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ONE DOLLAR



## Tsunami sirens may go up in Warrenton

A step toward better emergency preparedness

By **KATIE FRANKOWICZ**  
*The Daily Astorian*

WARRENTON — A devastating 2011 earthquake and tsunami in Japan triggered a warning up and down the Oregon Coast. The warning turned out to be unnecessary for the most part, but it marked the moment when a number of people in Astoria and Warrenton found out their cities did not have tsunami warning sirens.

That could change in Warrenton.

The city received six Whelen warning sirens from Clatsop County's Emergency Management Division last year. The county received the decommissioned sirens from a military site in Umatilla County and distributed several to other cities. Warrenton's sirens have been sitting in storage while the city and county identified appropriate sites and applied for grants to fund their installation.

On Tuesday, the Warrenton City Commission approved an agreement with the county for the sirens.

Tiffany Brown, the county's emergency management director, applauded the city for taking additional steps to keep the community safe.

See **SIRENS**, Page 3A

## Columbia Memorial begins raising an endowment

Target is \$5 million

By **EDWARD STRATTON**  
*The Daily Astorian*

The Columbia Memorial Hospital Foundation has launched a capital campaign to create a \$5 million endowment, starting with a pledge from an auxiliary group.

"CMH is 138 years old and we have no endowment," said Penny Cowden, the foundation's executive director. "And that's one thing the CMH foundation wants to fix."

The foundation recently completed a \$3 million capital campaign for the Knight Cancer Collaborative between the hospital and Oregon Health & Science University. After that campaign, the foundation started looking at how it could secure the hospital's financial future, Cowden said.

See **ENDOWMENT**, Page 4A



**Penny Cowden**

## NIGHT WATCH

PROPERTY WATCH PROGRAM HAS UNSEEN IMPACTS DOWNTOWN



Photos by Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

At least two locations in downtown Astoria have fences in place to prevent loitering.

By **JACK HEFFERNAN**  
*The Daily Astorian*

**A**t night, the Columbia River Maritime Museum can become a destination for the homeless. The riverfront location — away, but not too far from downtown — and architecture — exterior covers that offer some shelter from the weather — can be ideal.

"I think they tend to be the areas that provide some sort of shelter, that is out of the way but not too out of the way," Astoria Police Sgt. Andrew Randall said.

The museum was one of the first to sign up a year ago when police rebooted Property Watch, a program allowing officers to supervise specific properties after hours on the owners' behalf.

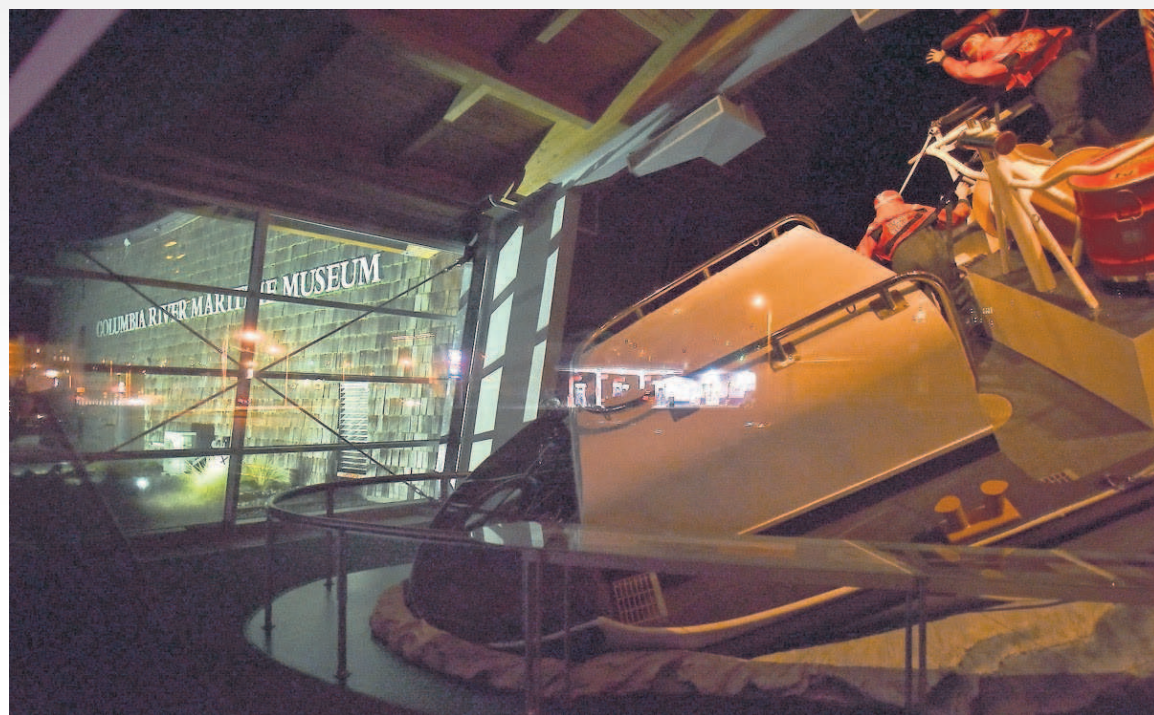
More than 40 businesses have signed on this year,

most of which are located in or near the downtown core. Based on the results in Astoria, the Seaside Police Department is exploring a program of its own.

A one-year contract between Astoria businesses and police allows officers to remove people engaging in disorderly activity or loitering. State law does not allow police to prevent people from using public spaces — including for panhandling, sitting or lying down.

Police ran a similar program in 2015 that covered four rental properties. After it was temporarily discontinued, then-Chief Brad Johnston called for the program to be revisited to address aggressive behavior downtown. It is based on similar programs in Beaverton and Pendleton.

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The Columbia River Maritime Museum was one of the first to participate in the Property Watch program.

## Boat-dismantling facility planned for Ilwaco



Natalie St. John/Chinook Observer

State Commissioner of Public Lands Hilary Franz made a Monday visit to the Port of Ilwaco boatyard.

### Cash salvo boosts industries

By **NATALIE ST. JOHN**  
*Chinook Observer*

ILWACO, Wash. — In June, newly elected Commissioner of Public Lands Hilary Franz promised local leaders she would bring economic opportunities to rural Washington. This week, she came back to Pacific County to deliver the goods.

During an event Monday at the boatyard in the Port of Ilwaco, Franz announced a \$3.5 million package of

state Department of Natural Resources-sponsored projects that could create as many as 64 new jobs and help preserve many more.

The package includes \$950,000 to build a derelict vessel deconstruction and recycling facility at the port, \$1.5 million to help reopen an alder sawmill in Raymond and more than \$1 million for research on how to stop burrowing shrimp from destroying oyster beds.

The projects are part of Franz's "Rural Communities Partnership Initiative," an effort to help leaders in rural areas with economic devel-

opment. The planned projects will be carried out in collaboration with local leaders, other public agencies, and, in some cases, private companies.

In a brief speech, state Sen. Dean Takko, D-Longview, said he was initially skeptical when Franz, who leads the state Department of Natural Resources, promised to help Pacific County.

"I'm sorry to say that," Takko said. "This time, I think we've really got someone who cares about the rural areas."

See **ILWACO**, Page 4A



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