated and released without injury, according to the Coast Guard.

At 4:15 p.m., watchstanders at Sector Columbia River received a mayday call from the man reporting that his 30-foot vessel was aground and taking on water.

The Coast Guard aircrew launched and arrived on scene at 5:19 p.m. and conducted the hoist.

The Coast Guard reminds mariners to have recent updated charts and properly functioning navigation equipment to ensure they are aware of known shallow areas, as well as being aware of tide conditions.

— Chinook Observer

Grocery worker union calls for boycott of Fred Meyer

Contract talks set for this week

By REBECCA ELLIS
Oregon Public Broadcasting

A local union representing grocery workers from across Oregon and southwest Washington state has called for an immediate boycott of Fred Meyer stores and departments in the region. Union officials say the move comes after recent alleged harassment of unionized employees by higher-ups.

United Food and Commercial Workers Local 555 is locked in deteriorating contract negotiations with

some of the region's biggest supermarkets, including Fred Meyer, Albertsons and Safeway. After the most recent negotiations deadlocked, the union canceled nearly all its contract extensions with the Fred Meyer and QFC locations in its jurisdiction, as well as a handful of Safeways and Albertsons.

The contract termination freed up the union to call for a boycott starting Sunday.

Kelley McAllister, with UFCW Local 555, said the union was targeting solely Fred Meyer due to recent allegations that managers at the stores had called unionized employees into their

offices and berated them.

"We got information from members in those meetings that they were being threatened and harassed and told that they were worthless, told that anyone off the street could do their job," she said.

McAllister said the alleged abuse constituted unfair labor practice and was reported to the National Labor Relations Board.

In a statement, Fred Meyer said recent allegations that painted the company as "an unfair or uncaring employer" were an "unfortunate misrepresentation of the reality for our great associates."

"The truth is that these

actions don't help the negotiation process at all and calls to boycott Fred Meyer hurt associates and their families, customers and communities, and ironically helps competitors, many of which are nonunion," the statement read.

The union has released a list of the specific departments within 57 Fred Meyer locations where its asking consumers to refrain from shopping. McAllister said the union has no plans yet to picket or to strike. The latter, she says "continues to be our last resort."

The next bargaining session will take place Thursday and Friday.

US hop supply, demand balanced

By DAN WHEAT
Capital Press

YAKIMA, Wash. — A 2% increase in inventory of U.S. hops since last September shows continued reasonable balance between supply and demand despite a continuing but slowing acreage increase in recent years, a leading producer says.

Crop production in 2018 increased just 1% over 2017, "so a 2% increase in hop stocks 12 months later is relatively in line with the production increase," says Pete Mahony, vice president of supply chain and purchasing for John I. Haas Inc. in Yakima. Haas is a leader in production, processing and research and development of hops.

Jaki Brophy, spokeswoman for Hop Growers of America and the Washington Hop Commission, agreed there is stability.

"Despite the fact that acreage went up again, production will be essentially level with last year," Brophy said. "It will actually be a little less thanks to a lot of the new acreage coming from a new propagation technique that wasn't ideal for



Dan Wheat/Capital Press

The hop harvest at Wenas Hop Co., in Selah, Wash., last year.

the spring weather we had this year. Returning acreage looked, overall, above average."

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service released its hop stock report on Sept. 18 showing hop inventory by growers, dealers and brewers at 115 million pounds, up 2% from the

113 million-pound inventory a year earlier.

Stocks held at dealer and grower locations totaled 78 million pounds and brewers held 37 million pounds.

The previous two September hop stock reports showed annual increases of about 15%, which was expected as production in those years increased at nearly the same

rate, Mahony said.

In June, USDA estimated 57,339 acres of hops for 2019, up 4% from the record high of 55,035 in 2018. Of that, 72% is in Washington state, 15% in Idaho and 13% in Oregon.

For many years, hop growth has been fueled by the rapid increase of craft breweries, but their rate of growth is now slowing.

"While we've certainly seen some slowdown in the U.S. craft industry from the double-digit growth rates of only a few years ago, the industry still continues to grow although at a more moderate and hopefully sustainable rate," Mahony said.

A positive sign is strong growth in the long tail of craft, which are the smaller, more local craft brewers, he said. Long tail growth has pushed the total U.S. brewery count beyond 7,000, he said.

OREGON CAPITAL INSIDER
Get the inside scoop on state government and politics!

WANTED
Alder and Maple Saw Logs & Standing Timber
Northwest Hardwoods • Longview, WA
Contact: John Anderson • 360-269-2500

2019-2020
Giving Back
a guide to making a difference in Clatsop County

We are working on the 5th annual edition of *Giving Back*

Giving Back provides our community nonprofits and corporations that support them, a platform for informing the public about their services and opportunities to donate or volunteer.

Giving Back is a resource for companies and individuals to use in researching information to assist them in their charitable giving plans.

This year we're offering expanded listings to each nonprofit detailing their mission statements, goals, service area, superstar volunteers, events and giving/volunteering opportunities.

To Submit information about your non-profit

Fill out a form at this link:
<https://tinyurl.com/y5no5nlw>
or email:
Lauren McLean at:
lmclean@dailyastorian.com
to receive a form via mail/email.

Deadline for submissions:
October 4th, 2019

Look for 2019-2020 Giving Back in the October 29th edition of The Astorian

the Astorian

GET TO THE POINT.
Expert Service. Guaranteed.

Trust your vehicle safety to the professionals at

DEL'S O.K. TIRE
point S
TIRE and AUTO SERVICE

BUY 3 Get 1 Free! TOYO TIRES
Now through 10/31/19

Same local owners putting you first!

your #1 Source for tires

35359 Hwy 101 Business Astoria, OR 503-325-2861
Store hours: Mon-Fri, 8-6; Sat. 8-4 • Closed Sunday