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Photo by Patrick Mulvihill

PORT CREWS from Peterson Bros. Construction pour a concrete retaining wall Thursday afternoon at the northern end of the Nichols Basin on the Hood River waterfront, part of the Port's Nichols Basin West Edge trail project. The Port also started pouring concrete for a sidewalk portion of the trail on Monday.

Gap looms in Port project

By PATRICK MULVIHILL News staff writer

The Port of Hood River's dream of a seamless pedestrian path connecting the entire waterfront has hit a major hurdle a legal gap severs the Port's and Naito Development LLC's respective trail plans.

The Port discovered in mid-February that its Nichols Basin West Edge trail plans didn't match those of Naito Development, which is planning to build a hotel on the south end of the Nichols Boat Basin. Between the two properties is a 7-foot height differential neither parties accounted for, a slope too steep for the envisioned paved trail which would lead to a sidewalk on Naito's property.

If the Port and Naito don't reach an agreement, their respective properties will cut off north and south of the incline, leaving the gap as a steep gravel driveway.

Port Executive Director Michael McElwee said the trail connection issue has

velopment is already planning construction on its hotel area as early as next

The Port is already deeply embroiled in construction at the Nichols Basin, further north. Over the last month, port crews constructed seawalls at the northern beach area of the project, and have been filling them with concrete over the last two weeks.

The trail connection complication to the south could freeze the Port's construction plans in the upcoming months.

"It will affect construction of the road south end," said McElwee.

Sixty feet separate the end of the Port's property from Naito's — a stone's throw geographically, but a chasm legally and financially.

McElwee described the gap area as "complex" due to its cluster of "oddly shaped property lines." The proposed West Edge trail is bordered by easements

"come to a head," considering Naito De- allocated to Doug Hattenhauer, owner of the adjacent Riverfront 76 gas station, and the Oregon Department of Transportation, which protects a portion of the riparian area. Thus, any adjustments would require new permitting and potentially expensive construction.

The Port is poised to receive roughly \$600,000 in state grant funding for the project. However, that doesn't account for new costs required to connect the trail gap, said McElwee.

At a Port Commission meeting Tuesday, members of the Hood River Valley Residents Committee, a local land use watchdog group, urged the port to connect the trail gap as soon as possible.

'There will never be a cheaper or easier time to complete trail construction," said Heather Staten, executive director of the committee. Staten said the current plan for a grav-

el gap, and its heavy incline, would be an ADA accessibility obstacle.

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Kidnap-rape suspect dies

Fellow inmate at NORCOR facility finds Michael Linden dead

By PATRICK MULVIHILL

A Hood River man accused of eight separate felonies including kidnap and rape was found dead at Northern Oregon Region Corrections Facility in The Dalles Wednesday morning.

Michael Scott Linden, 52, who was charged with eight separate felonies including burglary, kidnapping, rape, sodomy, sexual abuse, assault, strangulation and unlawful use of weapon, was found dead at NORCOR at about 10:58 a.m. Wednesday, April 22.

According to NORCOR director Jim Weed, officials were tipped off to Linden's death by an inmate. "We were notified by an inmate who came to us and

said 'hey, we got trouble,'" said Weed. Weed said the cause of death is pending investigation by Wasco County Sheriff's office and The Dalles Police Department.

Linden was booked in NORCOR Michael Scott Wednesday, April 15 and arraigned at the Hood River County Courthouse the next day. At a follow-up appearance before Judge Karen Ostrye on Monday, April 20,

his next appearance was set for May 6. Linden was facing more than 40 years in prison if convicted of the most severe charges levied against

him. His bail was set at \$100,000. A reported friend of Linden's, who requested not to be named, said he found posts on Linden's Facebook page yesterday that read "R.I.P. Scott Linden"

and "peace and strength to you, old friend." The friend said he had mostly lost contact with Linden over the last 20 years, but was close with him in the 1970s and 1980s, when the two attended high school in the Santa Barbara area of Southern Cali-

"He's a good person ... I'm sorry that whatever happened did," said the friend.

Council talks train safety on Monday

Train safety, affordable housing, and parking are ongoing issues Hood River City Council will deal with Monday in its regular meeting, 6 p.m. at City

Planning director Cindy Walbridge will give an up-

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BY TRISHA WALKER News staff writer

Tyson Miller, 16, Hood River Valley High School sophomore, has been busy the past few weeks, helping get ready for the school's 8th Annual FFA Steak Feed and Silent Auc-

tion fundraiser, held today (April 25) in the HRVHS cafeteria and Commons beginning at 6 p.m.

A second-year member of FFA (or Future Farmers of America), Miller said that although the Steak Feed is a one-night affair, it takes students all year to plan: they are in charge of organizing

8th Annual FFA Steak **Feed and Silent Auction** will be held April 25 beginning at 6 p.m. at the HRVHS cafeteria and Commons, 1220 Indian Creek Road, Hood River. Tickets are \$10 and are available at the door.

the event and gathering all of the donations (and, in some cases, crafting or bringing in items themselves), as well as setting up beforehand and cleaning up when it's over. During the event itself, you'll find members welcoming guests, serving food and drinks, and

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Four To Go

Shred Day is April 25

Cascade Central Credit Union, located at 1206 12th Street, on the Heights in Hood River, is holding their annual Community Shred Day event from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on April 25. There is a three box limit, and while there is no charge for the service, donations will be accepted in support of the CCCU scholarship fund.



Helping Hands position opens

Helping Hands Against Violence has a new volunteer position open at the shelter for the summer months and beyond — staff is hoping volunteers will become long-term. Volunteers must have the desire to work with children of all ages and will work with Child Development coordinator to develop activities and take children on local field trips. Must pass background check and sign confidentiality agreement. More info at jayce@helpinghandsoregon.org.

Tutu Trot returns May 9

Be sure to wear a tutu for Lila May's second annual Tutu Trot, scheduled for May 9 at the Mark O. Hatfield Twin Tunnels Trail beginning at 9 a.m.

Walkers and runners can participate in a 3K, 5K, 10K or stroller walk at \$20 per entry. Kid race for those 12 and under. Fun, music and

medals provided for each participant. Lila May is a local four year old who is battling neuroblastoma. She was diagnosed in September 2012 and is currently being treated with radiation at OHSU and by specialists in New York. To donate or for more information, email dtjennybrown@gmail.com or visit www.lilamaytututrot.com.

Work party at Care Center

The community is invited to join Hood River Care Center residents, staff and friends to help beautify the grounds April 25, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Lunch and refreshments will be provided. Donations of flowers, plants, flower pots, dirt, fertilizer, seeds, bulbs, bird and squirrel feeders, tools, watering cans and outdoor furniture will be accepted, as well as donations of time.

For more information contact Christine Shannon at 541-386-2688 ext. 4621.