



Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

The former Astoria Warehousing property sits off the Astoria Riverwalk, east of the Astoria Bridge.

FORT GEORGE BREWERY TO BUY ASTORIA WAREHOUSING

A hub for canning and distribution

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Astorian

Fort George Brewery is preparing to buy the former Astoria Warehousing for canning and distribu-

tion operations.

The Astoria City Council on Monday unanimously approved a wholesale liquor license application for Fort George at the warehouses, along with a \$1 million grant from the state to clean up petroleum contamination.

Chris Nemlowill, who started the brewery with Jack Harris in 2006, gave the City Council an overview of the company's plans.

"For about the 20 months, we've been looking at property on the waterfront," Nemlowill said. "For years now, we've just been looking for more space for can storage. We need more space to work on distribution. When we found this property was available, it was really ideal. It has loading docks. It's a beautiful space on the waterfront."

The owners of Astoria Warehousing Inc., a salmon-canning and-labeling

company founded in 1983 and occupying several acres along the central waterfront near the Astoria Bridge, closed the operation last year and relocated to the Seattle area. The closure meant the loss of upward of 25 local jobs and left a large swath of land and warehouses along the waterfront primed for development.

Harris and Nemlowill started Fort

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Port approves strategic business plan



Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

Boats moored at the Port of Astoria.

A step toward state funding

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Astorian

The Port of Astoria Commission on Tuesday approved an updated strategic business plan more than two years in the making, inching closer to the possibility of more state funding to help fix crumbling infrastructure.

The Port contracted Mary McArthur, execu-

tive director of the Columbia-Pacific Economic Development District, to create the plan, which focuses on returning the Port to financial stability and public credibility over the next two years.

An approved plan is required for the Port to get more grants and loans from Business Oregon, the state's economic development agency, which has funded many of the Port's infrastructure improvements.

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Uniontown plan could trouble Port

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Shooting Stars and state reach agreement

Child care center gets temporary license

By NICOLE BALES
The Astorian

Shooting Stars Child Development Center will remain open with a temporary license under a settlement agreement with the state.

The private Astoria child care facility, which can serve up to 50 children, has agreed to weekly on-site appointments with a quality improvement specialist. The specialist will review record-keeping, staffing, supervision, training, teacher qualifications, hand-washing, the enrollment of staff and volunteers in a central background registry and the separation of infants and toddlers from older children.

In September, the state Department of Education notified Shooting Stars that the facility's license would not be renewed because of too many noncompliance findings. After the intervention of state Sen. Betsy Johnson, D-Scappoose, the state and Shooting Stars agreed to work toward a resolution.

State records detail several noncompliance findings and complaints at Shooting Stars. Over the summer, for example, the state found there was not enough staff for the number of children. Toddlers were also combined with preschool and school-age children.

State staff will help Shooting Stars develop and fine-tune procedures to address issues so they don't have the deficiencies, said Melanie Mesaros, the communications director for the Department of Education's Early Learning Division.

Denise Giliga, the owner and director at Shooting Stars, said she is confident she will be able to work with the state and stay in compliance.

Giliga said she is also working with Northwest Regional Child Care Resource and Referral to help identify any pitfalls or stumbling blocks they can help eliminate.

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Cannon Beach restricts vacation rentals

City curtails permit options

By NICOLE BALES
The Astorian

CANNON BEACH — In an effort to rein in vacation rentals, the City Council on Tuesday night approved an ordinance to phase out unlimited permits.

Beginning Nov. 1, the city will not renew five-year unlimited permits after they expire. Limited permits will remain in force until revoked or terminated and they will not be

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replaced.

After the unlimited permits are phased out, Cannon Beach will be left with 14-day permits, which allow property owners to have two renters per month.

Cannon Beach has about 200 short-term rental permits. Fourteen-day permits make up the majority, with about 120 to 125

permits. There are about 30 to 40 five-year unlimited permits and about 45 to 50 lifetime unlimited permits.

Jeff Adams, the city's community development director, said the rule change comes after complaints about unlimited permits.

The ordinance will also allow the city to better enforce short-term rental regulations and penalize those who don't have a license.

Also under the new rules, property owners can have their fines deferred if they join a property management com-

pany. The reasoning behind that move, Adams said, is that rentals under property management companies tend to have fewer violations.

The city said the goal with the changes is to strike a balance between the residential and resort elements of the community.

"This is a discussion that has been elevated to the state level as a concern for a lot of people, myself included, for how short-term rentals might possibly impact the livability of their communities," said state Rep.

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