



CRAB ON THE HORIZON

Tiffany Boothe/Seaside Aquarium

The Dungeness crab season is officially underway. Crab boats light up the sky in this photo taken from Silver Point near Cannon Beach. Crabbers had gone on strike over the price seafood processors had offered for the catch, but agreed to \$2.87 per pound.

In a good place



Erick Bengel/The Daily Astorian

Michelle Hartman, of Warrenton, plays with her sons, Henri, 3, and Matteus, 10. Hartman is a Clatsop Community College student and an alumnus of last year's WINGS (Women Interested in Going to School) conference.

Warrenton mother of two sees WINGS conference as crucial step in her journey

By ERICK BENDEL
The Daily Astorian

Michelle Hartman, a 48-year-old single mother living in Warrenton, has been rebuilding her life after she and her two young children escaped domestic abuse less than three years ago.

Her apartment on Southwest Willow Drive is small, but lively and warm. Colorful plastic children's toys seem always within reach. Hartman rules the household and dotes on her boys with the energy of a fiercely loving mama bear.

She holds down two part-time cleaning jobs — one at the Liberty Theater, the other at Warrenton Christian

MORE INFO
For information on WINGS, visit www.wings-clatsop.com, or contact Pat Lehman at 503-717-1852 or pklehman320@gmail.com.

Church — and has a work-study gig at Clatsop Community College, where she is earning an associate's degree in general studies and plans to work with children who have suffered from abuse and neglect.

After a period of distress and uncertainty, Hartman is in a good place.

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'If you don't know what you're doing, you don't really know where you're going, and you have kids, and you want to have a better future, go back to school — that's it.'

Michelle Hartman
Clatsop Community College student and alumnus of last year's WINGS conference

No video lottery games at former Gearhart Grocery

Owner says he can't make it without video gambling

By R.J. MARX
The Daily Astorian

GEARHART — Citing losses, Terry Lowenberg closed the Gearhart Grocery in December after winning city approvals for a brew pub and deli.

Thursday night he went before the Planning Commission seeking a permit to install video lottery machines in the brew pub, a move, he said, essential for the pub's future profitability.



Terry Lowenberg

Lowenberg said the machines — four to start, with a maximum of six — placed in an enclosed area next to the deli separated by an 8-foot wall, would help the brew pub survive economic hardship in winter months.

"We need them simply to make it exist," Lowenberg said. "If we can't get through this, we will end up having to close the store."

The Planning Commission, unconvinced, voted 5-2 to deny the permit request.

Resident Dave Eilenberg spoke on behalf of the proposal. "I don't personally gamble, but I think a lot of people rely on them to keep employees and jobs in the community," he said.

Gearhart's Wilson Mark suggested Lowenberg didn't need video lottery machines but rather a successful business plan. "The reality is the last two (grocery) owners struggled as well," Mark said. "But I believe you're struggling a lot

more than they were. We don't want video poker, and we don't need it. If you can't make it without video poker, maybe we don't need you. We want a full-fledged grocery store."

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R.J. Marx/The Daily Astorian

The owner of the former Gearhart Grocery was denied in his bid to install four lottery machines in a new brew pub.

Standoff in Seaside disrupts neighborhood



Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian
Police blocked off Whispering Pines Drive to all but residents Thursday during the standoff.

Few details emerge about situation

By JACK HEFFERNAN
and R.J. MARX
The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — A standoff between police and an armed individual on Whispering Pines Drive that began with gunshots on Wednesday was still playing out this morning.

"This is still an ongoing situation," said Jon Rahl, a spokesman for the city of Seaside. "There will be continued attempts at communication this morning, and we'll have an update as soon as we can get one."

Rahl said there is still one individual in the house and police outside.

Seaside Police have asked the public for patience while they try to resolve the situation peacefully.

"We believe there is no immediate threat to the public," Seaside Police Chief Dave Ham said in a statement Thursday afternoon. "A peaceful end to this situation for our officers and the individual inside the home continue to be the focal point of our efforts."

Police went to the house on Wednesday afternoon after reports of gunshots. The individual's mother — unarmed and uninjured — was released when police arrived.

Jason Lambert, 38, who lives just down the hill from the scene of the standoff, came home from work Wednesday night to find emergency vehicles driving up and down his block.

"I really wasn't sure what was going

on at first, but my first instinct was that it was a domestic dispute, since that seems to happen a lot around here," he said.

But when he heard that guns were involved, he said he went for a drive with his two daughters, 9 and 4 years old. When he returned a few hours later, he only saw one Seaside Police car outside his home.

Matthew Craton, 17, who lives a few blocks south of Whispering Pines Drive, said he heard gunshots Wednesday night while he was lying in bed and playing video games.

"I was kind of surprised. It was kind of scary," he said. "My friend picked me up to go hang out at his house and he wanted to drive toward Whispering Pines, but I made him go the other way."

Edward Stratton contributed to this report.

