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ONE DOLLAR

Warrenton still dealing with levee system

City intends to fix encroachments

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — The City Commission plans to develop a new policy to address encroachments on the city's levee system.

A recent inspection of Warrenton's nearly 11 miles of levees revealed several issues. There are moles everywhere and, in several cases, there are structures built into levee slopes.

One example the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has rated as "unacceptable" is a garage built into the levee right of way off Main Avenue near Fourth Street.

If the garage is not addressed, it could jeopardize the levee system's status within the federal Rehabilitation and Inspection Program, which provides rehabilitation assistance.

Mark Kujala, a Clatsop County commissioner and former Warrenton mayor who has been acting as a levee consultant for the city, estimates that most

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Boat ramp complicated by easement

State project hits a snag

By BRENN A VISSER
The Daily Astorian

An easement from a local diking district may complicate the state Department of Fish and Wildlife's plan to build a new boat launch along the Klaskanine River.

The Clatsop County Planning Commission approved a conditional use permit on Tuesday to build what the department calls "a primitive boat ramp" near the intersection of Youngs River and Uno Swensk roads. But Fish and Wildlife must come to an agreement with Diking Improvement Co. No. 9, which has jurisdiction over the land.

The property, which spans about 150 feet of the Klaskanine River, would include a concrete boat ramp, a gravel parking lot that could fit about 10 to 15 vehicles with trailers, and riprap capped with riverbed materials to emulate a natural bank.

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Once a marvel, USS Plainview now a pollution concern



Luke Whittaker/Chinook Observer

The USS Plainview is a concern to the Washington Department of Natural Resources.

Former Navy ship left in the mudflats

By LUKE WHITTAKER
Chinook Observer

HUNGRY HARBOR, Wash. — Less than 2 miles east of the Astoria Bridge, on the mudflats of Hungry Harbor, lays what once was a modern marvel.

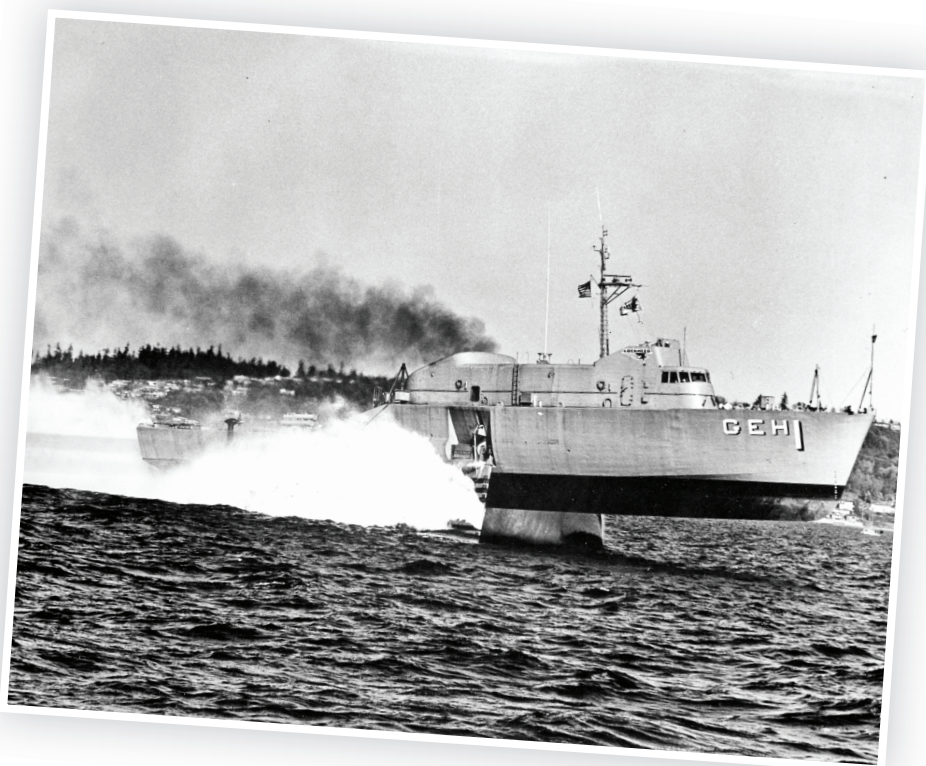
Launched in 1965, the USS Plainview was the Navy's biggest and fastest hydrofoil, a 210-foot, 320-ton prototype built by Lockheed in Seattle. The sleek aluminum vessel was powered by twin turbo fan jet engines, capable of speeds exceeding 50 knots as it rose 10 feet above the water on three struts.

In December 1968, Popular Mechanics dubbed it, "The biggest fastest flying boat yet." Design and construction cost nearly \$21 million, equivalent to more than \$80 million today.

Once considered an answer for Soviet submarine warfare, the Navy's fascination with fast hydrofoil ships was somewhat short-lived. The experimental prototype was abandoned due to cost a few years later.

Now, the Plainview generates agency concern as a possible source of pollution.

In 1978, the ship was decommissioned and sold to a private buyer for \$128,000. Later that year, the



The Plainview lifts its hull from the waters of Puget Sound during tests by Lockheed in Seattle in 1968.

vessel was brought by tug from the Puget Sound to Youngs Bay by Lowell Stambaugh, who purchased it as an investment following a lucrative salmon season.

Stambaugh, with help from his brother, planned to turn the vessel into a processing ship to add to their expanding fleet. He estimated the ship could possibly pack 1 million

pounds or more of frozen fish in a palletized layout. He estimated it would take a \$1 million loan to turn the military vessel into a commercial enterprise.

"My brother and I were ready to renovate it and put it together, but shortly after we bought it interest rates went super high — they exceeded 20 percent," Stambaugh recalled. "It seemed like a bad time to borrow a million dollars, so I didn't."

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Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian

General Manager Janai Hullette-Gromoll cut the ribbon for the Astoria-Warrenton Area Chamber of Commerce on Tuesday for the new Wendy's in Warrenton, which opened today.

Wendy's opens in Warrenton

Fast food on Ensign Lane

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — Wendy's opened to the public this morning.

Restaurant employees and local dignitaries from the Astoria-Warrenton Area Chamber of Commerce cut the ribbon Tuesday on the region's newest fast-food chain.

The franchise along Ensign Lane in the Warrenton Highlands retail center is Steve Harris' 26th.

The building is the eighth of Wendy's Smart 2.0 restaurants, designed for a smaller footprint at 2,400 square feet compared to 3,400 square feet for a usual location, Harris said.

"That's kind of the push behind it," he said.

"We have a single production line here. So we're going to be funneling more of the traffic through one line. It saves us about 50 hours a week in labor. And it's about \$50,000 cheaper to build."

Wendy's has more than 6,500 locations globally. The Warrenton location is the second on the Oregon Coast after Coos Bay.

Harris' company runs 25 other restaurants in the Pacific Northwest. He was attracted to Warrenton by the year-round local population and central location in a large shopping center, he said.

The Warrenton location has so far added 41 employees, Harris said, 38 workers and three managers. Leading them is Janai Hullette-Gromoll, the general manager, who moved from Vancouver, Washington, to run the store.

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