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\$1.50

County emergency manager skeptical of Salvage Chief revival



The Salvage Chief was a naval landing vessel converted to perform marine salvage. It aided nearly 300 vessels.

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State Senate Republicans return to Salem

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Doubts about a state grant

By NICOLE BALES
The Astorian

The Clatsop County emergency manager is “extremely skeptical” of the idea to revive the Salvage Chief for emergency response after a Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake and tsunami.

In an email on Monday, Tiffany Brown alerted county commissioners to a bill in Salem that would provide \$1.9 million to the Salvage Chief Foundation to repair and upgrade the decommissioned World War II-era craft famous for helping stranded vessels like the Exxon Valdez oil tanker.

“There are a lot of things we could spend \$2 million dollars on in Clatsop

County to improve resilience that I could get behind, but the Salvage Chief isn’t one of them,” Brown wrote, reflecting what she said she has heard from others in the community.

The project “might be worthwhile at some point or on some level, but lacks merit in its current state,” she said.

Floyd Holcom, who purchased the Salvage Chief in 2015 and brought it

back to Astoria, is still hopeful the Legislature will approve the money before the session ends.

The vessel could perform several functions in an emergency, from serving as a mobile hospital or communications platform to pulling pieces of the Astoria Bridge or the Lewis and Clark Bridge

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Nurses press hospital over pay

Union claims of hoarding profits

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Astorian

Nurses at Columbia Memorial Hospital petitioned hospital administrators on Thursday to improve their pay, benefits, staffing and professional development, decrying what they describe as hoarding profits for a new campus.

The Oregon Nurses Association, the union that represents more than 120 nurses at the Astoria hospital, are in negotiations with Columbia Memorial to replace a three-year contract that expired at the end of May.

The petition was the latest attempt by the union to draw public attention to the labor dispute. Signs around Astoria for the past several weeks have asked for public support for Columbia Memorial nurses.

Nurses want an across-the-board pay increase of 5% this year and 3% in 2020 and 2021, while the hospital has offered 2% to 3% percent raises, according to the union.

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New testing planned for Cannon Beach ocean waters

Hope is to identify source of bacteria

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Astorian

Cannon Beach is no closer to figuring out why fecal bacteria readings suddenly spike at city outfalls and in ocean waters, but the state hopes a new round of testing could drill down on the details.

The state already tests waters at Cannon Beach regularly under the Oregon Beach Monitoring Program, but the state Department of Environmental Quality has a draft plan to start analyzing for specific types of fecal matter this fall and through next summer whenever fecal bacteria register at higher-than-normal levels.

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Traffic around Wendy’s raises concerns



Nicole Bales/The Astorian

Traffic congestion has been an issue at the new Wendy’s in Warrenton.

A busy intersection in Warrenton

By NICOLE BALES
The Astorian

WARRENTON — Traffic congestion around Wendy’s has raised doubts about whether the city did enough to prepare for the new fast-food restaurant.

Since Wendy’s opened in April, police and city leaders have heard complaints from residents about traf-

fic backups at the already busy Warrenton Highlands retail center.

The city agreed with a traffic study from Wendy’s that determined a new painted intersection on Ensign Lane paid for by the developers would be sufficient. But residents have complained about the design, as well as bad drivers trying to navigate the drive-thru or park near the restaurant.

“It doesn’t have a natural flow to it in the parking lot,” Police Chief Mathew Workman said. “People are getting used to it and they are getting better with it, but because you don’t

have a good flow in there, you have then a poor flow to get out on the road, poor flow to get in, add the road problems to it, and that’s why people are complaining a lot.”

The city is planning to explore options to improve traffic in a region home to big-box stores and national retailers.

“I do not know if that is working or not,” Kevin Cronin, the city’s community development director, said of the painted intersection for Wendy’s. “We

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Folk, a pioneering banker and volunteer, dies at 74



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Cheri Folk, right, awards the Lady Liberty Award to June Spence in 2014. Folk, a pioneering local banker, prolific volunteer and winner of the award in 2012, died Wednesday.

Former president of the Bank of Astoria

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Astorian

Cheri Folk, a pioneer for women in Oregon banking who had an influential role in Astoria as a lender and volunteer, died at home Wednesday at 74 years old.

Folk, originally from Wendell, Idaho, first became a bank teller shortly after graduating from Seaside High School in 1963. After living in California, she returned to the North Coast as a single mother with two children and started a 36-year career with the Bank of Astoria in the early 1970s.

As a loan officer in 1978, Folk gave an 18-year-old Shawn Teevin his first loan to buy a logging truck with his brother and begin building what has become Teevin Brothers Land and Timber Co., a large regional natural resources and transportation company.

“She was like a second mom to me, and very strong,” Teevin said. “Strong and very honest. I learned a lot from her about business skills.”

Folk provided a \$50,000 loan to the Astoria Riverfront Trolley Association to purchase the iconic Old 300. Willis Van Dusen, a former mayor of Astoria, also credited her with securing the financing to clean up

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