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ONE DOLLAR

Price talks delay crab season's kickoff

By **KATIE FRANKOWICZ**
The Daily Astorian

Crab boats loaded with pots sat at the docks all weekend while fishermen and processors remained in a gridlock over prices.

The commercial Dungeness crab season was set to open today in most of Oregon and Washington state, but price negotiations and ocean conditions are keeping boats at home. The fishery is off to one of the latest starts that fishery managers can remember in over a decade.

The season traditionally opens Dec. 1, but was pushed back because crabs did not have shells full of meat.

At one point major processors had offered crabbers \$2.30 a pound — not nearly enough to convince them to go out, local crabbers said. The price inched up during the state-sponsored negotiation period in Oregon, but by the time those negotiations ended the processors' price still remained under last season's average starting price of \$2.89 per pound.

Processors had extended an offer to Coos Bay and Newport crabbers for around \$2.75 per pound since crab meat there had already hit the required limit, but argued that crab off Astoria still had not filled out to the required 23 percent meat recovery. The last test in the area had the crab at 22.8 percent, according to John Corbin, chairman of the Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission. A local boat went out

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Dollar General moves ahead in Gearhart

Parking in rear waives need for review

By **R.J. MARX**
The Daily Astorian

GEARHART — After denial of a parking variance in September, Dollar General is back with plans for a store in Gearhart along U.S. Highway 101.

Now that designs show the number of parking spaces required by city code, the retail store is considered an outright use in a commercial zone. The application will be reviewed by Building Official Mark Brien, said City Administrator Chad Sweet, but will not undergo further Planning Commission review.

Parking and traffic issues were at the forefront of the September Planning Commission denial. At the time, Cross Development, the Dollar General developer based in Texas, sought a parking variance to reduce the number of spots from 46 to 27, arguing the business would not generate enough traffic to warrant that many. By designating a rear area of the building to accommodate shoppers' parking, owners bypassed a second commission review.

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MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY

KEEPING THE LIGHT ALIVE

INSIDE: MAKING HER OWN MLK DAY IN MANZANITA • PAGE 3A



Photos by Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

ABOVE: People gathered at the Liberty Theatre Sunday in Astoria for a candlelight vigil and a walk downtown in celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Monday. BELOW LEFT: People light candles in front of the Liberty Theatre in Astoria Sunday ahead of the walk. BELOW RIGHT: Dozens of people showed up in downtown Astoria Sunday for a candlelight vigil and other events to celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day.



Approximately 50 people participated in a walk through downtown Astoria Sunday in support of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Silicon Valley transplant becomes active in local politics

After decades working in the tech industry, Bronstein moved to Astoria

By **JACK HEFFERNAN**
The Daily Astorian

As Steve Bronstein settled in to his new abode, he was struggling to abide by the results of the presidential election.

Bronstein, 57, spent much of his working life developing technology for corporations and law firms in heavily Democratic areas. On Nov. 9, 2016 — one day after Donald Trump's seismic election victory — he moved to Astoria. The day marked a personal and

political crossroad. "It was actually kind of depressing," Bronstein said. "Not the arrival here, but the outcome of the race."

Bronstein spent 25 years in the San Francisco Bay Area. Soon after moving to Astoria, he joined Indivisible North Coast Oregon — a grassroots organization dedicated in part to stopping Trump's policy agenda. Bronstein said he quickly noticed that the area is not as politically homogeneous as others he'd lived and worked.

EVERYDAY
people

"Leaving my vote in California was not a problem," Bronstein said. "It was just a blue vote in a bunch of other blue votes."

Bronstein grew up in a Chicago suburb. With no formal training, he went to work in the mid-1980s as a data processor at Medline Industries — an Illinois-based hospital supply manufacturer.

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Steve Bronstein moved to Astoria from the San Francisco Bay Area in 2016.

Steve Bronstein

