



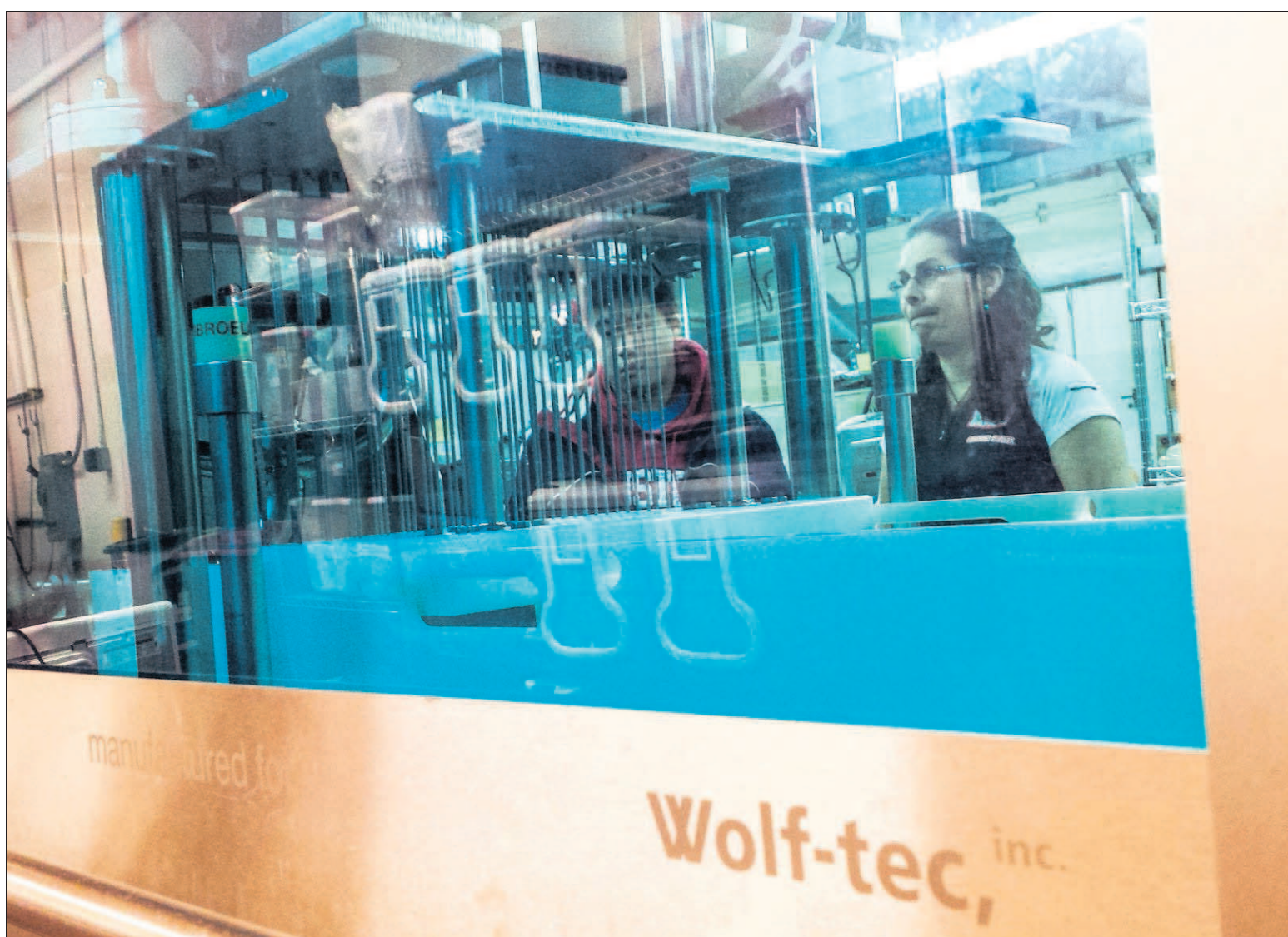
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ONE DOLLAR

Not your mother's fish sticks



Christina Mireles DeWitt, director of the Oregon State University Seafood Research and Education Center for nearly five years, gives a tour of the facility Monday, including a seafood processing lab and a brine injector used in research on the shelf life of products.

Photos by Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian

Food scientists at OSU Seafood Lab focus on production, quality, safety

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

Unknown to many locals, Astoria is home to the only dedicated seafood experiment center on the West Coast.

Oregon State University's Seafood Research and Education Center — the OSU Seafood Lab — is located in a wood-shingled academic hall on Marine Drive. The center, which held an open house Monday, focuses on how to improve the ocean's bounty.

The center is directed by Christina Mireles-DeWitt, a former research assistant at the lab who moved from Oklahoma to take the helm in 2010 as director and a professor of food science and technology. Mireles-DeWitt said there is often the misconception that the lab is involved in live fish, hatchery

See SEAFOOD, Page 10A



The Oregon State University Seafood Research and Education Center leads research into surimi, a gelatinous fish protein processed from inexpensive seafood and used in many different products, most famously imitation crab meat.

'Most people don't understand that we aren't marine biologists. We're food scientists.'

Christina Mireles-DeWitt

director of Oregon State University's Seafood Research and Education Center

Rolling out the green carpet

Cannon Beach OKs Haystack Gardens' fake turf lawn

By ANDREW TONRY
For EO Media Group

CANNON BEACH — Despite initial objections, an artificial turf lawn will be rolled out at Martin Hospitality's Haystack Gardens Retreat Center by May.

The Cannon Beach Design Board unanimously approved a plan for significant outdoor renovation to the event space at 148 E. Gower St., across from City Hall on Thursday.

The approved additions include a new 6-foot wooden fence, stone retaining walls that double as seating, 12 lighting bollards, two covered areas, a swath of additional soft landscaping, and the installation of nearly 6,000 square feet of artificial turf. The inclusion of the artificial lawn was the project's lone point of contention at the meeting.

"I don't think (artificial turf) really belongs in our town," Cannon Beach resident Jan Siebert-Wahrmund said. "It doesn't fit the image of Cannon Beach. We need to seriously look at this."

Dave Norstedt, representing Haystack Gardens, made his case for the artificial surface.

"With our climate here, it's so difficult to maintain that lawn," Norstedt said. "Either way, when you have 200 people out there for an event for four or five hours it's hard to do one the next day, or even the next weekend."

Norstedt said maintenance of the artificial turf would be easier than caring for the lawn.

See TURF, Page 10A

Evidence backlog balloons at OSP

By PARIS ACHEN
Capital Bureau

SALEM — A backlog of untested forensic evidence at Oregon State Police laboratories has ballooned by 90 percent since 2005, fueled by increased demand, inefficient practices and staff shortages and vacancies, according to a Secretary of State's audit.

On average, the agency's Forensics Division takes about twice as long to test forensic evidence than national standards, the audit showed.

"The quality and reliability of forensic testing is extremely important to the criminal justice system," the auditors wrote. "If the best evidence is not submitted in court, the guilty may go unpunished or an innocent person may lose their liberty."

Auditors said the Forensics Division has already taken steps to increase efficiency with technology investments and process changes. They recommended additional strategies to enhance the flow of casework and to eliminate duplication of work. For instance, they recommended more strategic planning such as using data to manage workloads and project needs for additional resources.

See EVIDENCE, Page 10A

Warrenton to buy trucks, police body cameras

Outgoing library board members honored for establishing the library

By ERICK BENDEL
The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — The City Commission unanimously approved three significant expenditures Tuesday evening: a new refuse truck for public works, an aerial ladder truck for the fire department and body and mobile video cameras for the police department.

Police Chief Mathew Workman requested 13 body cameras for himself, the sworn officers and reserve officers, and six mobile video systems for patrol cars. The WatchGuard video equipment will cost \$52,411 of the budgeted \$55,000 for FY2015-16.

Workman said body cameras in law enforcement "cut down on frivolous complaints" and "provide an extra level of video evidence and audio evidence when we're performing



Erick Bengel/The Daily Astorian

From left: Kathleen Merritt, Janet Gannaway and Diane Collier — the outgoing Warrenton Community Library Board members — received a certificate of appreciation from the city of Warrenton Tuesday evening for their instrumental roles in establishing the library.

See WARRENTON, Page 10A

