



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Al Aya looks over equipment in a room on Monday at the Cannon Beach Fire-Rescue Main Station that controls the tsunami warning system.

THE MAN BEHIND THE 'MOO'

Thirty years of tsunami awareness and preparedness in Cannon Beach

By **BRENNA VISSER**
The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH – There was a time when the man behind Cannon Beach’s iconic “mooring” sirens was skeptical about the need for a tsunami warning system.

The system that alerts residents of an impending tsunami threat is about to turn 30 years old. But in 1985, whether those

sirens should exist was up for debate at a Cannon Beach Fire District board meeting.

Al Aya had just retired and moved to Cannon Beach, where an old high school friend convinced him to apply for an opening on the board.

At his first meeting, he voted to redirect funding for the sirens to more “immediately pressing needs.”

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A siren tower sits near the intersection of Washington Street and Ocean Avenue in Cannon Beach.

Erick Bengel
The Daily Astorian



Fatal crash results in manslaughter, DUII charges

Astoria woman was killed in a single-car wreck on Saturday

By **JACK HEFFERNAN**
The Daily Astorian

An Astoria woman was killed in a single-car crash Saturday afternoon on Lief Erikson Drive near the Crest Motel.

Shannon Inniss, 44, was a passenger in a 1989 Ford Bronco driven by Jason Martin, 39, of Astoria, police said. He allegedly drove over an embankment on the northbound side of the highway and struck a tree about 1:50 p.m.

Inniss died at the scene, along with one of two dogs in the car. Martin was taken

to Columbia Memorial Hospital, treated and released.

Martin was then arrested and has been charged with first-degree manslaughter, driving under the influence of intoxicants, reckless driving and first-degree animal abuse. He appeared via video, sitting in a wheelchair, during a Monday court hearing. Circuit Court Judge Dawn McIntosh set bail at \$250,000.

Martin faces up to 23 years in prison if convicted of all the crimes. He is scheduled to be arraigned next week if indicted. He has no previous criminal history in Oregon.



Shannon Inniss

Negligence suit against Columbia Memorial settled

Lawyer says settlement is confidential

By **DERRICK DEPLEDGE**
The Daily Astorian

A medical malpractice lawsuit against Columbia Memorial Hospital and a prominent radiologist has been settled.

John Pierce Christie, who owned the Maltalternative music shop in Astoria, sued the hospital and Dr. William Armington of Pacific Coast Imaging in March for negli-

gence. He alleged the doctor missed signs of a stroke in an MRI and magnetic resonance angiography in August 2016.

The lawsuit originally asked for \$9.4 million in damages. The claim was later revised downward to \$4.6 million. A trial date had been set for January.

“It’s a confidential settlement,” said James Huegli, a Portland attorney who represented Christie.

Penny Cowden, a spokeswoman for the hospital, declined to comment.

“We can’t comment on anything like that,” she said. “We’re bound by patient confidentiality.”



File Photo

John Pierce Christie, center, with his daughter, Heather Christie, and friend Terry Erickson.

Power outage disrupts a blustery afternoon

Thousands were left in the dark

By **JACK HEFFERNAN** and **KATIE FRANKOWICZ**
The Daily Astorian

Thousands of North Coast residents lost power for about 45 minutes Monday afternoon due to a transmission issue in the Lewis and Clark area.

Pacific Power estimated that about 28,000 customers were without electricity after the power went out just before 3:30 p.m. Stormy weather or downed trees likely caused the problem.

The National Weather Ser-

vice had issued a high wind warning for the North Coast. Officials expected winds of up to 45 mph with gusts of up to 75 mph from late Sunday night through 6 p.m. Monday.

During the outage, the Astoria Fire Department responded to the Park Medical office on Exchange Street to assist two people who were stuck in an elevator.

Diane Jackson of Luminari Arts, on Commercial Street in Astoria, waited nearly half an hour before deciding to close the store Monday afternoon.

“No sense sitting around a dark shop,” she said.

In restaurants downtown,

servers sat at tables in the dark or used cameras on their phones to navigate.

At the Astoria Library, employees went through the operations manual in the dark building while patrons milled around in the main room, the only place where the light was murky gray and it was possible to see anything.

Police and fire also responded to numerous reports of downed tree limbs and power lines, sometimes requiring officers to conduct traffic control.

A high wind watch issued this morning warned of similar conditions from 4 p.m. through 4 a.m. Wednesday.



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Customers at the Silver Salmon Grille in Astoria wait for the power to come back on Monday afternoon after a power outage left thousands in the dark.

