

IN BRIEF

Buoy 10 delayed until mid-August

A popular Chinook salmon fishery is opening later than normal on the Columbia River over concerns about the run size.

The Buoy 10 recreational fishery near the mouth of the river typically starts Aug. 1, but will not open until Aug. 14. The fishery has enjoyed high or record-breaking runs of salmon but also faces boom-and-bust cycles.

State fishery managers noted that when anglers do hit the water this year, “they’ll be in the midst of what is traditionally the peak of the Chinook run.”

With a strong run of upper Columbia River summer Chinook and sockeye, Oregon and Washington state fisheries managers announced this week that they would provide additional opportunities to fish for salmon and steelhead. Recreational fishing began Thursday in the main stem Columbia River from the Tongue Point-Rocky Point line upstream to Highway 395 at Pasco, Washington, and will run through the end of the month.

Man dies after boat capsizes near Pacific City

A man died Wednesday after his boat capsized in the surf near the entrance to Nestucca Bay.

A U.S. Coast Guard helicopter crew was dispatched at 10:53 a.m. after a man called 911 to report the small recreational boat he and his uncle were crabbing in overturned in the surf.

The nephew was able to swim to a nearby sandbar, but he reported his uncle was still in the water. Both men were wearing life jackets when the boat capsized.

The aircrew located and hoisted the man from the water and flew him to Pacific City State Airport, where emergency crews were waiting for him. The aircrew flew back and hoisted the nephew from the sandbar.

A medical examiner later confirmed that the man’s uncle died.

Local officials recovered the boat and secured it to a pier for the man’s family.

County rolls out ethics hotline to report improper conduct

Clatsop County has debuted an ethics hotline to give the public, contractors, public officials and county employees a tool to report suspected violations of policies or standards.

The goal, the county says, is to promote and maintain public trust.

The hotline is part of a new policy adopted by the county to promote ethical conduct and accountability among its workforce. The county is also developing training and education materials for the Board of Commissioners, employees and advisory committee members focusing on state ethics rules, harassment and other forms of misconduct.

— The Astorian

DEATHS

July 14, 2020

COMER, David “Joe,” 77, of Seaside, died in Seaside. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

HURLIMAN, Diane L., 70, of Warrenton, died in Warrenton. Ocean View Funeral & Cremation Service of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

July 13, 2020

WASHINGTON, Allyn, 89, of Warrenton, died in Warrenton. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

July 11, 2020

MANKE, Aaron James Charles, 52, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Ocean View Funeral & Cremation Service of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

ON THE RECORD

Theft

• Jimmy Leroy Nickell, 44, was arrested Thursday at Home Depot in Warrenton for theft in the second degree and criminal mischief in the third degree.

• Heidi Leann Anfinson, 30, of Warrenton, was arrested Thursday at Walmart in Warrenton for

theft in the second degree and criminal trespass in the first degree.

DUI

• Gary Alan Heilmann, 29, of Astoria, was arrested Wednesday on 18th Street and Marine Drive in Astoria for driving under the influence of intoxicants and reckless driving.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

MONDAY

Knappa School District Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m., (electronic meeting).

Jewell School Board Meeting, 6 p.m., (electronic meeting).

Astoria City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 1095 Duane St.

TUESDAY

Port of Astoria Commission, 4 p.m., workshop, (electronic meeting).

Astoria Historic Landmarks Commission, 5:15 p.m., City Hall, 1095 Duane St.

Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District Board of Directors, 5:15 p.m., 1225 Avenue A., Seaside.

Warrenton-Hammond School District Board, 6 p.m., special session, (electronic meeting).

Shoreline Sanitary District Board, 7 p.m., Gearhart Hertig Station, 33496 West Lake Lane, Warrenton.

the Astorian

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Amazing albacore



Luke Whittaker/Chinook Observer

Commercial fisherman Christian Johnson of the F/V Two Fishers offloaded the first tuna catch of the season at Ilwaco Landing on Tuesday. The fishermen delivered more than 7,000 pounds of tuna in their first offload of the season.

New smokehouse opens in Seaside

By KATHERINE LACAZE
For The Astorian

SEASIDE — For quite some time, the building on the corner of Avenue A and S. Columbia Street near the post office has been an eyesore. Now the building has a fresh, new look as the home of the artisanal Salmon River Smokehouse, which opened July 1.

“Fixing up this building is going to open this corner,” proprietor Kris Caseber said. “This was a bland, boring, nothing corner, and it really needed something to bring this street into the next.”

The establishment’s main draw is its diverse offering of fresh smoked salmon fillets, salmon jerky and smoked salmon spread, which all are prepared — from portioning and seasoning to smoking and packaging — in small batches on-site.

The store gives shoppers a more comprehensive indoor farmers-market-style atmosphere. The smokehouse also has handcrafted treats and products from local purveyors, including cheese, crackers, chocolates, chips, nuts, hummus, healthy beverages and even soaps and lotions.

The shop also sells brewed coffee, pastries from Dough Dough Bakery and picnic baskets.

“I’ll have things other people don’t have,” Caseber said, adding she won’t be in direct competition with the surrounding downtown businesses. “We’re excited to bring something kind of new and healthy to the Seaside area.”

A new vision

Caseber, who was born



Kris Caseber is the proprietor of the Salmon River Smokehouse.

in Minnesota before moving to Vancouver, Washington, has spent the past 10 years in Baja, Mexico, while doing the farmers market circuit in the Pacific Northwest during summers. She started an online store to sell her salmon products and was initially looking for just a factory space for processing in Seaside.

When she met the owner of the building, which was most recently used as a Subway restaurant, everything fell in place to have a retail aspect to her establishment as well.

“We never planned that, but then as I saw where this building was sitting, I recognized the potential it would have,” she said.

She signed the lease in February and was planning to open soon after when the coronavirus pandemic hit.

“It’s been a long process with no income,” she said, adding, “I’m really excited to open.”

To further contribute to beautifying her neighborhood, Caseber hired Astoria artist Andie Sterling to paint the company’s name and logo on the outside of the building. She hopes it might spur similar small-scale projects on nearby buildings,

such as the back of the Funland Arcade or the parking garage across the street.

“Just in my neighborhood there are some options for public art,” she said.

Sterling, who is well-known in the area for her murals, said this project differed from others she’s worked on where she assumes the role of creative director.

“I took the font and the logo they’re using to brand their business and their products, and I’m just facilitating the process of getting those onto the wall,” she said.

Although the project wasn’t an opportunity for creative freedom, Sterling appreciates being able to generate public artwork.

“Seeing a space that needs a fresh new energy to it and being able to make that happen by just putting some colors on the wall is a really rewarding process,” she said. “Everyone appreciates love being put into their community.”

In general, she said, one of the best parts of being a mural artist is that the finished products are widely accessible to everyone, giving her the chance to connect to passersby while working on the artwork and long after.

“That people can just experience art in their everyday life, that to me feels like I’m doing something successful as an artist,” Sterling said.

A native connection

The salmon featured in the establishment’s logo borrows from a Native American image, which is a nod to Caseber’s personal and professional connection to Indigenous people and the native culture. The fish she uses for her products is primarily sourced from She Nah Nam Seafood and the Nisqually Indian Tribe’s hatchery near Tumwater, Washington. They manage an ethical and sustainable hatchery that promotes native salmon habitat restoration to increase the volume of the wild salmon population through measures like monitoring and limiting the catch.

“I wouldn’t do the fish business if I didn’t have a sustainable connection,” Caseber said.

In the Pacific Northwest, she said, fisheries have to be “really adamant” about restoration. The smokehouse promotes renewable fishing practices and environmental responsibility and supports fish hatcheries, commercial limit regulations and salmon restoration programs.

When Sterling agreed to the project, she confirmed with Caseber that the illustration was being used properly and with permission. As an artist, she said, she didn’t want to re-create an image that is intimately meaningful to a group without “all the proper respects in line.”

Local artist receives grant to complete Finnish project

By MORGAN GRINDY
The Astorian

Local artist Kate Speranza received a \$1,500 grant from the Oregon Arts Commission that will go toward supporting her recent completion of a residency program in Finland.

The arts commission and The Ford Family Foundation collectively award 40 artists for career developmental projects and enable them to take timely opportunities to enhance their artistic careers. Career opportunity grants most often support residency programs, exhibitions and performances.

In February, Speranza spent 30 days at Arteles Creative Center alongside 13 other artists from several dif-

ferent countries, focused on painting.

Speranza is a mixed media artist and focuses on painting, jewelry making and sculpture. Her focus on painting was a logistical choice based on the tools and materials she had available to her in Finland and through travel.

Prior to applying for the grant, Speranza created a new body of work to use for submissions to several small art grants alongside the one from the arts commission.

She was accepted to her residency program in July 2019 and decided to accept the invitation prior to knowing where her funds would come from.

“It was kind of on a whim

that I applied for it,” Speranza said. “I just had to say ‘yes’ and trust that I was going to come up with the money.”

The residency program had an emphasis on silence and meditation, requiring all artists to meditate twice a day and remain completely silent Saturdays and Sundays.

Speranza said the silence would “allow you to have more introspective time, and really have enough space to take in the whole experience.”

During her time in Finland, she created mostly preliminary work that she would be able to bring back with her to Astoria and further

develop.

Much of her work incorporates what she learned about Finnish culture and the influence that had on her.

She’s working on a series that explores Astoria’s historic ties to Finland and the Finnish influence in Astoria, which she hopes to be able to share in the upcoming year.

“What a wonderful opportunity for me to connect with the local community here, through my artwork that came out of this residency,” she said.

Three of Speranza’s small paintings from her residency are on display at Astoria Visual Arts gallery.



Kate Speranza

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