

THE DAILY ASTORIAN

145TH YEAR, NO. 64

DailyAstorian.com

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2017

ONE DOLLAR

County jail could move to Warrenton

Two options range from \$12 million to \$28 million

By JACK HEFFERNAN
The Daily Astorian

Two options are being discussed for an expanded Clatsop County Jail at the site of the shuttered North Coast Youth Correctional Facility in Warrenton.

One plan calls for a simple renovation of the youth facility that would include 140 beds and entail more than \$12 million in construction costs. The other plan is a renovation and an additional structure in the middle of the facility that would house 200 inmates and cost more than \$28 million.

Representatives from DLR Group met with the county Board of Commissioners for a work session

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BY THE NUMBERS

Clatsop County is discussing two options for an expanded county jail at the former North Coast Youth Correctional Facility in Warrenton. The overcrowded county jail in Astoria has 60 beds and requires 29 jail staff.

- **\$12 million/** Modest renovation with 140 beds and 46 jail staff

- **\$28 million/** Larger expansion and redesign with 200 beds and 36 jail staff. Could later expand to 252 beds



NORTH AMERICAN PORCUPINE

These toothy rodents are a rare sight in Clatsop County. They like to gnaw bark and have sharp quills to ward off predators.

Thinkstock.com

HECK GNAW!

PORCUPINES SPOTTED IN CLATSOP COUNTY

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ and BRENNNA VISSER
The Daily Astorian

A Clatsop County timber company saw porcupines for the first time in forestland around the Ecola Creek watershed near Cannon Beach this summer.

Squashed, dead porcupines are a common sight on the side of highways on Washington state's Long Beach Peninsula, and hikers occasionally spot live ones lumbering down trails and logging roads around Willapa Bay.

But they are rare in Clatsop County — even though the same mixed hardwood and coniferous forest habitat the large, stumpy-legged, quill-covered rodents prefer exists here. The Lewis and Clark National Historical Park between Astoria and Warrenton keeps a list of animals spotted in its dense, forested land. Porcupines aren't on it.

But contractors for Greenwood Resources investigating porcupine-related damage to young stands around the Ecola Creek watershed have now trapped 17 porcupines in a 1,500-acre area.

These sightings are the first official reports of porcupines in Clatsop County received by the local Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife office, said Michelle Dennehy, a spokeswoman for the department.

But she doubts the porcupines seen on Greenwood's land are new to the area. Likely, they've been here all along, and the sightings could be a sign that the population is growing.

'A balance'

Depending on where they are, what they're doing and how many of them are around, porcupines are either an exciting wildlife sighting or a threat capable of damaging acres of young, valuable trees.

For Greenwood Resources, a timber company that prides itself on a commitment to responsible stewardship and has been praised for its collaboration with local land conservation groups, it's a little bit of both.

"We want to embrace the critters. This is their home," said Kathryn Olson, an area forester with Greenwood Resources based in Gearhart. "But it's a balance."

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'THE PORCUPINE RANGE HAS BEEN EXPANDING SLOWLY FOR THE LAST 30 YEARS OR SO.'

Michelle Dennehy | spokeswoman for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife



Pacific County Sheriff's Office
Pacific County Sheriff Scott Johnson, right, met with U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions on Sept. 19 in Seattle.

Sheriff bashed, praised for his Sessions meeting

Pacific County's Johnson met with top cop

By AMY NILE
EO Media Group

Pacific County Sheriff Scott Johnson says he went to Seattle to hear U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions lay out federal plans for immigration, drugs and other issues that involve local law enforcement. But that doesn't mean he "drank the Kool-Aid."

Johnson described his meeting last week with the Trump administration official as "an honor and a privilege" on Facebook.

Johnson said Sessions

emphasized the vital roles played by front-line law enforcement on the city, county and state levels. "I felt this was a very productive meeting, and a positive change away from how the past few U.S. AGs have dealt with local law enforcement," Johnson wrote on Facebook.

His post, which included a photo of the sheriff with the nation's top lawman, spurred dozens of comments. A number were enthusiastic about the Johnson-Sessions meeting and Johnson's compliments of the attorney general, while others criticized Johnson for accepting the invitation and appearing to endorse any of Sessions' positions.

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County commissioners put off vacation rental vote



The Daily Astorian

County commissioners are debating new regulations on vacation rentals.

Topic of future work session

By JACK HEFFERNAN
The Daily Astorian

The Clatsop County Board of Commissioners has indefinitely postponed a vote on possible vacation rental regulations.

Commissioners held a public hearing Wednesday on an ordinance that would require property owners to apply for five-year, renewable permits based on safety inspections for an unlimited number of short-term rental properties. At the hearing, commissioners tabled

the discussion in favor of a future work session to learn more about the topic.

"I think that we do need to regulate short-term rentals. However, I do have some questions about the ordinance as it's written," Commissioner Kathleen Sullivan said.

Sullivan's questions included whether or not the five-year requirement is too long or if the ordinance adequately treated short-term rentals as businesses. Other commissioners agreed that they needed more time to discuss the issue before voting on it.

County staff had been discussing the issue since the summer of 2016 and have doc-

umented multiple complaints from renters since then. Commissioners have held two work sessions about the topic this year and were handed a draft of the ordinance in June.

"We've had work sessions and discussions about this, but if we have to go back to it, that's what we'll do," County Manager Cameron Moore said.

Unlike hotels, motels and bed-and-breakfasts, short-term rentals are not regulated by the state to ensure renters' health and safety. Regulations would include requirements for owners to comply with quiet hours,

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