



INSIDE

Astorian

147TH YEAR, NO. 44

DailyAstorian.com // THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2019

\$1.50

UNIONTOWN

Council votes to protect views

Port argued against the idea

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Astorian

The Astoria City Council unanimously voted to protect views of the Columbia River from the dead-end Bay and Basin streets in Uniontown.

The Bridge Vista portion of the Riverfront Vision Plan, meant to maintain views of the Astoria Bridge and the river, mandates 70-foot view corridors on north-south rights of way between W. Marine Drive and the Columbia. But there were no rules in place to ensure views beyond the dead-end Bay and Basin streets, each of which end in undeveloped lots owned by the Port of Astoria.

At the end of Bay Street, near the Maritime Memorial Park, is a long, narrow grassy plot of land that the Port leases to Mark Hollander, a developer hoping to build Marriott franchise hotels in Astoria.

Diana Kirk, owner of Workers Tavern, and Nancy Montgomery, owner of Columbia River Coffee Roasters, worried that Hollander’s development could block their view down Bay Street to the river.

Dirk Rohne, the president of the Port Commission, and other Port commissioners argued that the view corridors would present another restriction on the agency.

See Uniontown, Page A6

Astoria reaches deal on dock

Lease with river cruise line

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Astorian

Astoria will lease the eastern portion of the 17th Street Dock to American Cruise Lines, a partnership that will outsource scheduling and improvements to the private company.

The City Council on Monday night approved of staff negotiating a lease after an impromptu live negotiation with the company and its competitor, American Queen Steamboat Co.

American Cruise Lines represents about two-thirds of the river cruise boats docking behind the Columbia River Maritime Museum. The city and American Cruise Lines had negotiated a lease that would allow the company priority docking rights, while making reasonable accommodations and setting rates for competitors.

The agreement would bring the city \$80,000 a year for the first three years. Afterward, the city would receive \$80,000 a year plus \$400 for each vessel docking beyond 110 a year, each figure adjusted annually by 2% or the last year’s consumer price index. The figures were based on the city’s average business at the dock over the past four years. The city would have to pay back American Cruise Lines for any repairs made, but the company would cover the cost of any improvements.

See Dock, Page A6



Fort George Brewery co-owner Chris Nemlowill stands in the doorway of Astoria Warehousing, which opens to expansive views of the Columbia River and the Astoria Bridge.

Photos by Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

Fort George to revive canning at Astoria Warehousing

Purchase price was \$8M

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Astorian

The cavernous, 124,000 square feet spread among several buildings at Astoria Warehousing sits broom-clean and ready for the property’s next life.

After purchasing the 5-acre campus for \$8 million last week, Fort George Brewery co-owners Chris Nemlowill and Jack Harris are looking forward to an expansion they hope will add lots of beer and 35 manufacturing jobs over the next five years.

The adaptive reuse of Astoria Warehousing harkens back to the beginnings of Fort George, which started in a former auto dealership in 2006 with eight employees. The brewery rapidly expanded and in 2009 purchased the entire city block, including the Fort George and Lovell buildings. It has since become one of the biggest-producing Oregon breweries, employing 160 people.

“We’ve got a lot of amazing employees here, and we feel like they’re at a ceiling,” Harris said. “We have so many motivated, smart people here that we want to give them more to do.”

The biggest of the four buildings at Astoria Warehousing spans 67,000 square feet. Fort George plans to relocate most of its back-of-house operations there, including distribution, canning and a new 11,000-square-foot cold storage.

The brewery currently uses a cramped warehouse in Warrenton. Harris described managing the warehouse



Landon Churchill folds boxes together to hold fresh beer cans in the production room of the Lovell Building at Fort George Brewery. The production and distribution centers will move to the new property.

like a game of Tetris, moving around different beers and sending them back to the Astoria pub to be put on tap and throughout the Pacific Northwest.

When Fort George takes beer to distributors in Portland and Seattle, it brings back other people’s products for distribution throughout the lower Columbia region. Improving its distribution means helping numerous other companies, Nemlowill said.

Expansion

Fort George started with an 8 1/2 barrel brewery nicknamed Sweet Virginia that Nemlowill and Harris drove across the country from Hilltop Brewing in Virginia Beach, Virginia. It eventually added a 30-barrel production brewery purchased from Saint Arnold

Brewing in Houston, nicknamed Little Miss Texas, in the Lovell Building.

For the expansion, Fort George purchased a 60-barrel brewery from Portland’s BridgePort Brewing Co., which closed earlier this year. It will also move many of its fermentation tanks from the Lovell Building to the warehouse. The new system will allow Fort George, currently making about 18,000 barrels of beer a year, to crack 60,000 barrels without making its employees brew on weekends or graveyard shifts, said Michal Frankowicz, the head brewer.

“As far as what the new system will produce, it will be focused mostly on our year-round beers and seasonals that go into cans and kegs,” he said.

See Fort George, Page A6

Bonamici would likely vote to impeach Trump

Congresswoman spoke at town hall

By NICOLE BALES
The Astorian

GEARHART — U.S. Rep. Suzanne Bonamici said she would likely vote to impeach President Donald Trump based on the evidence that has emerged so far about his appeals to Ukraine to investigate a political rival.

The U.S. House of Representatives is conducting an impeachment inquiry against the president, who has said Ukraine and China should look into corruption allegations against former Vice President Joe Biden and his son, Hunter.

“In the past, I’ve expressed concerns about policy differ-

MORE INSIDE
President Trump defies impeachment inquiry
Page A5

ences with this administration,” Bonamici said at a town hall Monday night at Gearhart Elementary School. “But when we learned the president was compromising our national security and raising national security issues, that’s when I said my constituents and Americans deserve to get the facts.”

Asked afterward by The Astorian whether she would vote to impeach the president, the Oregon Democrat said: “I likely would because what I’ve



Nicole Bales/The Astorian

U.S. Rep. Suzanne Bonamici held a town hall at Gearhart Elementary School.

