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Ready for rescues in any terrain

BY CINDY YINGST
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Getting around town after a major tsunami or earthquake could be all but impossible for residents and rescue personnel.

Imagine a huge wave of water filling in the low pockets of land, leaving some houses on miniature islands with no exit to safety. Perhaps it's easier to imagine after last month's trifecta of rain, high tides, and snowmelt caused wide-scale flooding.

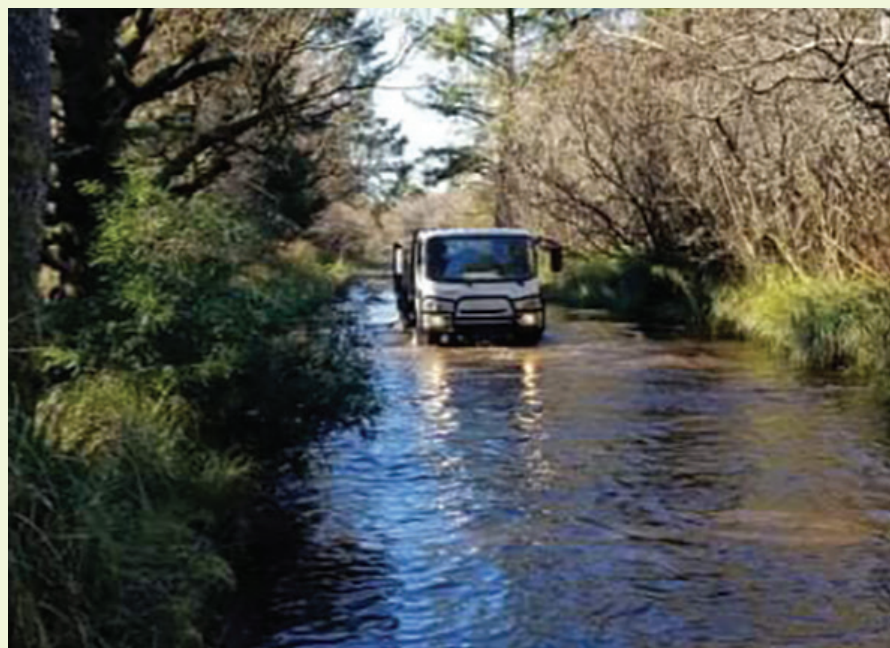
Enter HARV, Warrenton's new High Axle Rescue Vehicle. The city of Warrenton received the vehicle through Oregon's Office of Emergency Management via a preparedness grant.

The city applied for the grant in 2019, hoping to reduce its vulnerability during high-water events and natural disasters.

"It's pretty exciting," Fire Chief Brian Alsbury said. "We were lucky to get it. We'd applied two years ago and were denied at first and then the state realized they'd awarded two vehicles to the same department and that wasn't the intent. We were the next in line."

The state purchased six HARV vehicles and two of them are now in Clatsop County. The second one went to the city

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Warrenton Fire Department's new high-axle rescue vehicle maneuvers through a flooded area of Strawberry Knoll, above, and over a bluff on the beach.

Lenard Hansen
Warrenton Fire Department



The Hoxseys win annual AWACC award

The Columbia Press

Spruce Up Warrenton founders Brenda and Norm Hoxsey won the Richard Ford Distinguished Service Award at the Astoria-Warrenton Area Chamber of Commerce annual banquet on Saturday.

"(It) goes to a couple who understand the true meaning of service," Mayor Henry Balensifer said in announcing the winners. "Our community's own Spruce Up Warrenton committee owes much of its existence and early success to them and their community spirit."

Brenda Hoxsey is a "master organizer of people," Balensifer said. Norm Hoxsey is a "driving force for property cleanups."

Together the couple have rounded up a posse of volunteers responsible for turning blighted areas of downtown into nice places for gathering, eating and shopping. Spruce Up Warrenton has sponsored communi-

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Don Frank Photography

Norm and Brenda Hoxsey received the Ford Award from Warrenton Mayor Henry Balensifer.

Life wasn't easy for Carl Jackson

BY CINDY YINGST
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One of Warrenton's most familiar faces, Carl Armani Jackson, has died of COVID-19.

Jackson, 68, had been living in Warrenton as a homeless person since about 2007. The 6-foot, 1-inch, black man was a downtown presence for many years, sleeping in local parks or churches.

More recently, he'd been staying

at the Alder Creek Village home of LeRoy Dunn, who'd befriended him.

"Carl mostly keeps to himself," wrote Dunn's son, Dennis, in a 2014 profile of Jackson. "He listens to K-Love, a Christian radio station, to keep his thoughts positive. He sits on a park bench to avoid bothering others and goes for long walks."

Jackson had no criminal record

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Courtesy Dennis Dunn

Carl Jackson, right, enjoys coffee with LeRoy Dunn in this 2014 photo.