

IN BRIEF

Pacific Northwest hop stocks rise

Hop stocks on March 1 were up 9% from a year ago, the federal government reported.

Increased acreage is a factor, industry sources said. And while overall beer consumption is down slightly, sales of hop-demanding craft beer keep growing.

Washington state, Idaho and Oregon lead in U.S. hop production. Washington produced 73% of the U.S. crop in 2019, Idaho 15% and Oregon 12%, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service said. The three states' combined output last year rose 5% in pounds and 3% in acres. Yields increased.

The USDA said the March 1 hop inventory held by growers, dealers and brewers totaled 180 million pounds — 145 million held at dealer and grower locations and 35 million held by brewers — up from 165 million a year earlier.

John Taberna, owner and soil scientist at Western Laboratories in Parma, Idaho, said larger stocks reflect additional acres planted in the past three years — it takes about two years for the plants to reach full production — and recently slower movement of inventories due to lower beer consumption.

Hop exports also have been lower as European yields have been holding steady.

Jaki Brophy, of the Washington Hop Commission and Hop Growers of America, said that as acreage grows — it has nearly doubled since 2012 — so do stocks.

Also impacting storage volume at a given moment: More breweries receive deliveries through the year rather than getting a shipment of all of their hops at once.

"More storage is being utilized with the merchants, as brewery preference has moved to on-demand deliveries," Brophy said. "Additionally, as there are more varieties that are being released and utilized by breweries, that increases storage due to having more 'items.'" — *Capital Press*

PG&E pleading guilty to involuntary manslaughter in wildfire

SAN FRANCISCO — Pacific Gas & Electric said Monday it will plead guilty to 84 counts of involuntary manslaughter in connection with the 2018 fire in Northern California that killed 84 people and decimated three towns.

The utility said in a statement it will also admit to a single count of unlawfully starting a fire.

Under a plea agreement with the Butte County District Attorney's office, PG&E will pay the maximum fine of about \$4 million.

The company has also agreed to fund efforts to restore access to water for the next five years for residents impacted by the loss of a canal destroyed by the fire.

— *Associated Press*

DEATHS

March 23, 2020

JAMES, Patrick, 68, of Astoria, died in Seaside. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

March 22, 2020

LENZ, Grace E., 78, of Knappa, died in Knappa. Ocean View Funeral &

Cremation Service of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

Feb. 12, 2020

PROCTER, Everett Jr., 88, of Florence, formerly of Astoria, died in Eugene. Musgrove Family Mortuary in Eugene is in charge of the arrangements.

ON THE RECORD

Assault

• Joshua Petra, 22, of Vancouver, Washington, was arrested Saturday in Seaside for assault in the fourth degree.

Hit-and-run

• James Cartwright, 36, of Astoria, was arrested Saturday on E. Harbor Drive in Warrenton for hit-and-run with property damage, reckless driving and driving while suspended.

DUII

• Jason Lynn Johnston, 24, of Seaside, was

arrested Sunday in the Del Rey Beach parking lot for driving under the influence of intoxicants.

• Elias Mitchell Hunsinger, 31, of Astoria, was arrested Saturday in Astoria for DUII, interfering with a police officer, resisting arrest, aggravated harassment and harassment. Police say while Hunsinger resisted arrest, three deputies sustained minor injuries. His blood alcohol content was 0.13%.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

TUESDAY

Sunset Empire Transportation District Board of Directors, 4 p.m., emergency meeting (virtual attendance only), Astoria Transit Center, 900 Marine Drive.

Warrenton City Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall, 225 S. Main Ave.

Astoria Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m., City Hall, 1095 Duane St.

WEDNESDAY

Clatsop County Board of Commissioners, 6 p.m., Judge Guy Boyington Building, 857 Commercial St., Astoria.

the Astorian

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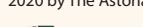
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Photos by Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

Gov. Kate Brown issued an executive order on Monday closing a new round of businesses because of the coronavirus.

Virus: People violating order could be cited for a misdemeanor

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"Today, I am issuing a new executive order further requiring social distancing measures because we know this is the most effective way to flatten the curve and slow the spread of this virus. I hope everyone in Oregon abides by its core message: stay home unless absolutely necessary."

"Staying home both keeps you safe from infection, and ensures you do not unknowingly infect others."

The executive order prohibits nonessential social or recreational gatherings of any size unless 6-feet of social distancing is possible.

The order issues broad restrictions on retailers and closes places like arcades, barber shops, hair salons, gyms and fitness studios, skating rinks, theaters and yoga studios. Outdoor recreational facilities, such as skate parks or basketball courts, are also closed.

People violating the order could be cited for a misdemeanor.

The Astoria Police Department and the Clatsop County Sheriff's Office said they are taking an educational approach to enforcing the governor's order. They plan to first seek voluntary compliance and give warnings.

"This is changing hour by hour," Astoria Police Chief Geoff Spalding said. "This is our direction right now. This could change two hours from now if people aren't getting the message. Obviously, right now our public health and public safety are our No. 1 priority and we'll do anything we can, resources permitting, to enforce the governor's order."

"Obviously, with the confirmed case we now have in our county, which was anticipated, and the governor's order, we're going to be looking at our operations and our next-level response protocol that we're working on," he said. "So, again, things are just so fluid, they're just changing so rapidly, and we're just trying to stay on top of it."

Many retailers on the North Coast had already closed because of concerns about the virus.

Staci Miethe, manager of the Seaside Outlet Mall, said only two stores affected by the governor's order were still open as of Monday.

"Nike was the busiest store, and they closed last week, and then everybody followed suit," Miethe said. "It was a domino effect after that."

Tokyo Teriyaki is still doing to-go orders from the outlet mall. Columbia Memorial Hospital's Seaside Urgent Care clinic is also still operating. Health store GNC and salon Perfect Look are being told to close, she said.



Businesses have been disrupted by the virus.



Hair salons were among the businesses ordered closed because of the coronavirus.

The outlet mall had kept bathrooms open over the weekend. They were destroyed by visitors, filled with sand and have since been closed, Miethe said.

The order excluded businesses providing food, groceries, health care, medical, pharmacy or pet store services, provided they use social distancing policies.

The Pet Works, a pet store in downtown Astoria, has moved to curbside service.

Nicholas Thompson, the manager of the store, said the government's restrictions over the past few weeks have understandably hit foot traffic. But he said the store has been doing brisk business.

"The majority of our customers are after very specific items they'll need over the coming weeks," he said.

Kallie Linder, owner of Salon Boheme in Astoria, announced the closure of her shop Saturday in advance of the governor's order.

"We have nine people that work in our salon," she said. "I think it was a collective decision on all of our part. There were a couple of girls who had already stopped working."

"The unfortunate thing

for hairdressers, though," Linder said, is "we're all self-employed."

The independent contractors at Salon Boheme are among the estimated 57 million people self-employed in the U.S. who cannot collect unemployment insurance. Linder has been looking into support through the U.S. Small Business Administration, Clatsop Economic Development Resources and banks.

Local hoteliers Masudur Khan and Taslema Sultana, who between them own around six properties in Cannon Beach and Seaside, have been shutting down operations and laying off more than 100 people since the bans on visitors were announced.

Khan said it was tough laying off most of his workforce, but that he understands the necessity.

"We need to protect ourselves and protect our employees," Khan said.

Khan has offered up the 45-room Coast River Inn in Seaside if the county needs spaces to care for people with coronavirus. The county has a similar agreement with the Rivershore Motel in Astoria, McNickle said.

BUSINESS CLOSURES

Gov. Kate Brown ordered the following businesses to close because of the coronavirus. Other businesses must operate remotely or within social distancing guidelines.

- Amusement parks
- Aquariums
- Arcades
- Art galleries, except for being open by appointment
- Barber shops and hair salons
- Bowling alleys
- Cosmetic stores
- Dance studios
- Esthetician practices
- Fraternal organization facilities
- Furniture stores
- Gyms and fitness studios, including climbing gyms
- Hookah bars
- Indoor and outdoor malls except for businesses allowed to remain open, including food (takeout or delivery), grocery, health care, medical, pharmacy or pet store services
- Indoor party places, including jumping gyms and laser tag
- Jewelry shops and boutiques unless they provide goods exclusively through pick-up or delivery
- Medical spas, facial spas, day spas and non-medical massage therapy services
- Museums
- Nail and tanning salons
- Non tribal card rooms
- Skating rinks
- Senior activity centers
- Ski resorts
- Social and private clubs
- Tattoo/piercing parlors
- Tennis clubs
- Theaters
- Yoga studios
- Youth clubs