

Sanborn: All nine suites are now full

Continued from Page A1

“He just was ahead of his time, and eclectic and just had this vision of what I think would just make people happy and feel like they just stumbled upon this secret,” Norgaard said.

Downstairs at the Sanborn Building is United Way of Clatsop County and professional offices, such as Counseling Solutions NW, run by Camille Holland.

Across a main lobby from Norgaard, artist Sondra Carr opened Weird Sisters Freak Boutique. She describes her space, decorated in nautical, forested and other themes, as an art installation reimagined as a shop, showcasing the work of local artisans.

“We’re just trying to collect all the freaky weirdness in one place,” Carr said.

Norgaard recruited Megan Davis, owner of the Floral Haze Vintage boutique and her former next-door neighbor from the Copeland Building, to move into the center suite of the mall, where a local family had attempted to open a Mexican restaurant.

Janet Hutchings recently opened West Coast Artisans, a gallery for local artists, on 10th Street in the former McVarish Gallery. Jill McVarish has concentrated her efforts into the Secret Gallery, a back room in the upstairs interior of the Sanborn Building accessed



Photos by Edward Stratton/The Astorian
Kirsten Norgaard has turned The Cellar on 10th wine store in the basement of the Sanborn Building into the new Kit's Apothecary.



Janet Hutchings, center, took over the former Jill McVarish Gallery on 10th Street and turned it into West Coast Artisans, a gallery hosting a collection of local artists.

from 10th Street through a side door and up a hallway named the John Jacob Astor Alley.

“They see a secret, and they’re like, ‘Ooh, what’s this about,’” McVarish said of passersby. “And the building is so compelling.”

McVarish enlisted Chris

Minnick, a local writer who organized the Astoria Freak Show, to market the Secret Gallery and help organize events in the space, such as a vegetarian fundraiser dinner next month for Clatsop Animal Assistance.

All nine suites in the

Sanborn Building are now full, owner Elizabeth Konez said. In addition to the underground and art tenants are long-time Marine Drive staples Himani Indian Cuisine and an accounting firm run by Mike Wallis, who also ran the wine shop.

At the corner entrance on 10th and Marine, Konez is building out the Coffee Underground, a new coffee shop with seating in the underground lobby she hopes of driving more foot traffic downstairs.

“I think just getting them in the door,” she said of marketing the space. “Right now, you walk by. Kit’s got some nice signage, but it’s hard to know what’s downstairs.”

Tug: He was lucky

Continued from Page A1

Tug had been adopted by Paul Turchetta from the animal shelter only a few months before. In the days ahead of the Fourth of July, Tug had ignored the booms and explosions in his Astoria neighborhood, seemingly unfazed.

On the night of the Fourth, Turchetta was downtown with his brother and sister-in-law, Tug in tow. They went to the Riverwalk ahead of a city fireworks show. Just before the fireworks started to go off, Turchetta decided to take Tug back to the car and contemplated just taking him home.

But things did not go according to plan.

The first big firework exploded in the sky as they reached the base of 15th Street.

“He literally looked up at me and he started dragging me up the street,” Turchetta said.

When the next big explosion went off, Tug broke loose. Turchetta fell and Tug raced uphill, his leash snapping behind him.

Turchetta started to follow but was stopped by a car. The driver said he and his girlfriend had seen everything that happened. He told Turchetta to hop in and they would go after Tug.

“My girlfriend is already chasing him,” the man said.

Turchetta looked up 15th Street and distantly saw a woman running full speed straight up the hill.

“Oh, she’s a triathlete,” the man remarked casually.

They searched, but there was no sign of Tug. Turchetta returned home, called the police to let them know about the missing dog and left a message at the shelter.

“It was a restless night,” Turchetta said.

But he didn’t have to wait long the next morning for word of Tug. The police called him at 7 a.m. to let him know Tug had shown up on a family’s front porch.

Tug bounces straight up and down like he’s riding a pogo stick when he first meets you — eyes a little wild and ears flopping. Sweet-tempered, he might still try to use your arm as a chew toy. When Turchetta snaps on his leash, Tug is inclined to grab the leash in his mouth and loll on the ground like a furry toddler.

It was Tug’s eyes that drew Turchetta when he first saw the dog at the shelter: bright, direct, brown and gold. Piercing eyes, Turchetta thought. Those eyes and the fact that “he needed a home.”

With the route Tug took up 15th Street on the Fourth of July, he passed a number of opportunities to disappear: down streets and into the woods. Young, energetic, panicked and with fireworks going off through the late hours of the night, he could have easily kept running.

“He was lucky,” Stephens said of Tug. “He could have been lost for a long time.”

Will Tug ever attend another fireworks display? Turchetta can answer that question without a second’s thought: “Hell no.”

Whales: Entanglements pose problems

Continued from Page A1

The bulk of the whales found tangled in fishing gear on the West Coast are reported off California, but gear from all three states has been implicated.

‘OK to live with’

Pulling gear earlier than usual “is something everybody seems OK to live with,” said Clint Funderburg, vice president and director of the Oregon Coast Crab Association, a group of commercial fishermen that formed this year in response to the debate around crab gear and whales. “It’s something that’s doable.”

Other changes — such as gear modification or further limiting entry into the fishery — could be more contentious, he said.

In September, the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission will hear a regulatory package that includes accountability and informational measures and represents an effort to fill in some gaps.

Along with California and Washington state, Oregon has begun the process of applying for an incidental take permit from the federal government, a lengthy process that, if successful, would allow crab fishermen to lawfully take a small number of endangered whales each year in the course of fishing.

“But the hardest conversation is moving into what we do with our fishery in terms of lines that are in the water and making those count and reducing them where they don’t count,” Caren Braby, a marine resources program manager for the state, told the whale entanglement working group at a meeting last week.

A survey Oregon Sea Grant sent out to the state’s commercial fleet revealed a mix of opinions on management measures. No one action elicited universal support.

“Instead we have a divided fleet,” Braby said during a presentation to the Fish and Wildlife Commission in June. “We have a lot of dissension about what would be effective, what the fleet could live with and how to move forward.”

For Funderburg and other fishermen, even if they

switch between fisheries, crabbing continues to be a major moneymaker.

“Without it we wouldn’t survive,” he said.

“The state’s been good working with fishermen,” Funderburg said. “I think they understand we need to come up with something that keeps us in existence. We’re such an important part of the coastal economies and these small communities.”

Stave off lawsuit

At a meeting in June, Fish and Wildlife Commissioner Bruce Buckmaster, of Astoria, asked if staff was confident the measures they were recommending would stave off a lawsuit similar to what was seen in California. “It does matter that we have this threat of lawsuit, but it doesn’t matter,” Braby replied, “and what we really need to focus on is doing the right thing for the whales and the crab fishery and that will set our course.”

Entanglement numbers for large whales like humpbacks and gray whales skyrocketed for four straight years beginning in 2014. Forty-six whales were confirmed entangled off the Oregon, Washington state and California coasts in 2018, the majority of them humpbacks, according to a federal report released in June.

Of the 46 entanglements, 24 were associated with specific fisheries or gear. Commercial crab fisheries in California and Oregon and commercial and tribal crab fisheries in Washington state accounted for 14 of the entanglement reports.

Last year’s numbers were slightly lower than the historic highs seen in 2015 and 2016, “but still represent a concerning level and a large increase compared to pre-2014 levels when the average was less than 10 confirmed entanglements per year,” the report found.

As of July 16, there have been 10 confirmed reports of entangled whales and two unconfirmed reports, according to preliminary data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Of these, six entanglements were associated with commercial fisheries — four specifically with commercial crabbing.

Researchers and fishery managers are looking at how fishing could be adjusted so

that the most effort is happening at times when there appear to be fewer whales around.

Leigh Torres, a researcher with Oregon State University and a member of the working group, launched a study to answer questions about when whales are off the Oregon Coast, why, what oceanographic conditions may come into play, how many are humpbacks that are part of stocks listed under the Endangered Species Act and, ultimately, how fishermen can avoid whales.

“The ultimate goal is to provide these layers of entanglement risk,” Torres said.

Torres and her team fly on Coast Guard helicopters four times a month, looking for whales. They collect data on where they see whales, but also where they don’t. This summer and next summer, Torres hopes that when they do see whales, they’ll be able to launch boats to take photos to identify individual animals and take tissue samples.

What it all ultimately means for commercial crabbers remains to be seen.

Fishermen don’t like to see whale entanglements, said Tim Novotny, a spokesman for the Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission. Besides, “from a purely business standpoint, it’s not cost-effective.”

Whale entanglement is not something the industry can ignore. If the problem is not addressed and whale entanglement issues continue or worsen, fishermen run the risk of “somebody else telling you how to operate your season,” Novotny said. “Another thing you don’t want.”

The crab commission provided some initial funding for Torres’ study and has kicked in money to help cover the costs of new, double-sided tags for the fleet — examples of the commission “putting its money where its mouth is,” said Hugh Link, the executive director.

“For the crab commission, for the crab fishermen, the thought process has always been: Whatever we can do to take a proactive approach to not entangle whales,” Novotny said, “and to manage the resource as best as we can for what’s good for the ocean, for what’s good for the fishery.”

Follow us on Facebook!

FACEBOOK.COM/DAILYASTORIAN

JOIN OUR TEAM AT THE ASTORIAN!



EXCITING CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Press Person

The newspaper runs on a (3) 4-high tower, single-wide, Tensor/Goss Community press. You will need excellent web press operation skills, CTP experience preferred, must be mechanically inclined and a good communicator. Must be able to lift 50 lbs on a regular basis. Forklift certification preferred experience and education Monday - Friday. Wage DOE. Benefits include Medical insurance package, Paid Time Off (PTO) and 401(k) Pre-employment drug test required

Advertising Territory Representative

Exciting opportunity for a skilled customer service professional with knowledge of the Seaside, Ore. area. Two+ years of customer service experience are required, or a degree in business, marketing or communications, or a combination of like experience and education Generally 8am-5pm and Monday through Friday, weekends off This position comes with generous compensation for someone with the drive and determination to succeed.

Assistant Distribution Supervisor

Duties include using specialized equipment to assemble, label and prepare publications for distribution. Assist the department lead, managing workflow, performing clerical, and supervisory tasks. Must be able to regularly lift 40 lbs Pre-employment drug test required

Customer Service Representative

Resolve customer complaints via phone, in person, email, and mail Inbound and outbound calling (Inside sales) Multitask, Listening Skills, Patience, Positive Attitude, Attention to Detail Full-time position, 40 hours (Mon. - Fri) Medical insurance package, Paid Time Off (PTO) and a 401(k)

To apply to any of these opportunities pick up an application at The Astorian, 949 Exchange St or send resume and letter of interest to e-mail hr@eomediagroup.com

the **Astorian**