

LEARNING WHAT LIES BELOW THE SEA

Maritime museum to debut summer exhibits

BY RAY GARCIA

The Columbia River Maritime Museum has announced its newest exhibits for summer: “Ocean Odyssey” and “Shipwrecks!”

The “Ocean Odyssey” documentary will take viewers on a deep dive into ocean waters, following a migration of hump-back whales as they travel to their feeding grounds. The short feature film premiered at the museum on June 1.

“We’re careful to select films that aren’t playing in the shortened form within a 100-mile radius, so (attendees) can travel to Astoria from Portland or from other local cities with a great option for their families or by themselves,” said Blue Anderson, the museum’s store manager.

For the “Shipwrecks!” exhibit, museum patrons will get to learn local shipwreck history, how people explored those wrecks; and the development of technologies that helps humans better understand the context and impact of shipwrecks.

Curator Jeff Smith said the theme will be a permanent addition to the Columbia River

Maritime Museum. However, the objects and stories in the exhibit will change over time, as the museum gains more information and develops its materials.

“It’s part of our maritime heritage here in the Pacific Northwest,” Smith said. “It’s critical to the story of the Graveyard of the Pacific, which is the mouth of the Columbia River.”

The Graveyard of the Pacific is the name given to the Columbia River Bar area, which some have deemed one of the most dangerous bar crossings in the world. More than 2,000 vessels and ships have sunk there over 200 years, according to the museum.

The exhibits

Gracing the museum’s big screen for the first time, “Ocean Odyssey” will be displayed in the 3D theater.

“The 3D effect gives the viewer a real, up-close look at the vast array of sea life that thrive in our local ocean waters, as well as around the world,” Anderson said.

Apart from taking viewers along a 2,000-mile migration, from the Great Barrier Reef to the feeding grounds in Antarctica,

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Kids look at one of the museum’s exhibits.



An upcoming museum exhibit will include information about local shipwrecks, like the Peter Iredale.




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