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Photos by Emily Lindblom/The Astorian

Unfurl employees Amanda Mallow, left, and Jen Ensign at the store in late January.

Manzanita businesses aim to reduce plastic pollution

By EMILY LINDBLOM
The Astorian

MANZANITA — This time each year, winter storms leave some Oregon Coast beaches strewn with heavy amounts of debris, including plastics and microplastic pollution.

Local businesses in Manzanita are doing their part to reduce the amount of plastic they use, so as not to add to the buildup of microplastics that regularly wash ashore.

Natasha Stevens, the owner of Wild Grocery & Cafe, said using sustainable materials is important to her because of environmental concerns, including the need to keep plastic out of the ocean.

“Living right next to the ocean and spending time there, it sucks to see so much trash on the beaches,” Stevens said. “If we can do little bits to help, that’s what we’re trying to do.”

Wild offers a bulk section where customers can fill reusable glass jars with everything from herbs, oils and rice to baking ingredients and locally-sourced lotions and soaps.

“I love when people come in with the same jar they’ve been using for 20 years for their tea,” Stevens said, adding she also plans to have glass jars available for the bulk section.

Wild’s coffee and juice bar offers hay straws along with compostable plastic cups, although Stevens said she’d like to get metal cups for people to purchase with a deposit and reuse in the future. Wild also has paper containers in the deli section, tote bags available for purchase in the produce section and meat from local farms packaged without Styrofoam.



Debris mixed with pieces of plastic scattered the beach at Fort Stevens State Park after a storm in January. This beach is one of the areas in Clatsop County known as a ‘plastic sink’ for the heavy amount of microplastics visible there each winter.

“If I have a choice between something that comes in plastic or glass I’ll always choose glass,” Stevens said.

Judson Moore and Suzy Freeman also consider the need to reduce plastic waste while stocking items for their clothing store, Unfurl.

“We’ve become aware over the years the industry we’re involved in accounts for a lot of waste,” Moore said. “We try to use companies that are aware of that as well and are using more sustainable practices.”

He said fast fashion trends and the desire for the stretchy, moisture-wicking qualities of synthetic clothing has led to a huge amount of plastic pollution from microfibers. When washed, the synthetic clothing leaves filaments of polymer fibers in the water, which end up in the ocean.

“There’s the visible plastic that we all see on the beach, the bottle caps and the used lighters and different bits and pieces of plastic,” Moore said. “But one of the really big issues with plastic pollution is microfibers.”

Unfurl carries the finely-meshed Guppyfriend Washing Bag. When consumers put their polyester sweaters and yoga pants into this bag in the washing machine, the bag is meant to keep microfibers from shedding into the water.

“It traps the particles in the bag and you have to clean them out of the bag and throw them away, but at least it keeps it out of the water,” Moore said.

See Plastic, Page A6

CANNON BEACH

Fire call volume increases despite pandemic

By NICOLE BALES
The Astorian

CANNON BEACH — Despite the coronavirus pandemic, 2020 was the Cannon Beach Rural Fire Protection District’s busiest year on record.

Calls for fire service fell countywide while people avoided traveling during the early months of the pandemic. The calls picked back up over the summer, and fire chiefs said they have not slowed down since.

Although fire departments in Warrenton and

Astoria caught up to their regular yearly call volumes, they still fell short from the previous year. The Seaside Fire Department only saw six fewer calls in 2020 compared to 2019. Cannon Beach ended up 40 calls ahead of 2019.

“I think what’s going on with Cannon Beach is nobody’s traveling, nobody’s flying, so where do they go? They come to the beach,” Fire Chief Marc Reckmann said. “And we saw that this summer and fall.”

See Fire calls, Page A6

WARRENTON



Edward Stratton/The Astorian

Police calls to Walmart and other big-box stores can strain resources in Warrenton.

Big-box stores strain resources of police, court

By NICOLE BALES
The Astorian

WARRENTON — Big-box stores in Warrenton, the North Coast’s retail hub, have accounted for an increasing share of police calls for service in the city over the years.

Nearly a third of all arrests and citations in 2020 occurred at what police refer to as the “big three”: Walmart, Fred Meyer and Costco.

Of those, most

occurred at Walmart, which opened in the summer of 2018. Most of the crimes involved theft, and usually people are cited and released into the city’s Municipal Court.

Police Chief Mathew Workman said calls for service across the board dropped in 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic. Despite the drop, calls to the “big three” increased, but only slightly.

See Police, Page A6

MORE INSIDE

County reports new virus cases • A6

Seaside restaurateurs expand into Astoria

Taking over the Baked Alaska space

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Astorian

Pattaraporn “Patta” Lorwatcharasophon, the Seaside restaurateur behind Thai Me Up and The SEA Crab House, promised a tribute of 9,999 eggs — nine is a lucky number in Thai culture — if she could get a lease to expand into Astoria.

Lorwatcharasophon, her husband, Dacha “Kim”

Pathumratanathan, and their children pulled up to the former Baked Alaska space on Pier 12 on Wednesday with a truck full of eggs to give away and an expansive riverfront restaurant they plan to open by Feb. 23.

The SEA Crab House and Raw Bar will take on the entire first floor of Pier 12, including a Cajun-style seafood restaurant like the location in Seaside, a beach-themed side bar and a raw seafood restaurant in the former pizzeria.

“The raw bar would be oysters, seafood,” Lorwatcharasophon said. “... It might be a little bit of Japanese, but not sushi.”



Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

Pattaraporn ‘Patta’ Lorwatcharasophon, Dacha ‘Kim’ Pathumratanathan and their four children sit outside their new restaurant on Pier 12 in Astoria with boxes full of eggs.

See Restaurateurs, Page A6

New food delivery service launches

Latest entry in a competitive field

northcoastgrub

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Astorian

North Coast Grub, a new food delivery service that charges restaurants nothing to participate, is launching Wednesday.

Jakki Millo, who runs the food delivery service The Rock Eats in Castle Rock, Washington, said she was encouraged by local restaurants to expand to the coast.

The expansion comes

amid a rush of other food delivery companies eyeing the North Coast. Slurpalicious, started by Portland couple and local business owners Candy Yiu and Akshay Dua, recently started delivering. Global delivery giant DoorDash has announced it will launch this year.

Slurpalicious and DoorDash charge restaurants varying commissions on orders, along with fees to the

See Delivery, Page A6

