

Gearhart Crossing closes over weekend

Owner declines to comment on the closure

By **BRENNA VISSER**
The Daily Astorian

GEARHART – Gearhart Crossing, a local pub, deli and grocery, closed on Sunday.

While a “store for sale” sign has been up in the window for months, the decision to close was first publicly announced on Facebook on Saturday.

“It is with great sadness and a heavy heart that I announce the closing of Gearhart Crossing Pub and Deli. Throughout the eight years of ownership, we have done our best to serve the people of the Gearhart community,” the owners, Terry and Molly Lowenberg, wrote in a statement on the Gearhart Crossing Facebook page. “We appreciate your support during our time here ... We are forever grateful for your support and encouragement.”

Molly Lowenberg declined to comment on the closure, but confirmed that the business is still up for sale.

The brew pub, which sits at the city’s main intersection, was at times the center of controversy.

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Sen. Wyden promises to fight to help Coast Guard

Calls for end to shutdown

By **EDWARD STRATTON**
The Daily Astorian

U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden said he would go to the mat to ensure members of the Coast Guard are paid amid a government shutdown entering its third week.



Ron Wyden

Wyden was in Astoria on Sunday for his 918th town hall since joining the U.S. Senate in 1996, part of a promise to visit each of Oregon’s 36 counties at least once a year while in office. He recently won the Town Hall Project’s Senate MVP award for public accessibility.

He started by honoring the impact of Josh Marquis, who is retiring after 25 years as Clatsop County’s top prosecutor.

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Still no breakthrough on government shutdown negotiations.

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Crab fleet brings in catch



Victor Marcus and Justin Rogers offload Dungeness crab at the Ilwaco Fish Co.

Photos by Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian



Jonathan Kingsland and Cole Wasson prepare the fishing vessel Chandalar for the crab season at the Warrenton Marina.

First crabs of the season

By **KATIE FRANKOWICZ**
The Daily Astorian

Though rough seas kept some boats at the dock, many commercial Dungeness crab fishermen began pulling gear and delivering crab to processors over the weekend.

Oregon and Washington state fishermen set gear over the New Year’s holiday under blue skies, but then faced stormy weather leading up to the official opening of the fishery on Friday.

The fishery was closed in Oregon south of Cape Arago due to elevated levels of the marine toxin domoic acid, but could open this week pending the result of additional tests.

Despite an ongoing federal government shutdown, the Coast Guard continues to monitor the fleet. Rescue crews responded to two commercial boats in distress before fishermen even began pulling gear. One boat they rescued had lost its rudder 17 miles off the Columbia River entrance.

Industry leaders settled on a price of \$2.75 per pound to get the fleet on the water, said Rex Leach, a fisherman based out of Charleston and Coos Bay, who has been involved in price negotiations for many years. It’s a dime less than the opening price last year, but up from a starting offer of around \$2.30.

“And then we’ll let market forces take over,” Leach said.

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Kelton Haggren helps get a crab boat ready to travel to California from Warrenton.

New downtown parking officer starts patrol

A background in hospitality and restaurants

By **EDWARD STRATTON**
The Daily Astorian

Jeffery Weaver sees his biggest challenge as being diplomatic with parking scofflaws downtown.

Weaver, who starts today as Astoria’s community outreach officer, plans to keep his patrols sporadic to prevent people from catching on and skirting the rules.

“It won’t hurt my feel-



ings, I know that,” he said of difficult interactions. “I’m pretty thick-skinned. I just hope people see me as less of a ticket-writer, and more of a tool for the city they can use.”

A Warrenton native, Weaver has spent most of his adult life on the North Coast working in hospitality and restaurants. A cider fan, he recently got a job

at Reveille Ciderworks. He saw an ad on Facebook and applied to replace Ronni Harris as the Astoria Downtown Historic District Association’s community outreach officer.

“I just see it more as providing a valuable service to the community, rather than being a guy nobody likes,” Weaver said. “There’s a big need for parking downtown. That’s why there’s a two-hour limit. I just see it as a good opportunity to get to know people downtown, be an ambassador.”



Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian
Jeffery Weaver is the new community outreach officer for the Astoria Downtown Historic District Association.

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