



Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

Fort George Brewery secured between \$1 million and \$2 million from the federal Paycheck Protection Program.

Loans: ‘It was just very helpful’

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least \$150,000 were identified and ran the gamut of traditional North Coast industries, from beer and hospitality to logging and restaurants.

South County based businesses received more than \$17.8 million in relief loans, including between \$1 million and \$2 million each for restaurant chain Pig ‘N Pancake and hospitality company Martin North.

Warrenton and Astoria businesses received more than \$27.6 million, including between \$1 million and \$2 million each for Warrenton Fiber, Clatsop Behavioral Healthcare, Fort George Brewery, regional nonprofit lender Craft3, the franchisees behind local McDonald’s restaurants and Englund Marine & Industrial Supply.

EO Media Group, which publishes The Astorian and other newspapers in Oregon and Washington state, also received a loan through the program, but the money was not reflected in the local count.

Jeremy Davis, the chief financial officer for Englund Marine, said the company took the biggest hit at locations in California and distribution warehouses in Arizona but avoided laying anyone off. The company instead cut hours across the board, but was able to bring everyone back to full time with the loan, he said.

“It was basically business as usual for the employees, which is what our goal was,” Davis said. “We felt like this was going to be a short-term program, and we tried to kind of calm our employees’ fears and make things as stable for them as we could during this period, and the PPP money certainly helped us do that.”

Fort George closed the Duane Street campus after the start of the pandemic except for a to-go window and laid off most of its 130 workers. The brewery has since opened the upstairs half of the main pub to limited, reservation-only seating.

Co-owner Chris Nemlowill has said the company likely won’t further reopen operations until there is a reliable treatment for the virus.

“We took a massive loss going into the spring and summer, with no revenue from the pubs for quite some time,” Nemlowill said. “It was just very helpful to use our PPP funds to get the pub up and running again.”

Companies secured the loans through local banks, which were initially overwhelmed and ran out of loan funds within days.

U.S. Bank secured between \$1 million and \$2 million for Englund Marine, down to less than \$2,000 for smaller companies. Katie Watson, the Astoria branch manager, said U.S. Bank secured at least 43 loans of less than \$150,000 for companies.

“I would say it’s wound down,” she said of demand. “I think that there was a lot of ... urgency to get in for an initial application, and that’s where we saw kind of a rush. And then later, people who maybe didn’t know about it or know about deadlines.”

Applications for the Paycheck Protection Program reopened in July after Congress passed and Trump signed an extension. The program had an estimated \$130 billion left when applications closed at the end of last month and demand slowed to a trickle. Applications for the loans are open through Aug. 8.

Questions have arisen about the efficacy of the Paycheck Protection Program, which did not require banks to collect job retention statistics from companies. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin claimed the program helped save more than 51 million jobs. But the job retention data on the loans is often just a company’s total employment, rather than positions directly saved by the loans.

Companies have 24 weeks to use at least 60% of the loan proceeds on qualified payroll. But if they don’t, the loans only charge a 1% interest rate.

Congress is still discussing how to direct the remaining money in the Paycheck Protection Program to the most hard-hit businesses struggling through the pandemic.

Fontana: Once herded nearly 60 elk out of the road while on patrol

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On an average day, Fontana said he spent about 95% of his time on patrol, responding to nuisance complaints or shoplifting.

“In a small town like this, for the most part, you do patrol work. We do a dog control, you do traffic control, you do accident investigations,” he said.

One time while on patrol, he herded nearly 60 elk out of the road north of Camp Rilea.

“They were trying to jump over the wall, and they kept

your own safety because you never know when you stop a car or it’s the routine traffic stop. How many times routine traffic stops end up being very violent? They’re almost always routine.”

He said it becomes important to find healthy ways to relax outside of work, which for him was hunting and fishing with his wife.

Fontana also enjoyed instructing for the D.A.R.E. program at schools to warn about the dangers of drugs. He said most of the students were 10 or 11 years old and eager to learn.

for a long period of time like I have.”

Police Chief Mathew Workman said he will miss Fontana, describing him in a text message as “the most reliable officer I have ever supervised or even worked with. He always had a positive attitude and was very well-respected by everyone on my department and most everyone he met. He was the king of the ‘dad/bad jokes’ and always knew how to lift someone’s spirits.

“I wish him and his wife the best in their new adventures.”

‘YOU’RE NOT GOING TO BE RICH BEING A POLICE OFFICER. YOU DO IT BECAUSE YOU LIKE TO DO IT. IT’S DEDICATION. IT’S A CAREER.’

Alfonzo ‘Al’ Fontana | recently retired police officer

“Kids would say different things to me about law enforcement. And one little girl, I will never forget it — she was just a sweet little girl — she goes up to me, ‘Hi officer Fontana, I really like you, but I can’t talk about you around my dad. My dad doesn’t like you at all,’” he recalled with a smile. “I’ll never forget that. She was so honest about it.”

Joshua Hollaway, a fellow Warrenton officer, was one of his students in the D.A.R.E. program.

“You’re not going to be rich being a police officer,” Fontana said. “You do it because you like to do it. It’s dedication. It’s a career. It’s part of your life. And also, if you’re married, part of your wife’s life or your husband’s life.

“It’s still part of me. And I don’t think you ever lose that as long as you live, if you’ve been a police officer

you get done with the day you feel like you really did something. You feel you accomplished something. And some days you left, and (said), ‘You know, maybe I could have did more.’”

Many memories stick in his mind over the course of his career, some positive, some he can’t help but remember.

He recalled a woman who told him her son was working toward becoming a reserve police officer. Fontana didn’t remember him, but the woman told him her son remembers the respect and kindness Fontana showed him during a traffic stop years ago. The young man said he wanted to show respect to people the way Fontana showed respect to him, the woman told Fontana.

“And that was one of my last days at work,” Fontana said. “That sticks in my mind.”

Masks: New cases driven by social gatherings

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be worn at indoor public places that started in July.

In keeping with her long-standing policy, the governor said she would rely on public cooperation rather than any enforcement of the additional rules.

“I am not going to set up the party police,” Brown said.

State health officials have said the growth of virus cases in Oregon in recent weeks has been driven by clusters of social gatherings, often involving people who are under 40 years of age. The new restrictions do not apply to churches

or businesses.

Dr. Dean Sidelinger, the state’s top epidemiologist, said at Monday’s press briefing that the state was on pace to triple the number of new daily COVID-19 cases within the next six weeks. That would mean more than 1,000 cases per day by the Labor Day weekend at the beginning of September. Brown’s emergency order runs out Sept. 4.

The Oregon Health Authority reported 12,438 cases and 237 deaths from the virus statewide as of Monday morning.

The health authority tracked 2,852 test results in Clatsop County, including 55

confirmed and presumptive cases.

Brown said she believed most Oregonians were following the face covering, social distancing and enhanced hygiene efforts that health officials advocate. She called those who willingly ignore the efforts “outliers.”

“We are at risk of COVID-19 getting out of control in Oregon,” the governor said. “Each of us needs to take immediate action to slow the spread of this disease.”

The Oregon Capital Bureau is a collaboration between EO Media Group and Pamplin Media Group.

Peterson: ‘I’ve learned to be happy with me’

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For all the accolades the Panther Band earned during his run — Peterson is in the Snohomish High School Hall of Fame — he feels that part of his life was more about his students.

“I got a lot of nice compliments and all that stuff with the bands and choirs I had. You know, it was always the kids, not me,” he said. “With painting it was me, and it’s really been difficult for me to accept compliments.”

Now, Peterson finds the most important thing in life is to look forward and be himself. His art career has given him a new level of confidence.

Through the Tempo Gallery, he has met local artists he has a great appreciation for, as well as other people he has encountered in Astoria.

“Being in my 80s is the



first time in my life that I’ve been comfortable in my own skin. I always thought I had to be something better, or I was

inferior to,” he said.

“I’ve learned to be happy with me. I wish I’d learned that a long time ago.”

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