

# Could Port couple cleanup and boatyard?

By EDWARD STRATTON  
The Daily Astorian

Port of Astoria Executive Director Jim Knight has repeatedly shared his opinion that the boatyard on Pier 3 is not optimally situated, being next to Astoria Forest Products' log yard. During a Wednesday meeting of the Port's ad hoc boatyard committee, a new potential option arose.

"What about the property between Piers 2 and 3?" asked Ed Green, a commercial fisherman and member of the committee.

Green said that by putting the boatyard there, behind the Port's old offices, it would preserve the marine cluster the Port had previously planned, while freeing up Pier 3 for logs. After the comment, Knight brought up Port Permit and Project Coordinator Rob Evert to talk about a potentially related project in the area.

## Petroleum cleanup

For more than a decade, the Port has been working with former oil company tenants, its insurers and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality to clean up soil and groundwater contamination from petroleum hydrocarbons, including gasoline and diesel-range constituents, throughout the Port's central waterfront. One of the main areas of concern is a plume extending under-



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At its Wednesday meeting, the Port of Astoria's ad hoc boatyard committee brought up the idea of putting the yard in between Piers 2 and 3. Port staff talked about the potential for expanding dock space at the foot of Slip 2, which would create more upland for boat storage or another use.

neath the Port's offices and leaking into Slip 2, between Piers 2 and 3, where the DEQ has noted a sheen on the water.

"We're hoping that next week we can start a pilot study," Evert said about a recently DEQ-approved test of in situ (in original place) geochemical stabilization.

The process will involve injecting a permanganate compound that Evert said will hopefully turn the petroleum hydrocarbons into a manganese-based

mineral, basically a rock. He added that if the test is successful, it could prevent the Port from having to dig up or dump any soil to clean up the site.

To help provide another physical barrier between any oil and the river, the Port could extend a dock hundreds of feet north from the foot of Slip 2, build a new bulkhead and create more upland — land that could be used for a boatyard.



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The Port of Astoria still keeps a containment buoy near the southeastern corner of Slip 2, where the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality has noted sheens from existing underground petroleum hydrocarbon contamination.

At its meeting Tuesday, the Port Commission will decide whether to pay for environmental engineering firm Maul Foster Alongi to complete the pilot study, at a price tag of more than \$88,000. Evert said the study would take about 120 days, with an additional 90 to create a report on the study.

"We won't have a record of decision from DEQ until close to the end of this year," he said.

## Building for the future

"If you're going to spend the money for a sheet pile bulkhead, can you create a slip for the boatyard haul out?" asked Greg Morrill, president of Bergerson

Construction and a new member of the boatyard committee.

The Port operates an 88-ton Marine Travelift on the eastern edge of Pier 3, next to the boatyard. Its wheels travel out onto either side of a slip, where boats pull in to be hauled out and washed off in the Port's self-contained wash pad before entering the boatyard.

The boatyard committee discussed the needs of a new and improved boatyard in the long term to draw in regional business, from a public fish hoist to a bigger boat lift.

"I think a 300-ton lift would be minimal," Tim Hill, owner of J&H Boatworks, said, adding that new boats are mostly getting wider.

The Port's Travelift can currently handle a 23-foot-wide boat, Hill said, and J&H can haul out 30-foot-wide vessels with its lift.

Morrill said the closest 300-ton boat lift is in Port Townsend, Wash.; Fred Wahl Marine in Reedsport, is looking at a 500-ton lift; and the Port of Toledo is looking at a 620-ton lift and taking boats up to 40 feet wide, such as king crabbers. His company was contracted to build the pilings in Toledo to accommodate the lift.

Boatyards up the Columbia are drying up, Morrill said, and the remaining yards are tied up serving their own fleets. "The need is there, I think, if it's managed correctly."

## Q Center plans for needs

The next Q Center Steering Committee meeting will be held from 5:30 to 7 p.m. April 23 at Clatsop Community College, Columbia Hall room 219. That is on the second floor at the end of the hall.

The Q Center would serve the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning, intersex and asexual community.

"We believe this a critical time for our community and ask you to join us and share the meeting time and invitation widely with any LGBTQA person,

friends family or ally," said committee member Tessa Scheller.

"We remain partners with The Harbor in working to establish a mini Q center within their new offices in Astoria that are currently under construction. We have applied for a grant to assist us. With the loss of the local PFLAG group, we have a more urgent need for peer support and resources locally and this is an opportunity for us to further determine the level of need and the kind of resources you support and want to see available."

## Food Web has orientation for new volunteers

Are you looking for a new volunteer opportunity? Are you interested in local food? If so, come to the North Coast Food Web's New Volunteer Orientation at 6 p.m. Monday at 577 18th St. in Astoria.

Tasty appetizers will be served, and information about how to get involved with the North Coast Food Web will be offered. Upcoming volunteer

opportunities include cooking classes, the River People Farmers Market, the Mobile Garden Project and serving on a North Coast Food Web committee.

Following the orientation participants will begin planting veggies and herbs in the new garden. For more information contact the Food Web at [info@northcoastfoodweb.org](mailto:info@northcoastfoodweb.org) or 503-680-9953.

## HR group earns high praise

The Lower Columbia Human Resource Management Association recently received the EXCEL Platinum Award from the Society for Human Resource Management for its accomplishments in 2014.

The award is part of the Society's Affiliate Program for Excellence, which aligns individual chapters and councils with its goals.

The award recognizes accomplishments and strategic activities and initiatives that enhance the

human resources profession.

The EXCEL award can be earned at bronze, silver, gold and platinum. Each level has a prescribed set of requirements and accomplishments that have been met. Lower Columbia's chapter will be recognized in the society's publications and conferences; with a certificate of recognition; and with special signage to display at meetings and events.

For more information on the award, visit <http://tinyurl.com/LCHRMAaward>

## Free soil test offered Saturday at Fred Meyer

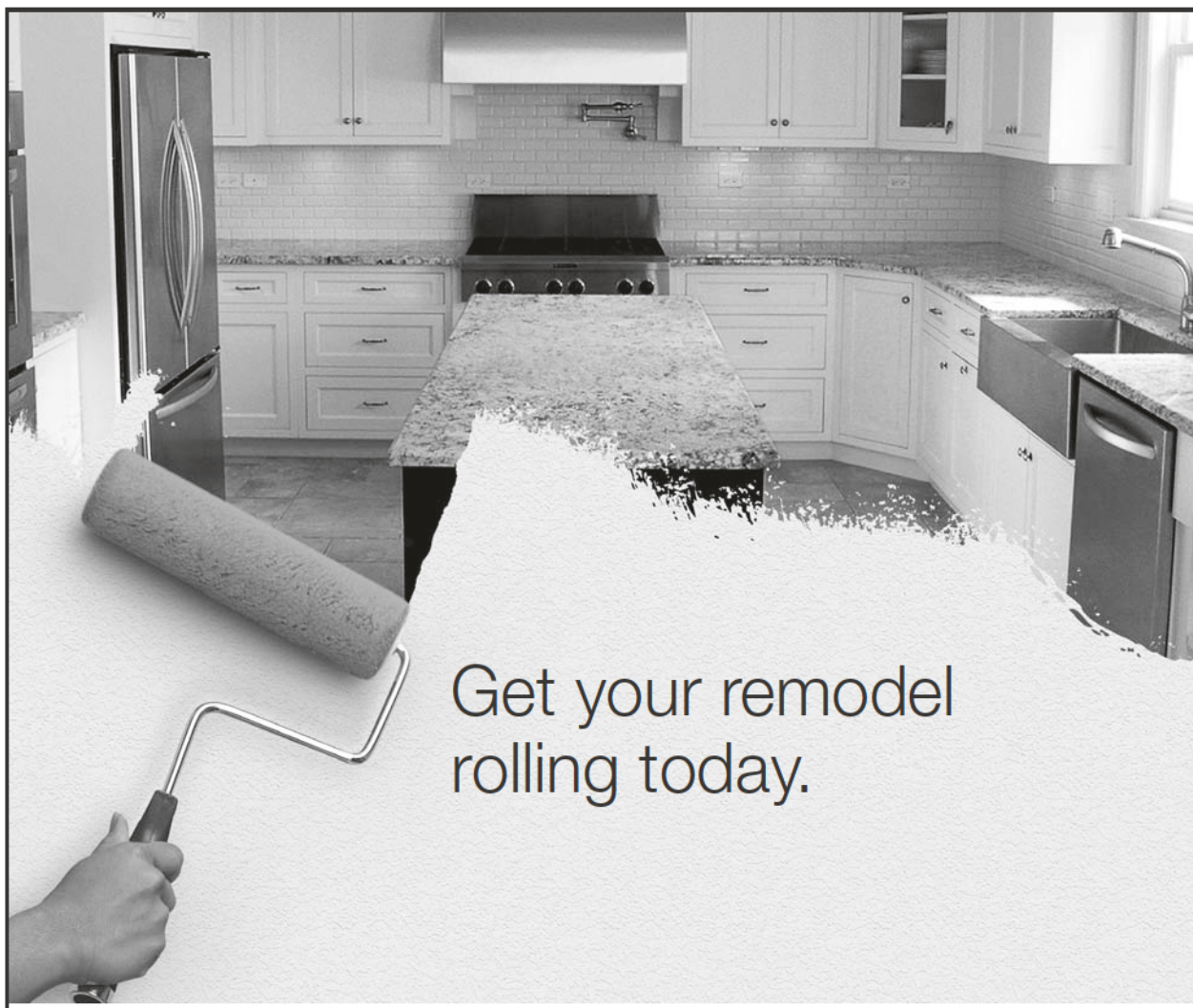
WARRENTON — Clatsop County Master Gardeners are conducting a free Ph Test Soil Clinic from 10 a.m.

to 3 p.m. Saturday at the North Coast Fred Meyer in Warrenton. Proper Ph levels insure the availability of nutrients to

plants. Bring one cup of garden soil placed into a clean glass jar with lid, or double bagged in a ziplock plastic bag, for analy-

sis. Allow one hour for the test.

Directions for obtaining a proper soil sample can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/chksoil>



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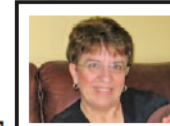
*Barbie is retiring*

BARBIE IS RETIRING

MARCH

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29	30	31				

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Barbie Jenkins has been an optician for the past 20 years here in Astoria. She started her career with Dr. Kumpula in 1994, continued on as it became North Coast Vision Center, and since 2011 has been vital in helping Coastal Eye Care become the thriving clinic it is today! As the practice changed hands several times over the years Barbie has remained the constant force. She has been dedicated to her patients for all this time with her compassionate ways and steadfast service. **Barbie will be greatly missed.**

Come help us celebrate!

Coastal Eye Care 553 18th St., Astoria!