

Warrenton schools to pursue bond

Money to move out of tsunami danger

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — The Warrenton-Hammond School District will ask voters for \$32.4 million in November to buy a master campus and build a new middle school, part of a long-term plan to move all schools out of the tsunami inundation zone.

A facilities committee in January recommended going out for the initial bond to buy a 70- to 80-acre plot of land for a master campus. A sixth-through eighth-grade middle school would be built first to relieve crowding issues from the more than 700 students at Warrenton Grade School, now one of the five most populous campuses in the state with kindergarten-through-eighth grades.

The committee proposed moving Warrenton High School with a bond measure in May 2022 and the rest of the elementary grades and preschool with a May 2032 bond.

"It made sense," Debbie Morrow, chairwoman of the school board, said of a bond measure. "Warrenton is growing."

In order to continue offering a 21st century education, Warrenton needs to improve its facilities, she said.

"Ideally, it would have been wonderful to do one bond and move

See WARRENTON, Page 7A

Cannon Beach might hire emergency manager

By BRENNIA VISSER
The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH — Cannon Beach may hire a full-time emergency manager as soon as July.

The position is part of a larger effort driven by City Manager Bruce St. Denis to restructure the way the city approaches emergency planning.

The city contracts emergency planning to consultant Stacy Burr. But St. Denis told the City Council Tuesday the part-time consulting model is not delivering the results the city needs to be prepared.

"We are not where a lot of people think we are," he said.

After reviewing practices for the past four months, St. Denis is looking to retool the Emergency Management Team, as well as shift more of the focus to recovery plans. The emergency manager would conduct training, follow up with logistics like cache supplies and coordinate preparation policies.

St. Denis said the cost would be about \$40,000 more than what the city is spending on consulting and a part-time emergency management position that was never filled this year.

See MANAGER, Page 7A

USS PORTLAND

New Navy ship arrives



Photos by Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

The USS Portland prepares to dock Thursday at the Port of Astoria. The ship will be commissioned in Portland April 21.

BY THE NUMBERS

USS Portland: San Antonio-class amphibious transport

Displacement	Length	Top speed
25,000 Tons	684 Feet long	22 Nautical mph

3rd Ship with the name "Portland," but the first to be named exclusively for Oregon's largest city.

Amphibious transport cost \$1.6 billion to build

By JACK HEFFERNAN
The Daily Astorian

A new Navy ship that will be commissioned later this month has entered the Columbia River as it preps for the final leg of a journey to its namesake city.

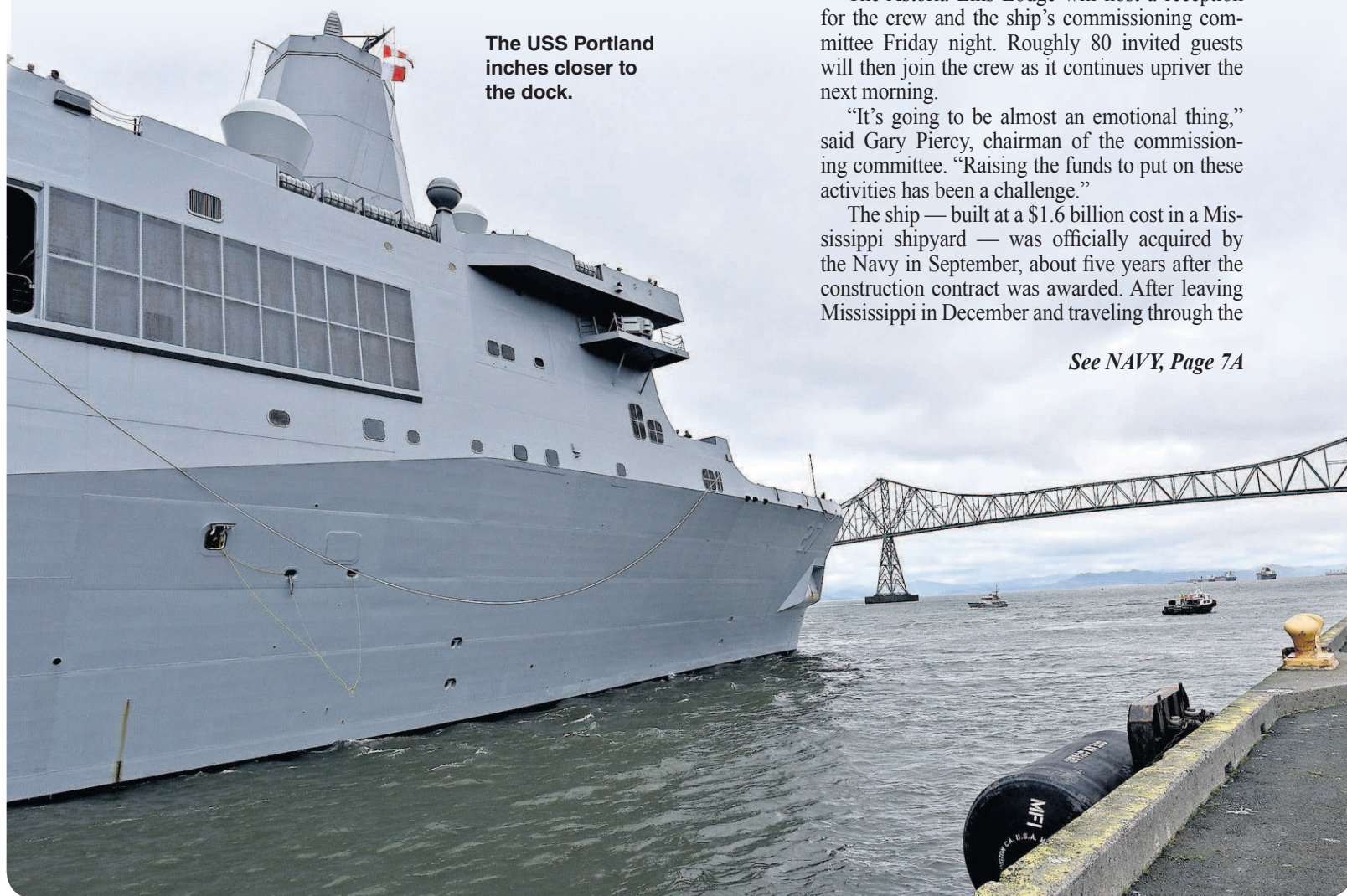
The USS Portland and nearly 400 crew members docked at the Port of Astoria on Thursday afternoon, a day earlier than expected. The ship is scheduled to leave at 9 a.m. Saturday for Portland, where it will be commissioned April 21.

The Astoria Elks Lodge will host a reception for the crew and the ship's commissioning committee Friday night. Roughly 80 invited guests will then join the crew as it continues upriver the next morning.

"It's going to be almost an emotional thing," said Gary Piercy, chairman of the commissioning committee. "Raising the funds to put on these activities has been a challenge."

The ship — built at a \$1.6 billion cost in a Mississippi shipyard — was officially acquired by the Navy in September, about five years after the construction contract was awarded. After leaving Mississippi in December and traveling through the

See NAVY, Page 7A



The USS Portland inches closer to the dock.

Fee increases softened at popular national parks

Lewis and Clark among those to see hikes

By MATTHEW DALY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Interior Department is increasing fees at the most popular national parks to \$35 per vehicle, backing down from an earlier plan that would have forced visitors to pay \$70 per vehicle to visit the Grand Canyon, Yosemite and other iconic parks.

A plan announced Thursday would boost fees at 17 popular parks by \$5, up from the current \$30 but far below the figure the Interior Department proposed last fall.

The plan by Interior Secretary

Ryan Zinke drew widespread opposition from lawmakers and governors of both parties, who said the higher fees could exclude many Americans from enjoying national parks. The agency received more than 109,000 comments on the plan, most of them opposed.

FEE INCREASES

Annual passes to Lewis and Clark National Historical Park will increase in June and again in 2020.

\$20 to \$30 to \$35

Day fees will rise also.

\$5 to \$7 to \$10

Zinke said the fee hikes were needed

See PARKS, Page 7A



AP Photo/Ben Margot

Spectators gaze at El Capitan in Yosemite National Park in California.

