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ONE DOLLAR



Data center pitched for Warrenton



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

A proposed data center in Warrenton would be built near Costco and Walmart by the end of 2020. **More online:** See an aerial view of the project: bit.ly/data-center-site

Cox has local ties

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — An internet entrepreneur wants to build a data center and technology incubator at the North Coast Business Park in Warrenton, a project that could help spark more diversity in the region's economy.

Mark Cox, a former Astoria resident and CEO of Agile Design, will present the project to the Clatsop County Board of Commissioners tonight. The proposed campus, across from Costco on 19th Street, would include a nearly 100,000-square-foot data center, tech-

nology incubation space and other amenities, such as artificial ponds and a running track around the perimeter.

The data center would employ around 76 people, with an average wage of \$75,000, Cox said. He hopes to open the center by the end of 2020.

County commissioners will consider whether to sell a 67-acre lot in the business park for the project. The business park has been slow to take off. Fort George Brewery in Astoria was the first company to show interest in the property when the brewery announced expansion plans in 2016.



Mark Cox

Cox, who lives in Southern Cal-

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D.B. COOPER BUFFS REVEAL CODES BEHIND THEORY

Some believe they know the famous skyjacker's identity

By ERICK BENDEL
The Daily Astorian

The private investigator who dug into Astoria's past while searching for D.B. Cooper's identity has chosen to publicly reveal the codes embedded in letters, allegedly from the skyjacker, that point to his top suspect.

In essence, Thomas Colbert, a sleuth from Ventura County, California, and his "Cold Case Team" are showing their work.

Twice this year, Colbert has argued that typed Cooper letters — one from 1971 copied to four major news outlets, another from 1972 sent to The Oregonian — contain coded scripts that implicate Robert Wesley Rackstraw, an ex-convict and Vietnam paratrooper, as the author. Additional letters attributed to Cooper, which have long been public, also contain intriguing clues.

The evidence, according to Colbert, suggests that Rackstraw is the elusive skydiving thief who, on Nov. 24, 1971, armed with a supposed briefcase bomb, commandeered a Boeing 727 flying from Portland to Seattle, ransomed \$200,000 upon landing, ordered a trip to Mexico, jumped from the plane unseen above the Oregon-Washington border and vanished with the loot.

Ever since The Oregonian letter came to light earlier this summer, media outlets have been clamoring for the Cooper codes, which are copyrighted, so that readers can arrive at their own conclusions.

"We decided, for history's sake, to lay it out," said Colbert, who wrote "The Last Master Outlaw," a 2016 book about his multiyear search for the culprit.

ROBERT W. "D.B.C." RACKSTRAW – PHOTO TIMELINE



Thomas Colbert

Images of Robert Wesley Rackstraw through the years, with D.B. Cooper sketches inserted in the timeline. Rackstraw's late sister, Linda Lee Loduca, supplied Colbert's team with many of these photos.

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Warrenton finalizes \$38.5M bond

Money for a new master campus

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — The Warrenton-Hammond School Board on Tuesday finalized a 31-year, \$38.5 million bond that will go before voters in November.

The money would pay for the purchase of a new master campus, likely on Warrenton Fiber land along Dolphin Avenue, and the construction of a new middle school to relieve overcrowding at Warrenton Grade School.

The bond is part of a longer-term effort to move all the school district's campuses out of the tsunami inundation zone. A facilities committee also recommended a 2022 bond to move the high school to the master campus, and a 2032 bond to move the elementary school.

Mark Jeffery, superintendent in Warrenton, said the bond is warranted because of the school district's need for more space to accommodate growing enrollment, to move students away from tsunami danger and for the increased security of a modern campus.

"I think it's the right thing, and if we don't start now, when?" Jeffery said. "Our challenges aren't going to change."

The bond is expected to raise property taxes by \$2.03 per \$1,000 of assessed value. The overall prop-

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Astoria tackles final leg of riverfront plan

Urban Core would guide downtown

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Daily Astorian

The Astoria Planning Commission on Tuesday night kicked off debate on the Urban Core, the final piece of the Riverfront Vision Plan that will guide future development along the Columbia River.

City leaders expect to spend at least 10 months discussing, debating and fine-tuning a planning document that helps shape land use policy.

Planning commissioners did not make any decisions Tuesday, or even dig too deeply into what kind of things should or shouldn't be allowed to unfold in the Urban Core, a densely developed area downtown that extends from Second Street to 16th Street.

Instead, the session was a chance

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Port, Life Flight reach deal for new hangar

A \$1 million project

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

Life Flight Network will build a new \$1 million hangar and crew quarters in its existing space at the Astoria Regional Airport after agreeing to a long-term lease with the Port of Astoria.

The Port Commission on Tuesday approved a 20-year lease with Life Flight, a helicopter medevac service that has been operating for more than three years out of a trailer and nearby rented hangar space. The lease includes four five-year extension options, locking in Life Flight for up to 40 years.



Life Flight Network

The new hangar at the Astoria Regional Airport will resemble Life Flight Network's location in Pendleton.

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