



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

From left: Volunteers Victor Kee and George Stecher, and Clatsop Community Action Food Bank Director Marlin Martin, prepare cuts of elk meat to be ground up and given to families during Thanksgiving.

## Marquis weighs charges against ex-inn operator

Smithart owes the Port and the city

By EDWARD STRATTON  
The Daily Astorian

The Clatsop County District Attorney is considering whether to press charges against Brad Smithart, the heavily indebted former operator of the Astoria Riverwalk Inn.

It has been nearly two months since the Port of Astoria Commission voted to let Astoria Hospitality Ventures, led by Astoria natives William Orr and Chester Trabucco, run the inn for the short-term. Smithart and his company, Hospitality Masters, still owe the city of Astoria \$114,000 and the Port another \$324,000.

The Astoria Police Department recently handed information on Smithart's tab with the city over to District Attorney Josh Marquis' office.

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## Poached game helps feed hungry

### Fish, game provide meals on Thanksgiving

By KYLE SPURR  
The Daily Astorian

Wildlife officials never want to see unlawfully killed game go to waste.

Through an agreement with the Clatsop Community Action Regional Food Bank, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon State Police and local fisheries and hatcheries donate recovered fish, elk and deer.

The meat from illegally killed game will provide meals to hundreds of families in Clatsop County this Thanksgiving.

Since the food bank started accepting wild game in 2011, more than 100,000 pounds of fresh fish and game have been processed.

"It's really invaluable to folks to get this," Marlin Martin, director of the CCA Regional Food Bank, said.

No other food bank in the state accepts and processes fresh meat in-house. Other food banks have to pay to have the meat processed.

A designated kitchen area inside the food bank's distribution center in Warrenton allows volunteers to butcher the donated meat. Wildlife officials dress the meat, and volunteers finish processing it by cutting the meat off the bones. Elk and deer are all ground into hamburger meat.

"If you can eat it, we will butch-



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Volunteer Darlene Webster packages ground-up elk meat.

er it," volunteer Victor Kee said. Last week, Oregon State Police's Fish and Wildlife Division brought in seven unlawfully killed elk. Some were accidentally killed, while others were poached.

The food bank estimates the seven elk will create more than 4,000 meals over Thanksgiving.

"That adds up to a lot of meat," Sgt. Joe Warwick said.

About half of the confiscated meat comes from hunters self-reporting their mistakes, and the other half is from poaching cases, Warwick said.

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Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Cuts of elk meat are piled in a box to go to the meat grinder.

## Pacific County 911 finds 'big' error

Accounting goof results in \$176,115 mistake

By KATHERYN HOUGHTON  
EO Media Group

SOUTH BEND, Wash. — Pacific County Communications made an accounting error that led to spiked costs for local 911 user agencies.

Pacific County's Emergency Management Director Stephanie Fritts had said earlier this month that the error equaled roughly \$165,000. However, on Monday County Administrative Officer and Risk Manager Kathy Spoor said the error totaled \$176,115.

Spoor said the error was identified during the summer and was announced at an administrative board meeting, although she didn't remember exactly who was present.

See ERROR, Page 3A

## In from the bitter cold: warming center reopens

New church location helps shelter Astoria homeless

By ERICK BENDEL  
The Daily Astorian

The temperature in Astoria dropped to 34 degrees Tuesday night, and 19 people, who may otherwise have had to sleep outside, instead slept soundly in a 69-degree shelter: the basement of the First



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Volunteers Steve Swenson, left, and Rory Gerard, center, help check people into the warming center at First United Methodist Church Tuesday.

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### Mimosa Madness

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Friday November 27<sup>th</sup>

"Mimosa Madness" is the name of the event Refreshments vary by location

