

# Coast Guard rescues fishing boats during first week of crab season

The Astorian

During the first week of crab season, U.S. Coast Guard Station Cape Disappointment rescued three commercial fishing vessels off the north Oregon and south Washington state coasts.

The first was a 40-foot vessel that experienced a transmission failure 3 nautical miles off the Gearhart coast on the evening of Dec. 1. The Coast Guard towed the

boat, with its crew of four and 9,000 pounds of crab, back to land, mooring them in the Warrenton area.

The second rescue, on Saturday, involved a 58-footer carrying four crew members and 10,000 pounds of crab. The vessel had stalled 1 nautical mile off Seaside and was towed to the Skipanon Marina.

On Monday morning, 7 nautical miles off Cape Disappointment, a 38-foot ves-

sel, with three people and between 4,000 and 5,000 pounds of crab aboard, became entangled in gear and lost the ability to maneuver. The Coast Guard towed them to a Warrenton site, as well.

No one was injured in the rescues.

Four Coast Guard crews in the Pacific Northwest have been involved in 10 such tows and several escorts since crab season began on Dec. 1.

“The Coast Guard encour-

ages all mariners, especially at the beginning of the Dungeness crab season, before going out, be sure to double-check, triple-check all of your safety gear, (the) mechanical functioning of your vessel, go over safety briefs with crew members, and be sure to communicate with the Coast Guard at the first sign of any trouble or distress,” Petty Officer Michael Clark, of District 13 in Seattle, said.

## Food tax: City will begin to collect the tax in July

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box. They also noted that at least one ballot turned in at a drop box in Seaside was not counted in the election.

Seaside’s drop box was not considered an official drop-off location. The only two measures on the November ballot were the food tax in Cannon Beach and a school bond measure in Knappa. Voters could drop off ballots at only three locations: drop boxes in

Knappa and Cannon Beach and a drop box in front of county offices in Astoria.

Krevanko picked up the ballots dropped at Seaside after the election. She found two ballots for the November election in the box.

Such ballots are given credit as being cast in an election, but they are considered too late to count and are never opened, Krevanko said.

Cannon Beach’s food tax will now move forward. The

5% tax applies to prepared food sold at restaurants and similar businesses. The city will begin to collect the tax in July.

The city will split the tax revenue—an estimated \$1.7 million annually—with the Cannon Beach Rural Fire Protection District. The city will use its portion to help fund the building of a new City Hall and police station, while the fire district plans to use its cut to help fund operations as calls for emer-

gency service rise.

Proponents of the tax championed it as a way to get visitors to pay their share, raising revenue for services and infrastructure that have suffered because of the city’s popularity as a tourist destination. Opponents worried about how the tax could hit businesses still recovering from the coronavirus pandemic. While they supported the fire district, they did not trust the city, they said.

## Schools: ‘We’re having some escalated student behavior’

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dead and several others injured. A 15-year-old student has been charged as an adult with murder and terrorism in the shooting. His parents, who bought their son the gun involved in the crimes as a gift, have been accused of involuntary manslaughter.

In Seaside, a student received screenshots of a conversation and a possible threat to Seaside High School at about 8:40 p.m. on Monday in a message via Instagram, Seaside police said.

Police confirmed an account was created one hour prior to the messages being sent and immediately deleted following the incident.

With the assistance of the FBI, Justin Gagnon, the school resource officer, determined the source of the mes-

sages had no local affiliation to Seaside.

“We would like to thank the student who brought this to our immediate attention, and we continue to encourage others to speak up when they see something out of the ordinary or of immediate concern,” police said in a statement.

Seaside school facilities will have an increased police presence over the next few days as a precaution.

Across the Columbia River in Washington state, a message sent out via the Ilwaco High School Facebook page cited the tragedy in Oxford, as well as a “recent escalation of student violence and misbehavior locally,” and said staff would spend Wednesday “focusing on some needed changes to ensure staff and student

safety at the high school.”

Ocean Beach School District Superintendent Amy Huntley stressed that there are no immediate safety concerns facing the high school or other schools in the district.

“We’re just seeing an escalation of some of the things we’re seeing in society — uncivil behavior, lack of empathy for others — and it’s leading to, I’d say, more egregious bullying,” Huntley said, adding that some of these issues are also being witnessed at other schools but that it’s the most prevalent and concerning at Ilwaco High School.

“Of course we’re having some escalated student behavior and some of those things (at the district’s other schools), but when you walk into classes and you walk through the halls, it feels

like school and it feels like a nice place to be,” Huntley said. “And at the high school, we’re getting to the point where it doesn’t feel like school and it doesn’t feel like a nice place to be — and we want to get back to that.”

While Huntley acknowledged that bullying is always present in school and has been around for generations, she said the level of bullying staff is witnessing on campus this school year is more frequent than in past years, and that the number of instances where a student is “unapologetically mean” is also growing compared to pre-pandemic times.

“(Pre-pandemic), you could deescalate situations and you could build bridges between groups. That’s just not happening right now,” Huntley said.

## Infill: ‘This stain really makes me mad. It is a huge insult to me’

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After the activity on his property, the city reached out to Newton with a stop-work order and requests for storm-water and erosion control plans, but received neither, said Hazelton, who added that a lack of communication from Newton was at the core of the issue.

Newton claims he spoke with the building official and the Public Works Department several times throughout the situation. He feels he was given the wrong direction.

A public hearing on the violation was held in early November before the Planning Commission, where it was decided that Newton

would get 60 days to fix the violation before he could be fined.

Shortly after that decision, heavy rains caused flooding on adjacent properties, which city planning staff attribute to the infill activity.

With fixing the flooding problem is the main concern, Hazelton appealed the Planning Commission’s ruling. It will go before the City Commission on Tuesday.

Hazelton acknowledged that Newton has made an extensive effort to pump water off the property when it rains, but said, “At that point, it’s a reaction to the problem and not a proactive solution.”

Newton believes he is not at fault for the flooding. He

plans to present evidence to the City Commission that the removal — by the city — of a drainage ditch in front of his property was the reason for the significant flooding. He added that his lot was always higher than adjacent properties, not because of the infill.

A developer is planning to haul the fill off his property, he said, and he no longer wants to build housing units there.

Since he received the infill as a gift, Newton is also under scrutiny for accepting it as an elected official. When the City Commission voted on the road reconstruction project, Newton abstained because he owned property along the street and said it would benefit him.

Newton originally said he planned to ask the Oregon Government Ethics Commission to investigate him in order to exonerate himself, but he is now weighing legal advice.

“There are two ways to look at this now,” he said. “One, that I got the benefit of however-many thousands of dollars worth of fill. Or, the other one is, I gave Big River a gift and saved them that much from the cost of hauling it off.”

Newton has not been shy about his frustration with the situation and the prospect of a fine.

“If they fine me, then we go to litigation, I can tell you that’s clear-cut ... This stain really makes me mad. It is a huge insult to me,” he said.

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### Q: A doctor said that nothing is wrong but I am still having problems. Can you take a look at me?

**A:** Absolutely! We would be happy to give you a second opinion. Call to schedule a free consult.



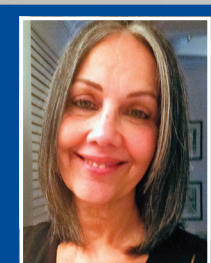
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### Q: Now that I am pregnant, my gums are more sensitive and bleed more easily. Why?

**A:** The body, during pregnancy, is going through many hormonal changes and a common side effect is sensitive or inflamed gums. Meticulous oral hygiene and brushing is very important during this time to keep gums healthy and reduce the chance of infection entering the mother’s bloodstream. Women who take proper oral hygiene measures and have a nutritious diet are more likely to avoid gum problems.



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### Q: How can I make family visits during the holidays less stressful?

- A:** It is common to feel stress during the holidays when we gather with family. Even good stress! Here's some tips:
1. Manage your expectations! Not every holiday has to be perfect.
  2. Deflect/avoid highly charged topics in politics or about past grievances. Let it go!
  3. Focus on staying in the moment with others through acceptance of differences and by listening well.
  4. Modify alcohol and drug use to prevent unhealthy overreactions and feeling unwell
  5. Practice gratitude for surviving the pandemic and being together, reaching out to those who lost loved ones.
  6. Plan breaks when needed by taking a walk, a nap, or limiting your visit time

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