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ONE DOLLAR

Accused murderer Smith is on suicide watch

Jessica Smith is taken to her seat in the Clatsop County Courthouse for a status hearing in May.

Joshua Bessex
The Daily Astorian



Defense lawyers describe 'dire mental state'

By KYLE SPURR
The Daily Astorian

Accused murderer Jessica Smith is on suicide watch

after trying to kill herself in jail following her last court appearance in March.

Smith, whose mental state is a key element in her trial, apparently made a serious suicide attempt by ripping open the veins of one of her wrists, her lawyers reported in a court filing Tuesday.

Court records show Tillamook County Jail staff found Smith March 30 in a pool of her own blood. She was taken to a hospital, where she received medical treatment. When she returned to jail, she tried to tear out her stitches and cause additional injury to her other wrist.

Last week, Smith was transferred back to Clatsop County Jail, where she remains on suicide watch.

Smith, 42, of Vancouver, Washington, is accused of drugging and drowning her toddler and attempting to kill her teenager in a Cannon Beach resort in 2014.

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WARRENTON STUDENTS READY THE 'SALMON CANNON'

Fisheries class has lots of fish ready for the river

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — Clippers in hand, a line of Warrenton High School students spent their last class Monday snatching salmon fingerlings out of plastic buckets and snipping off the adipose fins, the ubiquitous mark of a hatchery-raised fish.

The students, part of Steve Porter's fisheries biology class, are preparing more than 20,000 salmon for release in the Skipanon River starting next month from Warrenton High Fisheries Inc., a nonprofit-funded and mostly student-operated hatchery.

Warrenton's hatchery received 20,000 Chinook, 6,000 coho and 500 steelhead eggs late last year from Big Creek Fish Hatchery near Knappa through the Salmon Trout Enhancement Program. After losing between 3,000 to 4,000 as eggs early on, students are clipping the fins of 500 fish a day, hoping to release them all between community events next month and graduation in June.

Salmon assignment

"If you screw up in this class, things die," said Porter, who puts prospective students through a panel interview and essay the year before they can enter the yearlong program at the Fisheries Research and Rearing Facility.

Porter puts his trust and the operation of the hatchery mostly in the hands of those students, whose assignment is fairly straightforward: Keep the fish alive as they grow from incubating eggs, fries, and finally, fingerlings ready to be released into the wild, where they will face numerous wild and man-made threats during their life's quest to return upstream to spawn.

During the first part of fall semester, before the salmon eggs come from the hatchery, he takes younger students through the biology of salmon and their habitats. Meanwhile, veteran

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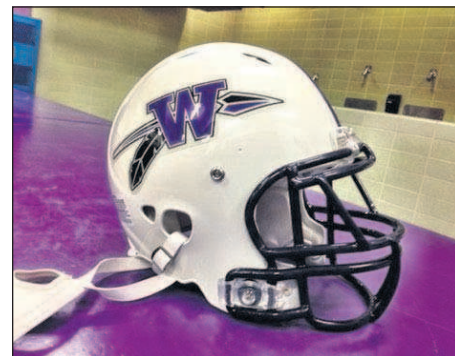
Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Gabe Karr tosses a salmon into a tank after clipping its fin at the Warrenton High School Fisheries Research and Rearing Facility Monday.

'If you screw up in this class, things die.'

Steve Porter

teacher of fisheries biology class who puts prospective students through a panel interview and essay the year before they can enter the yearlong program at the Fisheries Research and Rearing Facility



The Daily Astorian

The Warrenton-Hammond School Board could vote next month on whether to remove Native American imagery entirely from the Warrior mascot or to remove the feather and spear running through the redesigned logo.

Warrior mascot changes, more to come?

Warrenton School Board to vote on Native American images

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — The Warrenton-Hammond School District could remove all Native American imagery from the district's Warrior mascot.

Superintendent Mark Jeffery recommended Tuesday that the school board vote on the issue at next month's meeting.

The move comes in advance of a Native American mascot ban enacted in 2012 by the state Board of Education that becomes effective next calendar year.

The district has already been removing the more offensive imagery on campuses, eliminating a man in a headdress that used to adorn some merchandise and replacing a basketball-dribbling caricature in the Warrenton High School gym with a mural of Clatsop-Nehalem tribal members rowing a canoe on the Columbia River.

Still standing are such relics as Native American-themed pads at Warrenton Grade School, where the mascot is the Braves, and a purple statue in front of the high school comprised of 1,000 fused warriors made by students in the 1970s.

The Board of Education passed an exception to the ban, allowing districts to pursue sponsorship agreements with the nearest federally recognized tribe, which Warrenton had pursued with the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.

But Jeffery said the issue was unsettled at the state level, and that Grand Ronde could cancel a sponsorship agreement with two weeks notice. In February, he recommended the district avoid jumping through the hoops to keep a mascot that some people find offensive, remove Native American imagery entirely and go with the Warriors mascot and purple-and-white color scheme for all schools.

More than a name

But for some people who spoke at Tuesday's board meeting, changing the imagery is not enough.

Theresa Enyart, a former employee of the district for eight years and part Native American, said her family was offended by the mascot when they first moved to Warrenton, which she said should uproot the entire Warrior nickname.

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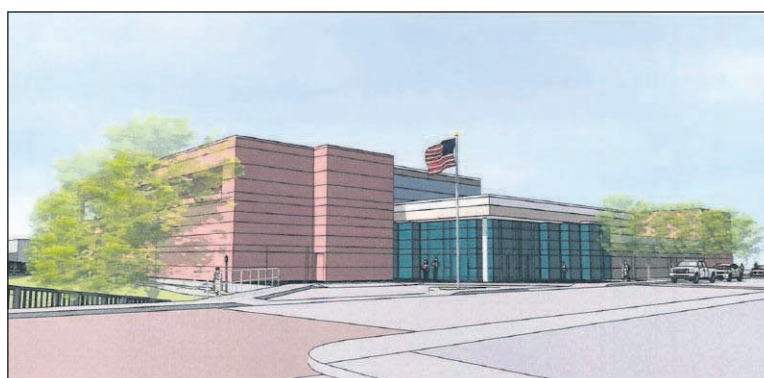
'Tired' convention center seeks upgrades

After 25 years, director says the center must grow to compete

By R.J. MARX
The Daily Astorian

Seaside Civic and Convention Center General Manager Russell Vandenberg went before the Seaside City Council Tuesday to present a nearly \$15 million dollar renovation plan.

Another plan at more than twice the cost fell flat last year after residents and businesses objected to a proposed sales tax to fund its purchase. A sales tax is "off the table," according to Vandenberg, who said



Steele Associates Architects LLC

Proposed renovation plans for the exterior of the Seaside Civic and Convention Center.

funding options would be discussed at future meetings.

The need for a renovation is a result of the center's age and to keep up with the times, he said.

The center, which holds 1,200 people, was built in 1971 and renovated in 1991.

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