

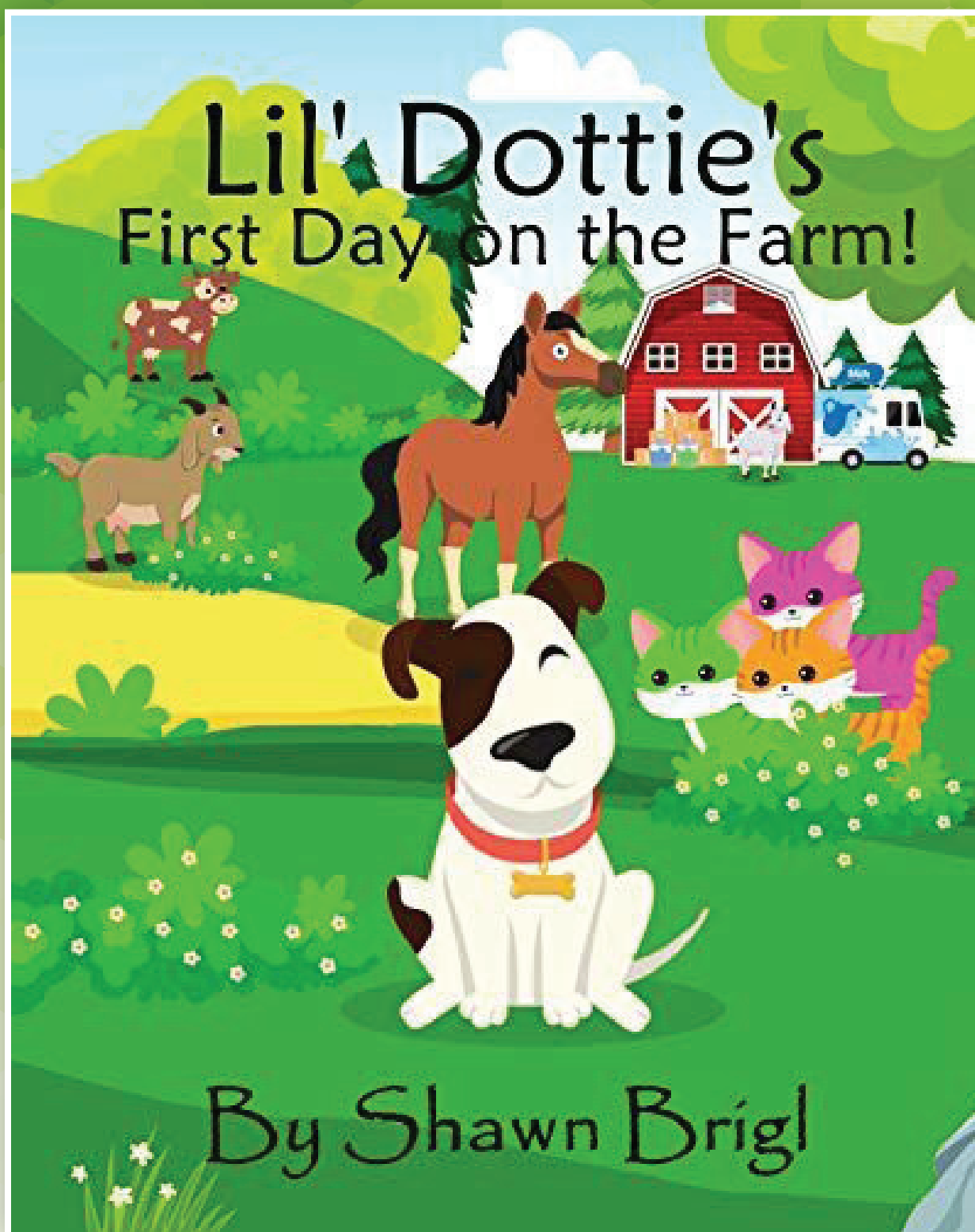
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WEEKEND BREAK



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A COASTAL CHILDREN'S BOOK ADVENTURE



Author Shawn Brigl



Photos by Shawn Brigl

ABOVE: Shawn Brigl's latest book is inspired by her new puppy, 'Dottie.' **LEFT:** Shawn Brigl's latest book is 'Lil' Dottie's First Day on the Farm!'

Nehalem author debuts children's books

By MALLORY GRUBEN
For The Astorian



The covers of two of Shawn Brigl's books hang on a wall.

When it comes to storytelling, Nehalem author Shawn Brigl finds inspiration daily.

Sometimes it's as simple as a silly conversation with her husband while they are out crabbing on the bay. Other times, a story unfolds while she's on the beach looking through tide pools.

Journaling about regular moments helped launch Brigl's side gig as a children's book author. She published her first two books last fall. A third one — inspired by her new puppy — is set to publish in the coming weeks. A digital Kindle version is available to purchase through Amazon.

"(The ideas) just come and I write them down. I have a piece of paper in my drawer with ideas," Brigl said. "It's whatever pops into my mind and I go with it."

One of Brigl's first books, "Little Red Chair and Big Blue Boat's Day on the Bay!," follows a personified chair and boat as they set out on the water to learn how to catch crabs. The story harkens to an experience Brigl, 60, had while crabbing with her husband.

She was sitting on a "little red chair on the bow" of their boat when her husband called out, "Hey little red chair." She responded with, "Yes, big blue boat?"

"We were talking silly like that and I thought, 'That sounds like a great story.' ... I pretty much wrote it sitting on the boat. You fine tune it once you get your notes down," Brigl said.

The idea for her second book, "Let's Go See What Comes from the Sea!," dawned on her while she was walking along the beach with her family finding treasures, such as jellyfish and sea shells.

Brigl's latest book, "Lil' Dottie's First Day on the Farm!," was inspired by one of the two new puppies her family recently adopted.

"We have chickens and horses and cats ... and it just came to me that everything was new to her — and the way she'd

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