

# Crab season: ‘We’re seeing the light at the end of the tunnel’

Continued from Page 1A

Despite a delayed opening last year to Oregon’s most valuable fishery, crabbers hauled in 20.4 million pounds, 22 percent above the 10-year average. The average price was \$3.08 per pound.

The ex-vessel value finished at a record \$62.7 million. Commercial crabbers in Washington state landed 16.4 million pounds.

Crabbers may begin setting gear Jan. 12.

The recreational crab

fishing season has already opened in the same area of the Oregon Coast. Both recreational and commercial fishing remain closed south of Cape Blanco due to high marine toxin levels.

Factors like price negotiations and elevated levels of marine toxins have delayed the commercial opening in recent years.

“It’s been a long season trying to get Dungeness crab fishing season up and running,” Buell said. “We’re seeing the light at the end of the tunnel, I guess.”

# Pantry: ‘An opportunity for people to do good’

Continued from Page 1A

personal care items. Paper goods are welcome, as well as child-friendly nonperishables, crayons, plus inexpensive party favors in summer and school supplies in August.

“The motto is, ‘Take what you need, share what you can,’” Wallace added.

Perishable food and anything potentially dangerous, like razors, must not be left.

People wishing to donate

used clothing are asked to find other locations.

Guest of honor at Sunday’s dedication was Bishop Rick Jaech of the Southwestern Washington Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America in Tacoma. He led prayers, commended the congregation for converting

the church’s teachings into action, then helped load in the first batch of items.

“This is a place that you can bring food and receive food,” Jaech said. “We are setting up an opportunity for people to do good.”

As pastor, Svaren believes

turning words into action is a key. “I am excited that we are able to make a real tangible difference in this community,” she said.

A second Little Free Pantry is being considered for a location in Ocean Park, with details to be announced.

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