

Crab season set to open

Fishermen can pull gear on Friday

By **KATIE FRANKOWICZ**
The Daily Astorian

Despite fears that the season opener for Dungeness crab could be further delayed, commercial fishermen will be able to set their gear

Tuesday in parts of Oregon and Washington state, fishery managers announced.

Fishermen will be able to start pulling their gear on Friday.

The valuable commercial fishery traditionally starts on Dec. 1, but was delayed after tests showed crab had not filled out enough. In Oregon, from Cape Arago south to Gold Beach, crab are still below the state's

meat quality criteria and these areas will remain closed.

According to recent testing in Oregon and Washington state, crab in the areas that will open are just over the threshold.

Fishermen landed over 23 million pounds of crab in the 2017-18 season and brought in a record \$74.2 million in ex-vessel value. That season also got off to a late start, delayed

first by low meat yield, then by price negotiations, then by weather. Commercial boats didn't hit the water until the end of January.

This season, fishery managers initially delayed the start of the season until mid-December due to low meat yield. The date was pushed back again pending further tests, which were then delayed because of bad weather.



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian
State regulators have set the new Dungeness crab season.

YEAR IN REVIEW

A look back at the top stories on the North Coast in 2018

The Daily Astorian

Development pressure, housing, homelessness and leadership change dominated the conversation on the North Coast in 2018.

Voters approved bonds for a new county jail and improvements to schools in Astoria and Warrenton. Walmart finally opened in Warrenton. A fatal police shooting in Seaside was ruled justified. And bunnies — yes, bunnies — turned neighbors against each other in Cannon Beach.

On the last day of the year, we look back at some of the top stories.

New mayor

Astoria City Councilor Bruce Jones, a retired Coast Guard commander, was elected in November as the city's next mayor. He replaces Arline LaMear, who decided not to seek a second term.

Jones was not the only city councilor interested in a new role. Cindy Price also announced she would run for mayor, but later withdrew from the race, citing family reasons.

Price did not seek re-election to the City Council, and radio programmer and Planning Commissioner Joan Herman was elected to take her downtown Ward 3 seat. Roger Rocka, a former director of the Astoria-Warrenton Area Chamber of Commerce, was elected to replace Zetty Nemlowill in the west side's Ward 1 after Nemlowill opted not to run again.



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Bruce Jones, right, reacts as election results are announced in November.

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Development along the riverfront in Astoria was a contentious issue in 2018.

Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian



Coast Guard to see paychecks

Pay was at risk because of the government shutdown

The Daily Astorian

Coast Guard military personnel will get paid today despite a partial shutdown of the federal government.

The decision was described by the Coast Guard as a "one-time action" that covers December and does not guarantee paychecks will be issued for the next pay period on Jan. 15 if the shutdown continues.

"I recognize that this changes course from previously provided guidance on military pay," Coast Guard Vice Commandant Adm. Charles Ray wrote in a message Friday, according to the Military Times. "However, this is outstanding news for our military workforce."

The Coast Guard, part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, was the only branch of the military that faced working without pay during the shutdown. Other branches are part of the U.S. Department of Defense, which has already been funded by the government.

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Country living expands in Clatsop County

By **EDWARD STRATTON**
The Daily Astorian

The number of people living in the countryside of Clatsop County is growing far faster than in any city.

As of July 1, the county's population was 39,200, up 1 percent from the previous year and 4.5 percent from five years ago, according to estimates from Portland State University's Population Research Center.

Over 36 percent — 14,320 — of the county's residents lived outside cities. That was a more than 10 percent increase from 12,980 five years ago.

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After years of world travel, magic in Cannon Beach

Taylor has lived from England to Iran

By **BRENNA VISSER**
The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH — When Leslie Taylor says she believes Cannon Beach is the most beautiful place in the world, she can speak with some authority.

As the child in a military family, Taylor has had the chance to see many corners of the globe. Some of her fondest memories are spending Christmas and



New Year's Day in a remote cottage on the English countryside, sledding on moonlit nights through the forest and camping with her family in Scotland and Wales.

But even those experiences pale in comparison to the feeling Taylor felt when she visited the Oregon Coast. One day, after hiking to the top of Neahkahnie Mountain and staring out over the coastline, she made

it her goal to retire in Cannon Beach.

"This place is magic," she said. "Tears came to my eyes, because there are some things you can't speak ... there are no words. I thought to myself, 'If I could ever live here, that would be amazing.'"

This year, Taylor retired and finally made her dream a reality. But the path that led her to Cannon Beach started in earnest about 40 years ago in the Middle East.

After high school, the spontaneous 18-year-old decided to take an adventure to Iran — a journey that eventually led to her meet-

ing her husband, having her son and making a life there.

Taylor moved to Iran a few months before the Iran-Iraq War in 1980, and much of her experience was colored by the conflict. Living in the county's capital of Tehran, she didn't always feel the effects of the war.

"But there was a period of time they were bombing us, and that was pretty scary," she said.

After six years, Taylor divorced her husband and moved to Washington state with her son to be closer to her father and start anew.



Brenna Visser/The Daily Astorian
Leslie Taylor moved to Cannon Beach in August.

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