

# Port: Water sports camp recommended

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The ministorage could create more than \$120,000 a year in revenue and easily be moved if necessary for a brick-and-mortar development like the environmental center, Balensifer said.

"We're not talking mega millions, but we're talking quick profits, low infrastructure requirements, low maintenance requirements," he said.

The committee recommended creation of a water sports camp on the East Skipanon Peninsula. Much of the peninsula was once proposed as a golf course and, later, part of a controversial liquefied natural gas terminal.

Knight proposed creating a wetland mitigation bank at the site to provide credits that could be sold to offset regional development. But the land has largely remained an unofficial dumping ground, off-



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**The Port of Astoria's Airport Advisory Committee recommended a food cart pod near the King Avenue entrance to the East Skipanon Peninsula.**

road course and homeless camping area surrounded by dikes that connect Warrenton's trail system.

Warrenton had unrealized plans for windsurfing and kitesurfing platform on the East Skipanon Peninsula near the Premarq Center, Balensifer said.

"In the '90s and early 2000s, windsurfing was very

popular until it all moved to Hood River, where facilities and amenities abound," he said. "There's an opportunity, we think, in bringing that back down here, as well as the philosophy of use it or lose it."

"With natural environs, if you don't use that asset, they get overgrown and then get more difficult to develop in the future."

Much of the peninsula is platted into streets and lots. The Port surrendered a lease at the tip of the peninsula to the Department of State Lands after the dissolution of the proposed LNG terminal.

The committee recommended the Port vacate the plats and partner with the state to ease the regulatory burdens for development, while partnering with Warrenton and the Lower Columbia Tourism Committee to advocate for projects.

A final recommendation called for a food cart pod at the corner of King Ave-

nu and Harbor Drive as an amenity to the water sports village and an incubator for new restaurants. In recent years, several food carts have set up shop around Warrenton on Main Avenue, Dolphin Avenue and at the airport.

Because of wetland issues, "the only type of development that makes sense is mobile food establishments in that area," the committee concluded. "Existing Warrenton establishments that have sought to expand have run into flood code issues for new construction which has effectively halted their growth in place."

All the recommendations the airport committee presented are meant to boost airport revenue in the short term, Balensifer said.

"We weren't looking at anything in the sense of 50 years from now or 30 years from now," he said. "It was five-year windows or less."



Katie Frankowicz/The Astorian

**Marlene Gore, of Astoria, waits to receive a routine cleaning at a free dental clinic at the Astoria Armory on Sunday.**

# Nonprofit: Helps many US veterans

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"There doesn't seem to be quite as much need here as in other areas, but there's always a need," said Randy Meyer, executive director of Caring Hands Worldwide.

The nonprofit provides free dental clinics and mobile offices in rural Oregon and internationally.

The people they serve either don't have dental insurance, lack the money or don't have access to dental work. Trinka Watling, of Astoria, couldn't even remember the last time she had any dental care. The retiree hoped to have a volunteer dentist examine a broken tooth. She suspected she had at least one cavity.

Jilann Haymes, 19, planned to get a basic cleaning.

State Rep. Cedric Hayden, a Roseburg Republican and a co-founder of Caring Hands Worldwide, was on hand as a den-

tist. Four dentists and one hygienist volunteered for the day, all from outside of the area.

In the street clinics Hayden runs in Eugene most Fridays and at clinics like the one in Astoria, he ends up doing dental work for a lot of veterans. Last week, about half the people he saw in Eugene were veterans. Many veterans are not covered for dental work through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

"So that's a population that we really work to serve," he said.

People on Medicaid are another group. They might be eligible for dental coverage, but the paperwork it takes to access services can be daunting.

"These are people who may not have a phone, internet access or even a home," Hayden said.

At the free clinics, he and others address emergency dental needs, but also connect people to services.



Gary Henley/The Astorian

**The Port of Astoria's Airport Advisory Committee recommended a water sports park for kite and windsurfing on the East Skipanon Peninsula.**

# Anderson: 'Education swings on a pendulum'

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to get a teaching job her first year because the state requires teachers to take some Washington-focused courses before becoming certified.

Before being hired to work full time as a kindergarten teacher for Ocean Beach, Anderson worked as a substitute teacher and for Grays Harbor College. She waited to go back to teaching full time until her youngest child was in second grade.

Anderson taught third through sixth grade for Ocean Beach. She taught at the old Hilltop School and Long Beach Elementary. She's taught sixth grade at Hilltop Middle School the last two years. Regardless of what grade she was teaching, Anderson decorated her classroom with brightly colored murals and decorations.

"Her classrooms were always bright, cheerful and messy," said Heidi Clarke, Anderson's daughter. "If a wall was too boring, she would paint a mural on it. She would sing with students; dance, laugh, paint, draw ... whatever it took to reach all her students."

## Family matters

All three of Anderson's children graduated from Ilwaco High School. For a while, the trio also worked for the school district. Clarke was a sixth-grade teacher, son Mike Anderson a track and cross-country coach, and daughter Sarah Taylor a high school counselor.

"Occasionally, I have tried to find her under 'Mom' on the district phone extension list," Taylor said.

All three kids still work in education. Clarke teaches sixth grade in Colorado, Anderson is a college track coach, and Taylor is still counselor at Ilwaco High School.

"It was fun having all my kids working for the school district," Anderson said. "I've got a family of people in schools."

Anderson's husband, Don Anderson, also helps out in the schools.

"It has been really fun to have her and Dad volunteer at track and cross-country meets," Taylor said. "They have been the lead timers for the past 10-plus years. It is fun to work with them in

that capacity."

One of the highlights that came along with her kids working for the school district was that she got to teach in the classroom next to Clarke. The mother-daughter duo had an adjoining door between their classrooms.

"It was really fun because she'd open the door and be like, 'Hey Mom, have you got any construction paper?'" Anderson said. "We started as Mrs. Clarke and Mrs. Anderson but soon the kids started poking their heads in the door too, saying, 'Hey Mom, you got any construction paper?'"

Anderson and Clarke planned their lessons together. They often shared their classrooms and lots of laughter with each other and the kids, Clarke said.

"The years I got to work with my Mom were the best years I've had as an educator," Clarke said. "We got to travel to conferences, go on field trips, giggle through staff meetings. She was my best friend, colleague, and mom. I couldn't have asked for a happier time in my life."

## Making memories

Anderson has many fun and colorful stories about her students and co-workers.

When Clarke was still in elementary school, Anderson taught her students a lesson about discrimination after telling them about the civil rights movement and Martin Luther King Jr.

"The kids in that third-grade class were so appalled at some of the pre-civil rights things happening in the South," Anderson said.

So, Anderson told the kids only students with blue eyes could get water from the water fountain.

"I thought it was just going to be a little lesson in discrimination," Anderson said. "The next thing I knew, and my daughter was one of the instigators, the kids had big signs on rulers and they had a protest march. They sat in front of the principal's office."

Another standout memory was a fifth-grade field trip to the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry.

"It was destined to go down as the worst field trip of all time," Anderson said.

The kids were supposed to take a ride on jet boats. Once everyone arrived, they

learned the jet boats had been stolen overnight. The kids were able to still go on jet boats, but the trip was shorter and the boats smaller.

"We had three busloads of kids waiting for a jet boat ride," Anderson said.

Then, on the way home, the Astoria Bridge was closed because an accident.

"We couldn't get home. When they said the bridge was closed, we laughed. We thought they were kidding," Anderson said. "Then it was like, 'Oh, no.' We had no idea how long it would be closed and whether we should go back to Longview."

The kids were taken to Tapiola Park to hang out until the bridge reopened. While there, the bathrooms clogged up and a student fell out of a tree. Not to mention, there were 100 hungry fifth graders.

After a generous pizza purchase by some moms, and hours at the park, the group finally got home around 10 p.m.

"That was one of those field trips I vowed never to do again but we still go to OMSI," Anderson said. "I'm always real nervous about the bridge."

## Changing education

"Education swings on a pendulum," Anderson said. "Something comes in and then it moves something else out."

Education has changed a lot over the years, creating more stress for students, Anderson said. Despite the changes and challenges educators face, Anderson said she's a "real believer" in education.

"We have a good program here. We've had school improvement over the years and it's really helped our educators," Anderson said. "People here are really hard working."

Anderson's worked under at least 12 superintendents during her time at Ocean Beach. The school district has also gone through many different reconfigurations.

Anderson said now feels like a good time to retire, especially with the district's upcoming reconfiguration.

"I feel like now's the time for young people to come in," Anderson said. "Another big change is coming to the district with the reconfiguration. They need some fresh ideas and energy."

# Elk: Relocated animals were tagged

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"It's a huge endeavor, I'm not going to lie," said Sgt. Joe Warwick, of Oregon State Police's Fish and Wildlife Division.

The Hammond elk posed an immediate safety issue and responders faced two options: dart her and attempt to relocate her with the calf, or euthanize her, "which none of us want to do, especially when there's basically a newborn laying in the grass," Warwick said.

Herman Biederbeck, a state wildlife biologist based in Tillamook, has been directed to develop a short guidance document for state wildlife staff. He expects situations like the Hammond elk to happen again given the history of interactions.

They dealt with a similar situation in Gearhart two years ago, he said.

State troopers would normally be the ones to euthanize an animal. When it comes to darting and relocation, they turn to state Department of Fish and Wildlife staff. However, the closest field offices are at Jewell Meadows and in Tillamook, and not every staff member is authorized to dart elk.

Warrenton and Gearhart are struggling with what

appears to be a growing elk population in increasingly urban areas. The cities, along with private and public property owners and other stakeholders, hope to develop a suite of options with the help of Oregon Solutions, an organization based out of Portland State University's National Policy Consensus Center.

Gov. Kate Brown gave the project her approval in April and the Clatsop Plains Elk Collaborative held its first meeting the day before the aggressive elk showed up in Hammond in May.

For Warrenton Mayor Henry Balensifer, one of the co-facilitators of the collaborative, the incident doesn't change the group's overall goal.

"We're going through this process to create a toolkit so we can have something to enact as a policy that's acceptable to everyone at the table," he said.

In the past, people have asked the state if it is possible to reduce herds by simply relocating elk.

But relocation was not a solution the state was interested in considering, a position unlikely to change now.

Instead, the guidance document from Biederbeck will focus on how wildlife employees respond to iso-

lated emergency situations like the one in Hammond. He expects it will end up being part of the elk management plan developed with Oregon Solutions.

"What we hope to do with this guidance document is just to identify some general areas where elk can be relocated in these crisis situations," Biederbeck said. "I wouldn't see us identifying a bunch of sites for translocations of large groups of animals."

"I just don't think that's going to be in the cards, but we're going to have to sort that all out."

Wildlife agents clipped ear tags on the elk from Hammond. The elk relocated from Gearhart a few years ago was also tagged before it was released.

"So we can tell right away if this animal that we translocated up the Coast Range is right back into trouble again or not," Biederbeck said.

It is possible the state may put radio collars on darted animals in the future.

"Just to see where they move to or how long it takes for them to find people again," Biederbeck said. "It's a way to just evaluate if this is an effective strategy to deal with these kinds of situations."

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