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Intoxicating business model breathes life into county

BY CINDY YINGST
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Seafood canneries used to be the iconic Clatsop County industry in the past. Fermentation is the empire builder of the future.

Breweries, distilleries and hard cider makers have revitalized the way commerce flows here and contributed millions of dollars to the local economy, according to a study released last week.

The Clatsop County Fermentation Cluster Economic Impact Study was a joint effort of Clatsop Economic Development Resources (CEDR), Business Oregon, Clatsop County, and Columbia Pacific Economic Development District.

The \$15,000 study found an industry filled with innovation, cooperation, and entrepreneurship.

The fermenters have taken a “synergistic” approach that has allowed them to pivot and prosper coming out of massive COVID setbacks.

When restaurants and bars closed, brewers switched gears, increasing their canning operations, said Kevin Leahy of CEDR. “It was horrible, but craft brewers have come out of it, for



Fort George Brewery's Chris Nemlowill leads a tour of the company's operations.

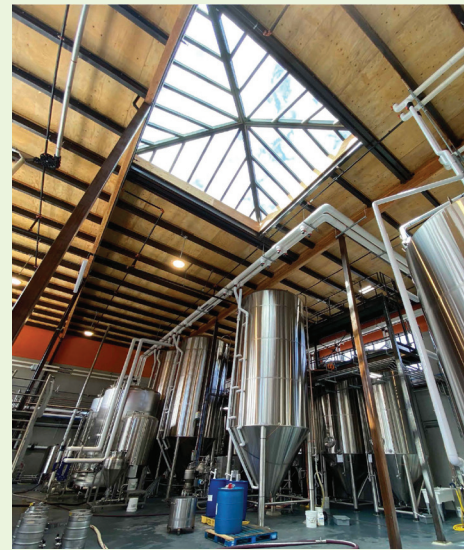
Photos from Fermentation Cluster report

the most part, very successfully.”

Fort George carries goods from other brewers while distributing throughout the Northwest. And the company partners with other craft brewers to make its highly anticipated 3-Way IPA. This year's release blends product from Fort George, Ravenna Brewing in Seattle and Alvarao Street in Salinas, Calif.

Those in the region's forest and wood products sector also form partnerships for survival and growth, Leahy said.

See 'Ferment' on Page 6



City has a new commissioner

Paul Mitchell to replace Rick Newton

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Paul Mitchell was appointed Tuesday night to fill the vacancy left by Rick Newton on the Warrenton City Commission.



Mitchell

“We have the commissioner-apparent here,” Mayor Henry Balensifer said, referring to Mitchell, who was seated in the commission chambers. “He's running unopposed.”

Earlier in the evening, Newton's seat was declared vacant following the former commissioner's letter of resignation last week.

The letter read, in full: “*City of Warrenton Commission, I am submitting my resignation effective immediately. I absolutely loved when I was allowed to work for the citizens. I have been in contact with Paul Mitchell for his upcoming seat as a Commissioner so he can be somewhat 'up-to-speed' and ready for his new position. Rick Newton.*”

Balensifer asked fellow commissioners whether they had any objection to appointing Mitchell to the seat pending his completion of basic electors training classes available from the League of Oregon Cities.

Mitchell is the sole candidate running for the Position 4 commission seat in the November election, Newton's former seat. Newton had chosen to go head-to-head with Balensifer for the mayor's post.

After months of sparring with other city commissioners, Newton made the decision Labor Day weekend to resign and to step down from the mayoral race.

“It's not healthy for me to be there ...

Doctor's overseas ride benefits hospice

Medical treatment is often a race against time when doctors diagnose serious health conditions.

Dr. Aaron Brown knows that urgency all too well as a primary care physician with the CMH-OHSU Primary Care Clinic in Astoria.

Next week, he'll begin a race against time of another sort.

He's joining a friend across the pond

Dr. Aaron Brown will complete a 180-mile bike ride across England Sept. 21 and 22, raising money for local hospice care as he goes.

Courtesy CMH

How to help

Donate any amount per mile that Dr. Brown completes for Lower Columbia Hospice at columbiamemorial.org/bike-for-hospice.

for a 180-mile bike ride across England. They plan to complete the distance in just 24 hours, each raising money for hospice care as they go.

When he heard about his friend's goal, he knew he had to go along for the ride, he said.

See 'Doctor' on Page 2

See 'Mitchell' on Page 4

