

## City hopes study will solve low-cost housing crunch

*The Columbia Press*

The city will join a countywide housing study, contributing \$10,000 for information it hopes will bring information toward building better communities.

“Warrenton is the fastest growing city in the county and likely to be where the majority of housing growth will take place,” City Manager Linda Engbretson told the City Commission Tuesday night. “We feel we can get some value out of this for \$10,000, especially considering our small staff.”

The idea for a countywide study came up in a May meeting that brought together county and city leaders for a discussion on joint issues. Lack of affordable housing was chief among them.

County Manager Cameron Moore had an agreement drawn up that has the county paying \$50,000 and the cities of Warrenton, Astoria, Seaside, Gearhart and Cannon Beach each paying \$10,000.

Once approved by all entities, the county will issue a request for proposals from qualified companies to conduct the study. Tillamook County did a similar study using the company CZB LLC of Alexandria, Va., earlier this year. The study was both insightful and helpful, Engbretson said.

“The lack of housing options is creating barriers to continued economic growth,” the agreement adopted Tuesday night states. “Existing businesses are struggling to retain and attract employees because they either cannot find housing or cannot afford the housing that might be available. Starting new businesses or attracting business from elsewhere is extremely challenging as business owners are concerned that

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**Above:** Lucas Thompson flies over the top of a ramp in the obstacle course.

**Left:** PFC Peter May helps unfasten ninth-grader Isabella Jeremiah after she made it to the top of the 25-foot rock-climbing wall. Some of the grips were hot.

Photos by Cindy Yingst

## National Guard motivates students to get fit, driven

**BY CINDY YINGST**  
*The Columbia Press*

The motivation was delivered gently but in a way that makes a teen take note.

“If you’re the best you can be physically, you’ll be more efficient in your school work and more efficient in everything you do,” Oregon Army National Guard Sgt. Katy Pritchard told the Warrenton High School PE class. “But if *all* of you wanted to join the military, maybe only *one* of you would get in.”

She was delivering the unfortunate news about the physical fitness state of today’s young people. It is the hardest hurdle for today’s military: Only 1 in 20 people who want to join the military are fit enough.

Pritchard, an engineer and recruiter with the Guard based at Camp Rilea, brought a team of guardsmen plus a mobile obstacle course and 25-foot rock-climbing wall to the high school to give students an idea of their own fitness while

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## Dredging plans under way locally and regionally

*The Columbia Press*

A new plan is being developed for dealing with dredging in the Columbia River.

The Army Corps of Engineers, along with five ports between Warrenton and Portland, have begun the process gathering environmental information for a new plan expected to guide them through the year 2040.

The planning effort will consider the effects of channel maintenance on Lower Columbia

River environmental and socio-economic resources as well as the importance of the region’s economic viability.

Dredging is vital for Warrenton, which is having issues at the Hammond Marina, Commissioner Pam Ackley said.

She helped organize the latest rendition of the city’s Hammond Marina Task Force, which met for the first time a week ago.

“We need to dredge really badly,” she said. “It’s a huge econom-

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Submitted photo

A bulldozer distributes dredge spoils on an island in the Columbia River.