

Warrenton wrestles with school expansion options

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian



The Warrenton-Hammond School Board talked Tuesday about building a bigger campus. The options included land possibly for sale on Dolphin Avenue that Superintendent Mark Jeffery said he was approached about by owners Warrenton Fiber Company and the Nygaard family his first year in Warrenton.

While every other school district in Clatsop County has shrunk over the past 16 years, Warrenton-Hammond School District grew by 94 students. That, combined with an economic recovery meeting expectations is a reason enough to start looking ahead, Warrenton's Superintendent Mark Jeffery said.

"What I see clearly is that in the next three to five years, we're going to need to grow in our capacity," said Jeffery, who's already buying portable classrooms as a stop-gap measure to house the glut of new students entering Warrenton Grade School.

Jeffery and his school board looked Tuesday at all the options for the future of Warrenton-Hammond's buildings, including land on Dolphin Avenue.

The district, Jeffery said, was approached by Martin Nygaard and Stephen Fulton of Warrenton Fiber Company, offering them about 40 acres of land along Dolphin Avenue in 2011. At the time, Jeffery added, an appraiser for the district valued it at \$1.8 million. But at that time, enrollment was falling, along with the budget.

The school board and Jeffery agreed that it would likely take a bond to build a new campus. Board Chairwoman Debbie Morrow said that at a recent Oregon School Boards Association conference, she heard that a successful bond takes a three- to five-year process. Board member Isaac

Anderson added the district needs to make sure the public support is there if they pursue a bond.

Jeffery said he's planning to have OSBA experts come in and talk to Warrenton about bonding, along with representatives from Seaside, which unsuccessfully floated a \$128 million bond in 2013 to build a new campus outside of the tsunami zone. Morrow added that Warrenton should bring in President Lawrence Galizio from Clatsop Community

College, which successfully passed a bond for the redevelopment of Patriot Hall.

Land to work with

The district owns four separate pieces of property. They include about 34 acres at the site of Warrenton High School, much of it wetlands. The district owns a square block in the middle of Warrenton for WGS. And the district still owns about 8.5 acres in Hammond where a middle school once stood.

Board members and staff used Tuesday as a springboard for ideas, including:

- Anderson, who said a good idea could be to build a new K-12 campus on Dolphin Avenue, demolish WHS and sell the Warrenton Grade School property.
- Morrow, who wondered whether the district could build a kindergarten through third-grade school at the Hammond property.
- WGS principal Tom Rogozinski, who lamented over

the need for more gym space in the face of increasing time requirements for physical education by 2017-18. Rogozinski recommended building a track on the Hammond property. The move would provide space for expansion or a new building at the existing WGS site.

Board member Adam Neahr, who wondered whether the district could still operate in the same schools with a redistribution of grades. Rogozinski said districts of a like-size have run a K-6 split

at an elementary school, with grades 7 through 12 at a high school.

• Board member Kelly Simonsen, who said the district might be able to use the property in Hammond as mitigation for the impacts of expanding at the existing WHS site.

More kids, fewer rooms

School administrators at the meeting Tuesday said they're running out of rooms to put the increasing number of kids in.

"We blocked a hallway, so we could do dental services for kids," Robbie Porter, an assistant principal at WGS, said.

The district's preschool program, Warrenton Prep, she added, most recently filled its enrollment quota within three days.

Marah Bonneau, a kindergarten teacher at WGS, said it's become increasingly difficult to use the library because of all the other school events happening there already. Rogozinski added that office space is at a premium.

The district faces a kindergarten class of more than 110 this year, up from the classes in the 60s when she and Jeffery started three to four years ago. Part of that is because Warrenton and Knappa are the only districts offering full-day kindergarten.

Even as most schools begin to receive funding for full-day kindergarten from the state next year, Jeffery said, Warrenton's still likely to see 80 or more kindergartners a year coming in.

Noniminations sought for environmental award

CANNON BEACH — Nominations are open for the next recipient of the Cannon Beach Gaylord Nelson Award, the person who has contributed the most to preserving the natural environment in Cannon Beach. U.S. Sen. Nelson was the founder of Earth Day.

Nominations should include the person's name and contact information and a brief description of how they have promoted environmental awareness and/or protection. Submit nominations through April 6 in the labeled box in the Cannon Beach City Hall front

office, or at Ecola_watershed@yahoo.com

The 2014 Gaylord Nelson Award winner will be announced at the city's 12 Days of Earth Day potluck, which is taking place at 6 p.m. April 17 at the Cannon Beach Community Center, 207 N. Spruce St. This year's winner will be selected by a committee consisting of the honorees from previous years: Jerome Arnold, Ed Johnson, Jan Siebert-Wahrmund, Tom and Gretel Oxwang, Barbara Linnett, Rich Mays, Melissa Cadwallader, Barb Knop, and Bob Lundy.

Fundraiser for summer camps set

The Astoria Ward of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is having its annual fundraiser Dinner and Auction for Boy Scout and young women's summer camps at 6 p.m. Friday in the cafeteria at Lewis and Clark Elementary School, 92179 Lewis and Clark Road. The public is welcome.

Barbecued pork plus accompaniments will be on the menu, with a \$5 suggested price per person, or \$20 per family donation at the door. One-of-a-kind and handcrafted items and services will be auctioned. The event also features activities for children and family fun.

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Hunters plan cleanup

SVENSEN — The Oregon Hunters Association will hold a garbage pickup at 9 a.m. Saturday in the area of Palmrose Road, which is south of

Koppish Road, off U.S. Highway 30, between Svensen and Knappa. Garbage bags will be available at the intersection of Koppish and Palmrose roads.

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Q: Should I be rinsing my dishes prior to washing them in my dishwasher?

A: NO! Pre-rinsing is neither recommended, nor is it required. The fact of the matter is that modern dish washing detergents do not activate properly without some soft food waste being introduced into the inside of the dishwasher tub during the wash cycle. You will use more hot water pre-rinsing your dishes than your dishwasher uses to wash an entire load... which is usually less than 8-10 gallons per load. You will save money without wasting a valuable water resource, and your dishwasher will perform better, which is what it is designed to do.

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