

# Clams: Harvest opened briefly in March

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Clatsop Beach. Matt Hunter, the state shellfish project leader, preferred to pull a sample there since those areas are where the majority of people look for razor clams.

Most of the razor clams harvested in the state come from the highly productive beds in the Clatsop Beach and Sunset Beach areas. The 18-mile stretch of beach includes South Jetty and Fort Stevens State Park.

These beaches had already experienced an unusual extended closure to give small razor clams more time to grow. The harvest opened briefly at the beginning of March before being shut down due to domoic acid.



Katie Frankowicz/The Daily Astorian

Recreational and commercial razor clam diggers wait for waves to wash back out before digging at South Jetty on Sunday.

# Crutchfield: Feels ‘super encouraged’

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the sense of teamwork you feel. You’re helping people, and most of the time we win. Most of the time we go to a call and we make it better. It’s satisfying.”

While there was no definitive moment that made him want to enter the fire service, his drive to become an officer can be sourced to a single fire.

In 2002, a fire at a commercial auto parts store caused the roof of the building to cave in, killing three of his fellow firefighters. During the incident, Crutchfield was assigned to give updates to the family of one of the firefighters, and helped them navigate resources available after a loved one dies in the line of duty.

After the dust had settled, he was tasked with carrying the body of one of his colleagues out of the rubble.

“Obviously that was a horrible day,” he said.

But it was also a day that taught him many lessons on

how to be a better firefighter, he said, and sparked a passion to get into leadership.

“That was when I first felt a desire to maybe be an officer some day,” Crutchfield said. “I thought with the proper training and experience to lead people that maybe I could help avoid a tragedy like that again if possible.”

From there, Crutchfield stepped into the shoes of the friend that he lost and filled his role as the hazardous materials coordinator for 10 years.

Astoria first came onto his radar after Astoria’s hazmat coordinator suggested he apply for the fire chief opening that ended up being filled by Ames. He passed at the time, feeling he wanted to get more experience.

But he kept the idea in the back of his mind.

“I was kind of honored he would think of me in that way,” he said.

In 2013, he became the battalion chief, where he

oversaw Coos Bay’s fire prevention program and helped implement a smoke-alarm program.

About five years later, he saw the fire chief position open up again in Astoria and decided to make the leap.

“I knew I would be leaving a lot of good things behind,” he said. “But I knew there was so much potential here.”

So far, Crutchfield said he feels “super encouraged” by the teamwork he has seen at the fire department. He hopes to use the lessons he has learned to fine-tune the department and look for opportunities to make operations safer.

Only about a month into the job, Crutchfield said he has yet to find his “new normal.” He hopes to start integrating himself more into the community, both professionally and out on the golf course when the weather gets better.

“It’s getting more and more fun every single day,” he said.



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## Welcome Eric J. Anderson as the New Owner of Hughes-Ransom Mortuaries

I’d like you to join me in welcoming **Eric J. Anderson**, who is the new owner of both Hughes-Ransom Mortuaries. Eric is no stranger to the area or to the Hughes-Ransom Mortuaries and has been part of the family for years. Some may recall that Eric was one of the funeral directors involved in the 2016 funeral services for fallen Seaside Police Officer, Jason Goodding, when he was tragically killed in the line of duty. Eric moved back to Oregon from Park Rapids, MN and has been a managing the Hughes-Ransom Mortuaries since last spring.

Eric was born and raised in Fosston, Minnesota the youngest of seven children. Being 100% Norwegian, Eric is very familiar with our local Scandinavian heritage. Eric attended Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota before graduating from the University of Minnesota with a Bachelor’s Science Degree in Mortuary Science. Soon after graduating from college, Eric moved to Eugene, OR and worked in the funeral business 18 years.

Eric is the proud father of three children, Drew, Isabella and Olivia. Eric enjoys the outdoors, golfing, fishing, hunting and camping. Eric’s experience with midwestern traditions and west coast experience is a great addition to the community. Hughes-Ransom will always remain a family centered business and continues to offer the same great service you’ve come to expect.

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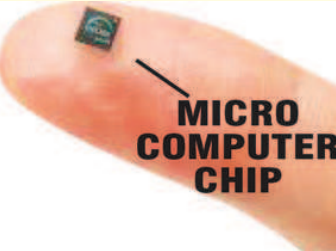
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