



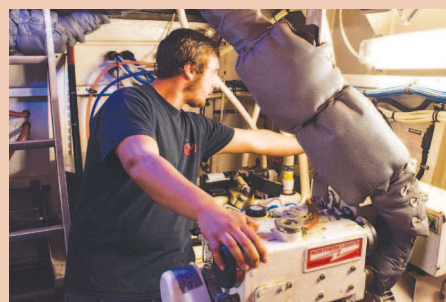
College poised for increased maritime funds *Bill signed by Trump could mean expanded program*

The Columbia Press and news services

Maritime programs at Clatsop Community College could win federal status making them eligible for funds to expand, and increasing the college's prominence in the industry.

President Trump signed the National Defense Authorization Act this week, approving additional spending on the military and programs like those at the college. The House and Senate passed the \$700 billion bill last month.

See 'Maritime' on Page 7



Above: Students in a maritime science class participate in a water safety drill. Maritime science training at Clatsop Community College could get a boost.

Left: A student studies mechanics aboard the Forerunner, the college's training ship.

Photos courtesy Clatsop Community College

Pipe deficiencies mean changes or water rate hikes

BY CINDY YINGST
The Columbia Press

Warrenton has 89 miles of pipes in its water system and many of them need to be replaced.

That was part of the dire news at a City Commission briefing Tuesday by a consultant working on the city's 20-year water master plan.

The other dire news: Warrenton residents will need to cough up 25 million in today's dollars to address the pipes and other deficiencies and expected improvements during the next two decades.

"We're already the highest in the county and we need another, what, 25 percent" increase in residents' water bills, Commissioner Mark Baldwin lamented.

Cannon Beach water users pay an average of \$29.95 per month; Seaside users pay \$32.46 and Astorians pay \$37.42. Warrenton's average is \$39.83.

The city has been too kind in charging low fees to new commercial and housing developers, Baldwin said, "and we haven't helped our ratepayers one iota."



Baldwin

Some residents envision pedestrian overpasses

BY CINDY YINGST
The Columbia Press

Most of us don't spend our days pondering improvements to the city's road system as city planners and transportation engineers do.

But the tables were turned in Warrenton last week, when residents were asked to dream about ways things could improve.

Some of the ideas:

- Building a pedestrian overpass above Highway 101 that would connect the dike trail from the airport area to the path behind the Premarq Center.
- Adding sidewalks on Main Av-

enue connecting the high school to the existing sidewalk system at Ninth Street.

- Raising and widening the Skipanon River bridge on Highway 104 – also called Alternate Highway 101 – west of Cash and Carry market.
- Making a safe pedestrian path or overpass that would connect soccer fields on both sides of Ridge Road.
- Connecting existing trails in Hammond to Fort Stevens, particularly from Pacific Drive.

Oregon Department of Transportation's open house at Warrenton City Hall on Dec. 7 was meant

How to participate

To view the plan and have a say about road, bike and pedestrian improvements, visit warrentontsp.com.

to garner ideas and input about the city's roads, hiking trails and bike paths.

"We want to work our plans into this jurisdiction," said Ken Shonkwiler, a senior region planner for ODOT.

It's especially important in a community like Warrenton because so many of its main arteries come under state jurisdiction, in-

See 'Transportation' on Page 4

FIXING THE PROBLEM

Warrenton should develop new agreements with its largest water users – the city of Gearhart and Pacific Coast Seafoods – and plan for a 1.8 percent per year average growth rate over the next 20 years, said consultant David Stangel, a public works engineer with Murraysmith, which is developing the water plan.

Already the city is replacing all the city's residential water meters and adding them to previously unmetered accounts, such as the marinas, public works yard and wastewater treatment plant. And it's conducting a study, funded by grants, to determine where the system's leaks are. As much as 40 percent of the city's water is lost through leaky pipes or faulty water meters.

Earlier this year, the city approved raising wa-

See 'Water' on Page 5