

Supply bottlenecks leave ships stranded

By JOYCE M. ROSENBERG
Associated Press

NEW YORK — A trade bottleneck born of the COVID-19 outbreak has U.S. businesses anxiously awaiting goods from Asia — while off the coast of California, dozens of container ships sit anchored, unable to unload their cargo.

The coronavirus pandemic has wreaked havoc with the supply chain

since early 2020, when it forced the closure of factories throughout China. The seeds of today's problems were sown last March, when Americans stayed home and dramatically changed their buying habits — instead of clothes, they bought electronics, fitness equipment and home improvement products. U.S. companies responded by flooding reopened Asian factories with orders, leading to a chain reac-

tion of congestion and snags at ports and freight hubs across the country as the goods began arriving.

Main Street businesses are now forced to wait months instead of the usual weeks for a delivery from China, and no one knows when the situation will be resolved. Owners do a lot of explaining to customers, order more inventory than usual and lower their expectations for when their shipments will arrive.

The cluster of ships offshore are perhaps the most dramatic symptom of an overwhelmed supply chain. As production surged in Asia, more ships began arriving in the fall at ports in Los Angeles, Long Beach and other West Coast cities than the gateways could handle. Ships holding as many as 14,000 containers have sat offshore, some of them for over a week. At times there have been as many as 40 ships wait-

ing; normally, there's no more than a handful, according to the Marine Exchange of Southern California, a service that monitors port traffic and operations.

"With this type of backlog, it will take several weeks to work through that. It doesn't go away. And new ships are sailing to the U.S. even as we speak," says Shanton Wilcox, a manufacturing adviser with PA Consulting.

Journalist: 'LAPD has such political power'

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When he got a job offer from the legendary editor Jim Bellows at the Los Angeles Herald Examiner, he jumped at it and returned to the West Coast as front-page editor with a daily column.

He won a Los Angeles Press Club award for the series "LAPD: A Matter of Black and White." "It was all about the way Black cops were being treated and marginalized," Sullivan said. "It really forced the LAPD to start hiring and promoting more Black cops."

Two years later, Jann Wenner, the publisher of Rolling Stone, recruited Sullivan. A working relationship developed that would last more than 20 years. Sullivan made his home base in Portland while raising twins, a boy and a girl.

"I was going back and forth to LA constantly," he said. "I was the highest-paid writer on the staff and got the most freedom by far. I did have a really privileged position."

Sullivan said the majority of clues collected by investigators assigned to Notorious B.I.G.'s murder pointed in the same direction as the word on the street.

According to Sullivan's account, an inmate at California's Corcoran State Prison said his cellmate had confided that Suge Knight, the founder of Death Row Records, from behind bars, had hired another gang member to take out Biggie, whose name was Christopher Wallace.

A former Death Row employee claimed he could provide police with evidence that Biggie had been murdered by members of Knight's "goon squad."

The Los Angeles Police Department and the FBI took the case to prosecutors, who refused to proceed. Neither the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office nor the U.S. attorney's office explained why.

"After he decided he liked me, Russ said he wanted to show me something," Sullivan said.

Sullivan followed Poole to a storage unit that revealed an entire wall lined with boxes of documents he had carried



Forest Whitaker plays a journalist in 'City of Lies'



R.J. Marx/The Astorian

Journalist Randall Sullivan in Gearhart. His book on the killing of the rapper Notorious B.I.G. has been made into a movie debuting this month.

out of the police department's robbery-homicide division. "I made copies and when I read them, knew this was an incredible story of corruption and cover-up," Sullivan said. "The people who know the truth are haunted by it, it was almost impossible for them to live with it and accept. It almost kills them inside."

'City of Lies'

In "City of Lies," Poole is played by Depp. The char-

acter of the journalist, originally modeled on Sullivan, is renamed and played by Whitaker.

Sullivan wrote early drafts of the film's screenplay from his book. The final script is by Christian Contreras. Brad Furman is the director. Sullivan has an executive producer credit. "City of Lies" received its international premiere in Italy in 2019. Saban Films took on distribution rights

and the film is now playing throughout the country, including at theaters on the North Coast.

Sullivan's follow up to "Labyrinth," "Dead Wrong: The Continuing Story of City of Lies, Corruption and Cover-Up in the Notorious BIG Murder Investigation," was published in 2019.

Sullivan said he hopes a result is to see the wrongful-death case filed by Biggie's mother, Voletta Wallace, against Los Angeles reopened. Wallace could seek \$1 billion in damages. Sullivan thinks she can win.

"Absolutely, the only hope is this lawsuit," he said. "That's all that's left. (Wallace) will win if they get it past the 9th Circuit, which would have to rule to reopen it. I think there's enough for a criminal conviction, and certainly enough to win a civil trial."

"LAPD has such political power. It is the most politically connected and powerful police department in the country, even the New York City Police Department," he added. "They control the local agenda to an incredible degree. Even through all this, the Black Lives Matter movement, they still have had the power to scare people. They still haven't felt the repercussions for this."

County reports four new virus cases

The Astorian

Clatsop County on Monday reported four new coronavirus cases.

The cases include a female between 10 and 19, a man in his 30s, a woman in her 50s and a woman in her 70s living in the northern part of the county.

All four were recovering at home. The county has recorded 808 cases since the start of the pandemic. Eighteen people have been hospitalized and seven have died.

Seaside: 'The reality is our classrooms adjust every year anyway'

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consortium continues to be the best option for certain students to meet their needs, they may move on to classrooms in other districts as they move up in grade levels.

"We're really thankful to our other school districts in the county for the collaboration through the consortium over the years," Penrod said. "It's been wonderful partnering with them and we are really thankful for the consortium teachers in Warrenton and Astoria for their dedication to our students."

But Seaside School District administrators and parents worried what moving back and forth between other districts meant for children. These students might be in classrooms in Astoria and Warrenton until they returned to their home district in Seaside for the special education classes the district offered at the high school level.

"That was a big concern to parents, that students weren't having an ability, through school, to build relationships with their peers in their neighborhood, in their neighborhood school," Penrod said.

Some families also had students in multiple buildings and across multiple districts. The logistics of

getting everyone to the right school in the morning or the pivot that might be necessary if one child became sick at school could be very difficult to manage, said Lynne Griffin, the director of special services for the Seaside School District.

With Seaside's departure, there will be some challenges, noted Travis Roe, director of special programs for the Astoria School District.

Still, he added, consortium classrooms can look very different from year to year depending on the needs of the students enrolled.

"The reality is our classrooms adjust every year anyway," he said.

The consortium already has teachers who bring with them a wealth of experience across a variety of special needs challenges and programs. In Warrenton, one teacher especially brings "a lot to the table," Roe said. Even with a change in the consortium this year, her presence means the districts still in the consortium already have key resources on hand.

Details of both Seaside's program and what the consortium classrooms will look like without Seaside are still being determined. Seaside plans to begin hiring for its programs this spring.

Newsome: Coronavirus pandemic has altered the way people use libraries

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librarian and later as head of reference in charge of adult services for the Middle Georgia Regional Library System.

After Newsome and his girlfriend, also a librarian, both received job offers, the couple settled in Washington County to live with family.

He started work in Seaside seven months ago with COVID-19 precautions in place, limited library hours and, in November, additional closures.

The pandemic has altered the way people use libraries.

"E-books have gone from something barely on anyone's mind to something really common," he said.

E-books bring more readers, he added, but can create financial pressures for pub-

lic libraries. It costs libraries more to subscribe to an e-book service than if they purchased the physical book. Libraries must renew the service or pay additional fees depending on the times the e-book is requested.

"It can circulate 52 times, and you can have it for two years," he said. "If you cross either of those thresholds in two years, you lose access and you have to buy it again."

Newspapers have gone off a little bit, but the biggest change he's seen in is magazines, which he said are not being sent out as much. "Books are continuing to circulate," he said, "but it isn't growing like it used to."

In Georgia, Newsome said, everyone has access to the joint collection for the entire state. "If you have a

'I'M REALLY IMPRESSED WITH THE COMMUNITY AND THE SUPPORT FOR THE LIBRARY. IT'S AN AMAZING LIBRARY FOR A CITY OF THIS SIZE.'

Micah Newsome | assistant library director in Seaside.

library card in Georgia you can use it in any library," he said. "For smaller libraries to be able to have that is really nice."

Seaside's collection, which he says is really good for the size of the library, will benefit from new inter-library services with Astoria and Warrenton. "Seaside, Warrenton and Astoria are basically doing what Georgia is doing, just on a smaller

scale," he said.

Newsome said he is navigating Oregon's roads and mountains with snow tires and careful driving. "I actually prefer cold weather to hot weather," he said. "In Georgia, summer starts now. It goes into the early 90s in May and doesn't stop until the end of September."

He enjoys brewing beer, although he has yet to cultivate a taste for most India pale

ales. "My favorite is Belgian abbey ales," he said. "I love the malty character, depth of flavor and complexity."

For his reading enjoyment, he favors science fiction and cookbooks, but explores a variety of genres — mysteries, literary fiction and bestsellers — to help guide readers.

He's looking forward to meeting patrons and residents, many of whom he has met only remotely or masked.

"With everything being virtual at the moment it's really hard to figure out what can we add that only we can provide that's really adding that 'library touch,'" he said.

Newsome hopes to reopen community spaces in the library and find things that are of local interest, includ-

ing makerspace opportunities that focus on both high- and low-tech projects.

"I really want to get in touch with people in the community and spend some time talking and find out what people are looking for. There's a really thriving set of programming going on here," Newsome said. "I'd like to find out what do people really want back most and what new things they would like to see."

"It's a beautiful building and great collection and it's well utilized," he added. "I'm really impressed with the community and the support for the library. It's an amazing library for a city of this size. I'm really looking forward to getting to the other side of some of these pandemic restrictions."

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