

GRAB BAG

BOOK SHELF // GLIMPSE // WILDLIFE // POP CULTURE // WORDS // Q&A // FOOD // FUN

word nerd

By RYAN HUME

Gearhart [gɪər•hɑrt]

noun

1. A quaint city of 1,462 located on the Clatsop Plains three miles north of Seaside on U.S. Highway 101. First developed as a resort following the completion of the railroad between Astoria and Seaside in the late 19th century, Gearhart Park, as it is sometimes known, has many restaurants, hotels, the Pacific Northwest's oldest golf course and plenty of beachfront homes along the dunes

Origin:

First appeared as a variant of the Old German surname *Gerhard* in 1629, which means "spear-brave" and was most likely given to a fierce Prussian warrior.

Gearhart, Oregon is named for Phillip Gearhart, a pioneer from Missouri who began buying the



PHOTO BY JEFF TER HAR

A herd of elk look both ways before crossing a street in Gearhart. Gearhart residents aren't surprised to find an elk or two — or 50 — in their yards. The town has experienced an increased presence of elk in the last few years.

land that the current city would come to occupy in 1848.

"Gearhart by the Sea" is the way the hotels there tell of its location. It is more than 'by the sea.' It is also by the forest and by the mountain. Indeed, almost every charm that can be desired by a Summer resort is possessed by Gearhart. No wonder it is a popular place."

—"Gearhart is Mecca of Large Summer Colony," *The Sunday Oregonian*, June 11, 1911, P.7

"Gearhart park is a high class resort and has already been selected by more than 200 families of the northwest for the beach home. The many beautiful cottages and bungalows are the scene of many week-end parties in the summer months and during the winter time Portland people often spend weeks at Gearhart."

—"Hotel Gearhart 'By-the-Sea,'" *La Grande Evening Observer*, April 19, 1911, P.6

Crossword Answer

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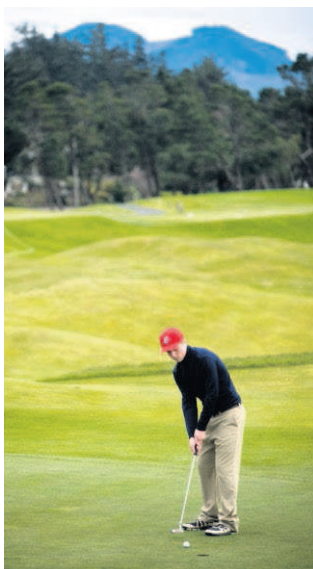


PHOTO BY ALEX PAJUNAS

Gearhart Golf Links is one of the golf courses in Gearhart.



PHOTO BY MATT LOVE

Clemente's Cafe & Public House is located at 175 14th St., Suite 180, in Astoria.

A GLIMPSE INSIDE

An OCCASIONAL FEATURE
BY MATT LOVE

Clemente's Café & Public House

Everyone needs a place to unwind after a bad day on the job. Whenever the lessons or interactions don't go well for me in the classroom — like today — I visit Clemente's Café & Public House on Astoria's Riverwalk and begin to rally.

It was my father, a master teacher of 40 years, who taught me: "If a teacher doesn't rally after a bad day, he's dead." That rally, my father added, must be a conscious effort, too. Ask yourself the tough ques-

tions. What did I do wrong? How can I get better? How much mercy do you give?

I have no idea how the Clemente's habit started. One Friday afternoon, I just found myself sitting alone at the bar next to an antique lantern so big I almost mistook it for a patron and said, "Hello."

The interior and exterior views from the bar are stunning: the Columbia River, the bar pilot boats coming and going, the 14th Street Pier, the Trolley, wandering

tourists, birds, historical fishing photographs of the Tarabochia Clan, and a vintage Bumblebee Tuna seat cushion stuck in the rafters, near the ceiling.

What this Astoria cultural artifact is possibly doing there is a profound mystery to me. I do know that one day I'd like to pull the cushion down and sit on it at the bar. I'd laugh a little laugh knowing that I was most likely the only teacher in the world trying to rally after a losing day in the classroom while sitting on a Bumblebee Tuna seat cushion.

Sometimes I order up crab cakes or local abacore sashimi, in a lime, soy and cucumber marinade, the latter my favorite appetizer in town. Sometimes I even finish my beer. Sometimes I talk rock 'n' roll with a rock 'n' roll bartender. Mostly I just sit in silence, writing a bit here and there, and thinking about the job. By the time I'm out the door of Clemente's, the rally is complete.

Matt Love is the author/editor of 14 books and teaches at Astoria High School. His books are available at coastal bookstores or his website, nestuccaspitpress.com

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