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Astorian

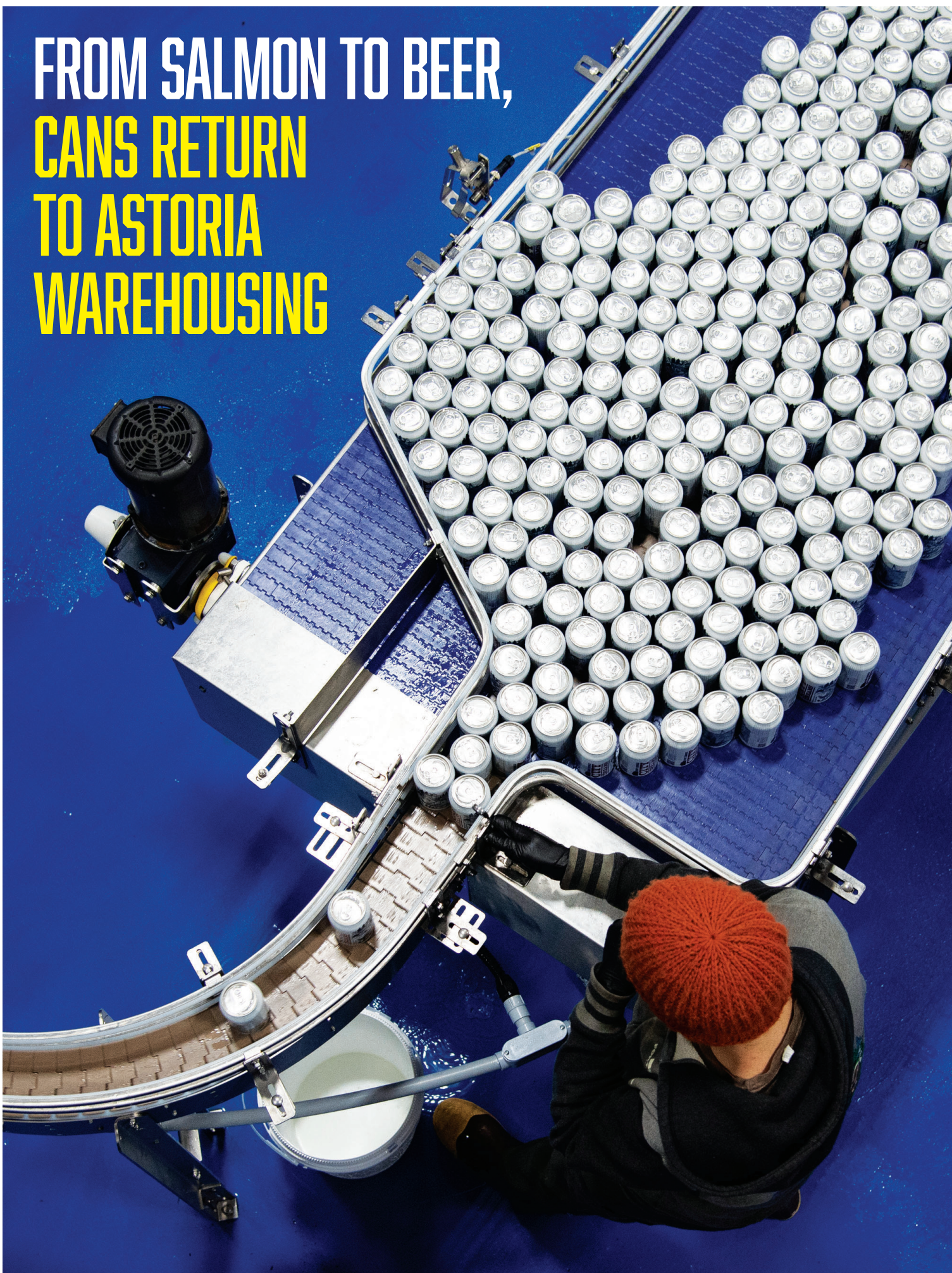
148TH YEAR, NO. 112

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\$1.50

CORONAVIRUS

FROM SALMON TO BEER, CANS RETURN TO ASTORIA WAREHOUSING



Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

Fresh cans of Fort George's City of Dreams pale ale travel down the line to be packaged.

Fort George expands on the waterfront

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Astorian

Workers at Astoria Warehousing once labeled millions of cans of salmon shipped to seafood companies in Seattle and distributed around the world.

When the plant closed in 2018, locals feared the expansive campus overlooking the Astoria Bridge and Columbia River would continue the region's transition from manufacturing toward a more service-sector economy in the form of another hotel.

Instead, the main warehouse along Marine Drive has filled with large steel brewing and conditioning tanks, a new high-speed canning line, cold storage and several million cans as

Fort George Brewery's new commercial production hub.

Chris Nemlowill, who started Fort George with Jack Harris 14 years ago, called the transformation of Astoria Warehousing a minor miracle, given the coronavirus pandemic and all the things that came together to make the new brewery a reality.

"This property has really always been our dream property for distribution and production," Nemlowill said. "It's got a loading dock, beautiful views of the waterfront. And we get to stay in Astoria."

Fort George's expansion comes at a watershed moment for Astoria's burgeoning alcohol sector.

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Cannon Beach eyes new tax for fire district

Food and beverage tax aimed at tourists

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Astorian

CANNON BEACH — For years, the Cannon Beach Rural Fire Protection District has looked at ways to get tourists to pay their share for emergency services.

Now city leaders say they may go to voters in November with a tax on food and beverages as a way to target spending by tourists and direct that money back to the fire district. Increasingly, emergency calls from visitors make up the bulk of the fire district's call load while residents continue to foot the bill.

Fire Chief Marc Reckmann floated the idea of a 2% food and beverage tax for the next three years, with most of the revenue going to pay for fire district personnel. The district has only three paid employees. Another position, a staff member tasked with volunteer recruitment and retention who also serves as a firefighter herself, is funded through a grant set to run out in December 2022.

The fire district relies on volunteer firefighters who, because of work or other issues, may not always be available when

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Fishhawk Lake fights fish kill fine

Attorneys blame state for a lack of follow-up

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Astorian

The Fishhawk Lake Reserve and Community is fighting a \$439,200 penalty from the state for allegedly killing more than 30,000 fish after draining the reservoir in 2019.

The lake, considered state waters, is held back by an earthen dam built along Fishhawk Creek in the 1960s for a private community on the border of Clatsop and Columbia counties. A drainpipe through the dam feeds into the creek and eventually the Nehalem River. The homeowners association argues that the state mandated a repair of the drainpipe and was kept informed of the entire process.

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Astoria OKs residential auto-detailing business

Some neighbors had complained

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Astorian

The Astoria City Council on Monday approved an auto-detailing business on 34th Street after neighbors complained over noise and traffic concerns.

Will Gutierrez, who runs Vanguard Auto Detailing, had initially

been denied by city staff to operate out of his Uppertown garage. Staff later recommended approval after Gutierrez agreed to limit his business to three customers per week, work inside a closed garage and operate between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. He also switched from gas to electric equipment to limit noise.

On city staff's recommendation, the Planning Commission approved his home occupation.

But Seattle resident Sara Orr and her brother, Stephen Fulton, who lives in a home across 34th Street owned by the family's trust, appealed the approval, along with next-door neighbor Don Heiner. The neighbors argued that there

was still noise from Gutierrez's garage in violation of home occupation ordinances, and that auto detailing should be included in auto repair businesses prohibited from residential areas. They also argued that limiting customers, and not vehicles, provided a loophole that could significantly increase traffic on the dead-end gravel street.

"On Feb. 28 at 4 p.m., I was sitting in my living room, and I heard a car being power-washed in front of the garage ... loud (and) clear," Fulton said. "I could hear it inside of my home. That said, my sister and I have proposed we can live

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City of Astoria

Will Gutierrez was approved by the Astoria City Council to run an auto-detailing business out of his Uppertown home after an appeal by neighbors concerned about noise and traffic.



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