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ONE DOLLAR

County looks at moving jail to Warrenton

Study examines taking over youth correctional facility

By JACK HEFFERNAN
The Daily Astorian

Clatsop County may relocate its jail from Astoria to the North Coast Youth Correctional Facility site in Warrenton.

The county Board of Commissioners voted unanimously Wednesday to authorize a \$51,000 study, which will examine how to best relocate the jail if the state closes the youth correctional facility. Gov. Kate Brown's budget for the next biennium calls for the facility's closure, part of a larger effort to address a \$1.7 billion shortfall.

The Oregon Youth Authority reached out to the county earlier this year, indicating the facility likely will be closed, County Manager Cameron

Moore said. Should that happen, the state agency told the county it would like to quickly hand the facility over to another owner.

"In government, sometimes you need to spend money to make smart decisions," Moore said.

The 50-bed youth facility, located near the Clatsop County Sheriff's Office on Southeast 19th Street, houses males ages 14 to 25 years old. Meanwhile, inmates at the 60-bed Clatsop County Jail often are released

early due to overcrowding, meaning they aren't required to post bail even when a criminal court case is pending. The Sheriff's Office has also rented 10 additional beds in Tillamook County, but previous estimates have indicated the county may need up to 200 total beds to solve the issue.

The private firm hired to oversee the study, DLR Group Architects, has already begun to review the updated space needs for a larger jail. Preliminary estimates indicate a potential

jail at the youth facility could hold 72 inmates, Moore said. The structure of the Warrenton facility is also more suitable for potential expansion projects in the future.

The study approved Wednesday will include preliminary diagrams and a deferred maintenance report. Once the research is completed, DLR Group will provide a pre-design cost estimate.

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From farm to wetland, a food web is born

Cowlitz Tribe, BPA partner on tidal project

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

Along Oregon Highway 202, about a mile south of Astoria, is a talon-shaped plot of more than 200 acres bordered by the Youngs and Wallooskee rivers that is still held back by a century-old dike. A former dairy, the land is now veined with tidal inlets, the farm's buildings only left-over concrete foundations.

This summer, the Cowlitz Indian Tribe will complete the Wallooskee-Youngs Confluence Restoration Project, which started in 2013, breaching the dike in five spots near the inlets and reconnecting 193 acres to tidal influence for estuarine salmon and wildlife habitat.

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The 221-acre Wallooskee-Youngs Confluence Restoration Project includes more than 190 acres of former pastures being turned into wetlands for fish and wildlife habitat.

The Daily Astorian/File Photo



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Rudy Salakory, a fish restoration program manager with the Cowlitz Indian Tribe, walks along a levee near the Youngs River during a tour of the Wallooskee-Youngs Confluence Restoration Project.

2013

the year the Wallooskee-Youngs Confluence Restoration Project was started. The project is expected to be finished in the summer.

\$10M

the estimated approximate amount the project will cost, which is being funded by Bonneville Power Administration customers.

193

the number of acres the project will reconnect to tidal influence for estuarine salmon and wildlife habitat.

Port budget to shrink under plan

Total would drop by \$7 million next year

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

The Port of Astoria on Wednesday presented a \$13.6 million proposed budget for the next fiscal year largely driven by attempts to repair the agency's aging infrastructure while being frugal.

The proposed spending plan is a decrease of more than \$7 million from what was adopted for the fiscal year ending in June.

"There were a number of difficult conversations and decisions that took place in order to achieve a balanced and sustainable budget,"

Port Executive Director Jim Knight said in his budget message. "The Port continues to face many financial challenges, including high debt load, aging infrastructure, significant ongoing dredge costs and limited cash reserves."



Jim Knight

Port staff has proposed nearly \$5 million in capital projects over the coming fiscal year. Less than \$1.2 million of the projects are funded out of the agency's budget. The Port has projected nearly \$3.8 million in federal and state grants.

At the Astoria Regional Airport, the Federal Aviation Administration will fund more than \$1.3 million of the nearly \$1.5 million the Port has planned in runway and other work in the coming year.

The Port is planning a \$2 million rehabilitation of the western side of Pier 2, where boats land seafood coming to the agency's processing warehouse, using a \$1.5 million infrastructure grant from the Oregon Department of Transportation, along with a one-third match funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The Port has contracted KPFF Consulting Engineers to create estimates of damaged infrastructure before seeking reimbursement from FEMA. The budget includes more than \$800,000 in projected FEMA funds for projects to repair the Port's marinas and docks damaged in December 2015 storms.

"FEMA has gone through, done their scope of work and they have gave us dollar values for each of their projects," said Port Finance Director Will Isom. "And so those are the minimum amounts that they are saying that we would receive."

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Clatsop County dissolves Arch Cape design panel

Third time commissioners have acted

By JACK HEFFERNAN
The Daily Astorian

Despite significant opposition from Arch Cape residents, Clatsop County has dissolved the community's design review committee for the third time.

The Board of Commissioners approved an ordinance 3-1 Wednesday that nixed the committee. Commissioners previously voted twice to approve

the ordinance, and twice opponents challenged the move through state Land Use Board of Appeals. In the most recent appeal, the state found that the county failed to provide public notice in a newspaper.

The state then sent the decision back to the Board of Commissioners, which held a public hearing earlier this month. Following the contentious public hearing, commissioners called for an emergency vote and decided 4-1 to dissolve the committee once again. But since the emergency vote was not unanimous — Commissioner Kathleen Sullivan voted against it —

the board held another public hearing Wednesday, needing only a simple majority to pass the ordinance.

Sullivan was again the lone commissioner to vote against the ordinance. Commissioner Lisa Clement was absent.

Redundant

County officials have argued the committee is redundant, as no other part of the county has its own design review committee. Instead, residents present proposals directly to the county Planning Department.

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The Daily Astorian/File Photo

County commissioners have voted to dissolve a design review committee in Arch Cape.

