

# Past: Residents want property protected

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"It's one of the very few areas where there is an uninterrupted view of the river," she said.

Residents of the Columbia House condominiums and preservationists also would like the property protected. Along with its historic significance and views, the nook often attracts waterfowl, particularly in the spring and summer.

"To me, losing that would just be a crime," said Russ Farmer, a school administrative assistant and former co-owner of Bio-Oregon Protein, who lives at Columbia House.

The White Star Cannery, one of the dozens that dotted the river during the city's days as a fish canning hub, burned down in 1973. The old boiler that juts violently out of the water is the last vestige of the ruins.

The property is owned by the Oregon Department of State Lands and leased to Stokeld, whose late husband, Fenton, once wanted to expand on The Ship Inn and build a hotel and marina. The couple's British pub and restaurant opened at the end of Second Street in 1974, a year after the



JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian

**The boiler is all that remains from the White Star Cannery, which burned down in 1973.**

cannery burned, and is up for sale.

The restaurant's dining room and deck have expansive views of the river, and the old boiler has become a draw for both locals and tourists as a remnant of a nostalgic era.

"That boiler is one of the most photographed sites in Astoria by our visitors," said LJ Gunderson, the president of the Historic Landmarks Commission. "And it's one of the last areas like that with any piece out in the water that still is standing."

"So we felt that it would be in the best interest of our efforts to try to preserve that area."

The State Historic Preservation Office will consult with the Department of State Lands about the potential historic designation.

The Historic Landmarks Commission, which has the authority to review its own application, will hold a public hearing to determine whether the property meets the criteria under the development code for historic designation.

Among the factors are historic significance, such as whether the property has the capacity to evoke dominant themes of local history, and symbolic value, including whether the property has come to connote an ideal or period.

If the commission makes the historic designation, the decision can be appealed to the City Council.

A historic designation would not prevent development of the property, but any project would have to pass review by the commission. The potential building height limit would also severely restrict the type of projects possible.

Some preservationists have been critical of the city for not doing more to safeguard Astoria's history, buildings and views during the debate over the Riverfront Vision Plan or the possible expansion of the Astoria Public Library into the old Waldorf Hotel.

Unintentionally was designated for potential development in the Riverfront Vision Plan, so city planners and policymakers have to be mindful before closing off too much property that could be used to preserve a working riverfront or spur economic growth.

"So while you can't designate all sites, this would give you a representation of what the waterfront was," said Rosemary Johnson, a retired city planner who works on special projects and is closely involved with researching the old boiler property.

# Wellville: Original idea behind prize stemmed from XPRIZE

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Steven Blakesley, Clatsop County health promotion specialist, attended the Tampa conference and said about 50 people were in a conference room together and agreed not to pursue the \$5 million prize.

The original idea behind the prize stemmed from XPRIZE, a nonprofit organization that designs public competitions intended to encourage technological development.

HICcup used the XPRIZE format in creating a \$5 million competition, but Blakesley said that did not translate to the health care world.

The Way to Wellville was created by New York City-based venture capitalist Esther Dyson.

"They are coming out of the high-tech investment world, and they tried to apply it to health care," Blakesley said. "We are not creating a product behind closed doors. We need to increase collaboration and work with other counties to find out what everyone is doing."

Brush called the Tampa conference a learning experience for HICcup.

"We think the value is far beyond the \$5 million prize. Ultimately, the health improvement in each of the Wellville Five communities will be worth more than what can be measured in monetary terms," Brush said. "The spirit of this is not about winning prizes. People are doing this for important, noble reasons. They love their communities."

## Price Tag?

Another misunderstanding about The Way to Wellville is the potential cost each of the five communities is expected to incur over the next five years.

On its website, HICcup claims each community will need to raise \$15 to \$50 million on "investments into health care cost reductions and health-production programs." It later backtracks in another section of the website, explaining that the million dollar figures are "simply an illustration, which may give some sense of the magnitude of the initiatives Wellville communities will pursue."

Brush insists there is absolutely no requirement for the communities to raise money.

"HICcup is not charging money. There is no requirement. We are trying to help communities understand how to leverage more investments and partnerships," he said.



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**More than 80 community members met for The Way to Wellville kickoff event at Warren-ton High School Jan. 14.**

*'The spirit of this is not about winning prizes. People are doing this for important, noble reasons.'*

— Rick Brush

CEO of Health Initiative Coordinating Council (HICcup)

Besides the county's time and possible donations from businesses or organizations, Blakesley said, the amount of money spent so far has not been calculated, but is minimal and nowhere near millions of dollars.

Without the \$5 million prize, Brush understands some may wonder what HICcup is now investing in the five-year challenge. Brush could not put a price tag on HICcup's support, but he laid out specific partnerships with investors it will bring to the table.

HICcup recently penned an agreement with IBM, an information technology company, to provide data analysis support to the communities during the five-year challenge.

During the challenge, Clatsop County will use IBM's support to track its improvements in various focus areas including chemical dependency, mental health, access to primary care, employment, obesity and food access and prenatal education and care.

HICcup also partnered with ReThinkHealth.org and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, similar organizations focused on improving healthy living.

In addition, HICcup will provide a navigator in each community. The navigator will be HICcup's local liaison for potential partnerships and investments into the communities.

"There is no predefined path in any of this," Brush said. "It's all about innovation and experiments and failures and learning along the way so others can build upon what we have done."

## Leap of Faith

The Columbia Pacific Coordinated Care Organization (CCO) — established in 2012 to coordinate health services for Oregon Health Plan (CareOregon) members in Clatsop, Columbia, Tillamook and coastal Douglas counties — applied for The Way to Wellville on Clatsop County's behalf.

Debbie Morrow, Columbia Pacific CCO vice chairwoman, said the CCO saw Clatsop County as a good candidate by already having established stakeholders. Brush agrees that Clatsop County showed results in health care and had an entrepreneurial spirit.

When applying, Morrow, who has a background in real estate, thought The Way to Wellville had a great tagline of five communities, five years, \$5 million. The \$5 million prize was, in part, a motivating factor for the CCO.

When that changed at the Tampa meeting, Morrow remembers thinking that is going to be PR issue for HICcup.

The goal now is to show people The Way to Wellville is still worthwhile without the prize, Morrow said, and

the CCO is demonstrating that by staying involved.

CareOregon, a partner of the CCO, will fund three staff positions in Clatsop County to work exclusively on The Way to Wellville. CareOregon also covered the cost of the Tampa trip for Clatsop County.

There are no guarantees for success, but the potential of using global investments to boost healthy living in Clatsop County is an opportunity the community should not pass up, Morrow said.

"It is a leap of faith. I'm realistic enough to get that," Morrow said. "But what we will get in the end is more than \$5 million."

# Quit: First Oregon governor to resign did so in 1877

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The first Oregon governor to resign was LaFayette Grover, who did so in 1877 after the Legislature appointed him to fill a U.S. Senate seat, according to the National Governors Association. George Chamberlain resigned as governor in 1909, after he won a U.S. Senate seat and Frank Benson, who succeeded Chamberlain, resigned in 1910. Benson resigned due to illness, Tymchuk said. Douglas McKay resigned as governor in 1952 to accept President Dwight D. Eisenhower's appointment as U.S. interior secretary.

Oregon is one of seven states that do not have lieutenant governors. If there is a vacancy, the secretary of state is next in line, followed by the state treasurer, Senate president and House speaker. Secretary of State Kate Brown and Treasurer Ted Wheeler are both rumored to be interested in running for governor in 2018.

If the governor were to resign, the secretary of state would only hold the position until the next biennial statewide election.

That means if Kitzhaber were to resign before 2016, Brown would have to decide whether to run in 2016 for the balance of Kitzhaber's term. If the vacancy occurred after January 2017, the secretary of state elected in 2016 would succeed the governor until the Kitzhaber's term ends in

2018. Brown's second term as secretary of state will draw to a close in 2016, and she cannot run for a third consecutive term.

That complicated line of succession might be the last thing legislative leaders want to ponder, as they attempt to remain focused on the work of writing bills and budgets.

"The governor is facing serious challenges and he's hurting," Senate President Peter Courtney, D-Salem, wrote in a statement Thursday. "I want to be fair. I want to be compassionate. I want to do my job the best I can. I will not speculate on his future. As legislators we need to stay focused on providing money for our schools, taking care of our seniors, tending to our state's transportation needs and balancing our budget. We have a lot to do and we need to get it done before July. We can't let anything distract us."

House Speaker Tina Kotek, D-Portland, issued a similar statement and cited a preliminary inquiry into Hayes and Kitzhaber's activities by the Oregon Government Ethics Commission.

"This session is off to a productive start," Kotek wrote. "As the Oregon Government Ethics Commission does its job, we must remain focused on our job as legislators, which is to serve Oregonians by advancing policies that improve people's lives and strengthen our state."

# Port: County hasn't printed voters' pamphlets in special district elections since 1999

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Taylor is chairman of the Clatsop County Democrats, which overwhelmingly passed its own two resolutions in November, one opposing the idea of making Port commissioners appointed, and another to change the five commissioner positions from each being countywide to matching county commissioner districts.

"Initially, I had contact (with) the other group to see if they were open to other ideas," said Taylor, who sent letters to organizers in the other committee tackling an initiative petition.

Taylor still has to set up a new political action committee to support the ballot initiative, filing the paperwork with the Oregon Secretary of State's Office this morning.

The initiative, said Taylor, would solve some of the problems inherent with Port elections, such as an overly costly countywide elections and a lack of accountability of Port commissioners to a specific voting district, while keeping electoral control local and expanding the spectrum of candidates.

Taylor is also hoping to provide voters with more information about candidates.

"This is a secret election,"

said Taylor, commenting on how the county hasn't printed voters' pamphlets in special district elections since 1999. "Most people don't know there's an election until a ballot shows up."

The initial impetus was to move the election of Port commissioners to regular elections, when the county publishes voters' pamphlets, said Taylor. But that would involve legislative change, he added, so the initiative stays with the special district elections in odd years.

Valerie Crafard, interim county clerk, sent out letters to the 39 special districts involved in the May 2015 election, trying to gauge their interest in printing a voters' pamphlet. Crafard said that after Taylor sets up his new political action committee, she'll need to verify his signature sheets. Then the committee can start collecting signatures. The county, she said, would want the signatures, a minimum of 2,101, by March 9 for verification by the county. March 19, she added, would be the deadline to file or withdraw a measure for the election.

For more information on the ballot initiative, how to contribute and how to get involved, visit [www.keepportcontrollocal.com](http://www.keepportcontrollocal.com) or email [ClatsopCitizens-GoodGovernance@gmail.com](mailto:ClatsopCitizens-GoodGovernance@gmail.com)

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### CMH ENT/Cosmetic Surgery Clinic to close Feb. 20, 2015

After two years of dedicated service, Dr. Christopher Nyte will be leaving Astoria and the CMH ENT/Cosmetic Surgery Clinic will be closing.

Dr. Nyte will continue to keep scheduled appointments until Feb. 20, 2015, and will ensure that his patients have alternative options if they have been under his care. Any patients who have seen Dr. Nyte in the CMH ENT/Cosmetic Surgery Clinic in the past 2 years will be able to access their records through the CMH Medical Records department; the phone number is 503-338-7528.

  
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