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Dawnya Davis trims the undercoat of a dog on Feb. 14 at The Grooming Garage and Pet Emporium in Ocean Park. The new business offers all-inclusive dog grooming, boarding and obedience-training. “We’re going to do everything here,” Davis said.

‘Pet Emporium’ opens in Ocean Park

Story & Photos by Luke Whittaker
Coast River Business Journal
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OCEAN PARK — An all-inclusive dog grooming, boarding and obedience-training facility has opened in Ocean Park.

A soft opening was held on Feb. 13 for The Grooming Garage and Pet Emporium, located at 21810 Pacific Way.

“We’re going to do everything here,” said owner Dawnya Davis.

From basement to standalone store

Davis, 43, who has more than 20 years dedicated to the pet and livestock field, previously operated a dog grooming business from her home basement over the past nine years, building a broad and devout customer base.

Over time, Davis said she outgrew her home location and had been searching for a bigger space to plant her burgeoning business.

“I was working seven days a week to get every-one done,” said Davis, who juggled grooming more than 200 dogs on a regular basis.

Three groomers

In the fall, Davis added apprentice Avary Murray, which will allow the business to add more customers, Davis said.

“She’s awesome, has a great work ethic and loves animals,” Davis said. “With Avary being on board now with bathing, we’ll be able to take on a lot more dogs.”

The grooming services will also be bolstered by the addition of former Doggie in the Window owner Dodie Otoupalik, an Ocean Park groomer who played an important role in Davis’s career early on.

“She’s the one who taught me how to groom,” Davis said. “She’s closing her shop and will be working out of here. We’ll have three groomers on staff.”

Boarding and day care

There will be standard and suite-style boarding in kennels or living room style suites monitored 24-hours.

“There’s an apartment on site and someone will be here 24/7,” Davis said. “The dogs will also have baby monitors inside their kennel.”

The suites are modeled like a miniature living room.

The Grooming Garage and Pet Emporium

Dawnya Davis, owner
21810 Pacific Way, Ocean Park
360-244-1670
groominggarage.weebly.com

“They will have a rug, toddler bed, chair, pictures on the wall etc.,” Davis said. “It’s more for our senior dogs.”

Day care services will also be overseen by Ryan Ring, with dogs separated into designated groups.

“For the day care we’re going to have interviews. They have to have a dog interview and show proof of vaccination, and temperament tested to show they’re not aggressive. To minimize accidents, they’ll all be separated by age and need. They will go on a rotation where seniors will get their time out and then puppies,” Davis said.

Davis is also coordinating with local hotels to accept dogs who may need temporary accommodations while visiting the peninsula.