

# USS Plainview: ‘They slowly contaminate the environment’

Continued from Page A1

Stambaugh decided to wait. After waiting nearly a decade, he gave up on refurbishing the vessel.

“By that time, many things had shifted and I decided not to put the boat in service. Instead, I started to scrap it,” he said.

After about a decade on Youngs Bay, the Plainview was towed to Hungry Harbor.

Stambaugh started the scrapping process but estimates that 500,000 pounds of aluminum still remain on the vessel.

The hull, a longtime curiosity for people passing by, has caught the attention of the Washington Department of Natural Resources.

“It does pose a concern,” said Troy Wood, the derelict vessels removal program manager for the department. “A large portion is on state-owned lands. There are contaminants in there, some that we may not even know about. It’s just waiting for the hull to corrode through to be released.”

Lead paint and asbestos were popular materials during the period the boat was built, and can slowly leach into surrounding habitat.

“They slowly contaminate the environment in



Luke Whittaker/Chinook Observer

**Commercial fisherman Lowell Stambaugh purchased the USS Plainview in 1978 with hopes of turning the former Navy vessel into a fish processing and freezer ship. When loan interest rates rose, he decided to scrap the aluminum-laden vessel instead.**

which they’re laying,” Wood explained. “The same contaminants have been found in salmon and orcas after autopsy.”

Removing the colos-

sal vessel, however, would come with a considerable expense.

“It would be extremely expensive, because it’s metal-hulled and military

grade,” Wood said. “There are few places to haul out and deconstruct — perhaps a dry dock in Puget Sound or Portland, but that alone would be expensive to move

a vessel that size that far.”

A vessel deconstruction facility expected to open in Ilwaco in 2020 could be a possible solution. But there are bigger priorities that

pose a greater risk in Pacific County, Wood said, including the Hero on the Palix River in Bay Center and the St. Michele on the Willapa River in South Bend.

# Warrenton: Aging 14-foot levees surrounding the city are critical protections

Continued from Page A1

of the garage is built into the right of way, property that does not belong to the homeowner.

Other encroachments include things like gates, sign posts, boat dock access ramps, water and sewer pipes, utility poles, trees and access roads — not all of which fall into the “unacceptable” category. But the

property, specifically the garage, near Fourth Street has long been an issue.

“And it’s for sale,” Kujala said.

It is up to the homeowner to prove the garage does not impact the levee’s ability to withstand a major flood. Kujala outlined several steps the property owner could take that had been discussed by the inspection team in January.

The last resort would be to remove the structure entirely. But, Kujala noted, none of the options were officially sanctioned by Army Corps representatives at the time.

There is a question of how much involvement the city wants to assume in enforcing the levee right of way, Kujala said. Will the city work with the property owner to find engineering

services, for example?

“Half of me wants to help the homeowner, half of me doesn’t want to assume the liability,” Mayor Henry Balensifer said.

The City Commission asked city staff and attorney Spencer Parsons to develop a draft policy for the commission to discuss at a future meeting.

With around 80 percent of Warrenton located below

high tide, the aging 14-foot levees surrounding the city are critical protections that have been the source of much frustration and anxiety.

City leaders have worked for years to prove the levee system can protect the city from a 100-year flood. If the system were to be accredited by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the properties behind the levees would no longer be consid-

ered to be in the flood plain and residents would see lower flood insurance rates. Accreditation would also lower some restrictions on development.

Kujala hopes to have a final checklist of items that the city needs to address based on the January inspection from the Army Corps later this month. A final inspection report will be issued before September.



30 DAYS ONLY!



SPRING INTO NEW WINDOWS & PATIO DOORS  
WITH **Renewal By Andersen**

**\$350 OFF EVERY WINDOW**  
**\$650 OFF EVERY PATIO DOOR<sup>1</sup>**

PLUS SPECIAL FINANCING

**0% \$0 \$0**

INTEREST MONEY DOWN PAYMENTS<sup>2</sup>

**FOR 12 MONTHS<sup>2</sup>**



This offer only lasts until April 30<sup>th</sup>. Don't hesitate, call now!

**(503) 741-4211**

Check us out online at [RenewalAstoria.com](http://RenewalAstoria.com) for more details.



**Window and Patio Door Replacement Experts**



### READ THE REVIEWS

Don't just take our word for it. Based on over 6,750 projects that have been done in your area, we have earned rave reviews from your neighbors and recognition from key industry organizations.



<sup>1</sup>Offer not available in all areas. Offer ends 4/30/2019. Discount applied by retailer representative at time of contract execution and applies to purchase of 4 or more windows and/or patio doors. Cannot be combined with other offers. <sup>2</sup>0% APR for 12 months financing available to well qualified buyers on approved credit only. Not all customers may qualify. Higher rates apply for customers with lower credit ratings. Financing not valid with other offers or prior purchases. Renewal by Andersen retailers are independently owned and operated retailers, and are neither brokers nor lenders. Any finance terms advertised are estimates only, and all financing is provided by third-party lenders unaffiliated with Renewal by Andersen retailers, under terms and conditions arranged directly between the customer and such lender, all subject to credit requirements. Renewal by Andersen retailers do not assist with, counsel or negotiate financing, other than providing customers an introduction to lenders interested in financing, OR Lic# 198571. WA Lic# RENEWAP877BM. "Renewal by Andersen" and all other marks where denoted are marks of Andersen Corporation. 2019 Andersen Corporation. All rights reserved.