

the Astorian

147TH YEAR, NO. 10

DailyAstorian.com // TUESDAY, JULY 23, 2019

\$1.50

UNTANGLING WHALES



NOAA Fisheries

A whale tangled in fishing gear near Crescent City, Calif., surfaces for air in 2017.

New regulations on the horizon

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Astorian

Oregon fishery managers are changing how the state's lucrative Dungeness crab fishery will be managed to avoid tangling whales in commercial fishing gear.

Though the changes happening this season are relatively minor for commercial fishermen, difficult discussions are on the horizon.

The number of whales entangled so far this year off Oregon, Washington state and California appears to be down compared to prior years, according to preliminary reports. But Oregon wants to avoid a lawsuit like the one brought against California by the Center for Biological Diversity. That lawsuit, over impacts to whales from commercial fishing activities, settled in March.

For now, fishery managers will eliminate a two-week postseason cleanup period in the commercial Dungeness fishery — a grace period for fishermen to clear gear out of the water. Instead, all commercial gear must be out of the water by the last day of the season on Aug. 14.

The measure, along with others, including the introduction of new buoy tags to help better identify gear, were among a list of recommendations proposed by the Oregon Whale Entanglement Working Group. The stakeholder group, which includes fishermen and industry representatives as well as researchers and fishery managers, began meeting in 2017 following several years of record-high incidents of whale entanglement.

Oregon, Washington state and California manage Dungeness crab fisheries under a tri-state agreement and have been working separately and collaboratively on measures to reduce interactions between recreational and commercial crab fishing and whales.

See Whales, Page A6



Photos by Colin Murphey/The Astorian

LEFT: Workers from Bell Buoy Crab Co. offload at the Port of Chinook. Gear from Washington state boats has been found tangled around whales. RIGHT: Amos Johnson ties crab pots down to a trailer before they are taken to a fishing vessel at the start of crab season at the Warrenton Marina.

Underground mall fills up

Changes at the Sanborn Building

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Astorian

The Sanborn Building, with an underground mall remade in the image of old Astoria by the late local artisan Michael Foster, looked like a ghost town after the wine shop The Cellar closed earlier this year.

But the old-fashioned, wood-paneled halls at 10th Street and Marine Drive have filled up recently with a new collection of businesses collectively marketed as the Astoria Underground Shops.

Kirsten Norgaard, who started Kit's Apothecary in the upstairs of the Copeland Building on Commercial Street, recently took over the former wine shop



Photos by Edward Stratton/The Astorian

Building owner Elizabeth Konez is planning a coffee lounge in the downstairs of the Sanborn Building, an underground mall.

space, including a subterranean showroom and a spiral staircase leading up to a showroom on 10th Street.

The space was a dream for Norgaard, who remembers Foster as a librarian when she attended Astoria High

School. Foster remodeled the downstairs of the Sanborn Building in the early 2000s into a re-creation of historic downtown, complete with street lights, murals and a jail cell for selfies.

See Sanborn, Page A6

The Sanborn Building at 10th Street and Marine Drive has nine suites, including an underground mall fashioned after old Astoria.



Katie Frankowicz/The Astorian

'Tug' was reunited with his owner after he ran off during a fireworks display in Astoria on July 4.

After scare, a lost dog is found

'Tug' bolted on the Fourth of July

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Astorian

Dan Stephens' wife woke him early in the morning the day after the Fourth of July: There was a dog outside, sitting on their porch, barking.

The dog, a 60-some pound chocolate Lab and border collie mix, was friendly and clearly still young with loose, puppy skin. He wore a collar and a leash.

Stephens lives near a road that loops through the forest below the Astoria Column. It's a popular spot for dog walkers and he assumed this dog had probably gotten away from someone out for an early morning stroll.

But he didn't see anyone when he ventured up the road to look around. So he called the police to see if anyone was looking for him and settled down on his porch to wait with the dog.

In fact, the dog — an 11-month-old shelter rescue named "Tug" —

had landed on Stephens' porch by way of the Astoria Riverwalk and a frantic scramble up 15th Street the night before. A small group of people, including his owner and one passing triathlete who booked up the hill in pursuit, had spent hours trying to track him down.

Every Fourth of July, the Clatsop County Animal Shelter sees stray animals who break out of fences and houses or who fled in a panic while out on walks with their owners because of celebratory explosions. The weeks just before and after the holiday are among the shelter's busiest.

See Tug, Page A6

