

Model train hobby is on the right track

By D.B. LEWIS
The Columbia Press

Dick Wagner remembers when passenger and freight trains were everywhere.

Wagner recorded his knowledge many years ago by creating a scale model layout in his garage, showing railroading as he remembers it.

"It's fun," said Wagner, 90, of Warrenton.

He is a member of the Columbia Northwestern Model Railroading Club, a local group that's been around for more than two decades.

The club meets at members' homes so they can help build and improve each other's train "boards," complete with scenery, roads, telephone lines, buildings and, of course, several locomotives, each pulling half a dozen rail cars over lots and lots of track.

The model railroad hobby brings ongoing satisfaction to hundreds of thousands of young and old worldwide.

Despite the rapid decline of railroads since the early '60s, enthusiasts love to commemorate historical machines, places and methods. It's long been a favorite of hobbyists from 8 to 80, delighting participants and onlookers with

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Above: Don Carter adjusts a rail car on the track while Steve Kellow looks on at a club meeting last week.

Right: Dick Wagner plays locomotive engineer for a session in his garage.



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Former Mayor Kujala files for county seat He faces challengers from Astoria in May 15 election

By CINDY YINGST
The Columbia Press

Former Warrenton Mayor Mark Kujala is among the three contenders running for Clatsop County Commissioner, hoping to take over the District 1 seat that will be vacated by Chairman Scott Lee.

Kujala faces George McCartin and Andy Davis, both of Astoria, in the May 15 election. District 1 includes Warrenton, Hammond and the western portion of Astoria.

Whoever is elected will take over in January, replacing Lee who has chosen to step down after eight years on the panel.

All three men vowed to help solve a problem plaguing some elected bodies: the inability to get along.

"I have a pretty good ability to get along with people and would try to find bridges for all the members and the staff," Kujala said. "It's really what our constituents demand. You're not elected to go on a board and harden yourself against each other. I would hope I could be a conduit for good communication."

The ability to consider the opinions of Clatsop County's diverse population is essential for any elected person, Davis said. An example of his willingness to get along: He made comments to a reporter about the role of the county

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Lake sediment cores offer 1,500-year watershed time capsule

By NICK HOUTMAN
Oregon State University

Researchers have analyzed layers of sediment at the bottom of a southwest Oregon lake to get a better understanding of watershed distur-

Left: Students and researchers from Oregon State University take a core sample at Loon Lake.

bances dating back 1,500 years. Like chapters in a book, the annual layers provide a glimpse into the natural and human factors that have affected Loon Lake since it was created by a landslide on Lake Creek in the coastal range.

Scientists have documented the earthquakes and regional climate cycles -- as well as fires and storms -- that swept

through the watershed in the 1700s and 1800s by using a 23-foot-long core sample taken from the deepest part of the lake in 2013.

Starting in the 1930s, human activity, such as land clearing, development, logging and road-building, replaced natural events as a major source of the eroded soil and bits of leaves, wood and other material that

gradually settled onto the lake bottom.

The rate of sediment accumulation declined in the 1970s after the adoption of erosion-control practices in logging operations.

The scientists reported their results in Earth Surface Processes and Landforms, a professional journal. The lead author was Kristin Richardson,

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