

Voters to face \$20 million jail bond

The county Board of Commissioners has decided to place a \$20 million bond measure on the November ballot, asking voters for a new county jail.

The bond would pay for construction of a 148-bed jail at the former Oregon Youth Authority facility in Warrenton.

The new jail would replace the current 60-bed jail in downtown Astoria.

The board, county administration and the Sheriff's Office began examining the youth detention center as a new jail site in early 2017 after learning that OYA intended to close the facility, which was built in the 1990s to house juvenile offenders.

The county commissioned the DLR Group architectural firm to evaluate the feasibility



The former Oregon Youth Authority facility would be converted into a 148-bed jail should voters approve a bond measure in November.

Cindy Yingst
The Columbia Press

of converting the site and to come up with several alternatives.

The recommended option -- the one that would be cheapest in the long run, but slightly more than some of the other scenarios initially -- includes utilizing a portion of the existing OYA facility and constructing new space.

After reviewing the alternatives, County Manager Cameron Moore and the Sheriff's Office recommended the 148-beds option.

The project's total estimated cost is \$23.8 million. The county would earmark \$3 million from its Special Projects fund toward the project. The state will sign over the OYA property to the county at no charge.

For years, the county has sought to address inadequacies in the existing jail, including bond measures in 2002 and 2012 that were rejected by voters.

The current jail was built in the late 1970s with a capacity of 29 beds that was later expanded to 60 through double-bunking and other measures.

The shortages of bed space results in many offenders gaining early release.

Plane crashes near Clatskanie

A small plane crashed Tuesday afternoon on a Columbia River island near Clatskanie.

The pilot, Douglas Paul Pflugrad, 67, of Mattawa, Wash., was uninjured. There were no passengers.

Oregon State Police received the call of the downed airplane that was upside-down in the water about 1:30 p.m. The location was actually Wallace Island.

Pflugrad told a Coast Guard rescue crew that his Kit Fox Super Sport was experiencing mechanical problems and,



during his attempt to land it on the island, it flipped onto its top.

Pflugrad was taken to Pearson Airfield in Vancouver, Wash. The Oregon State Police is working to remove the aircraft before the tide rises.

The Federal Aviation Administration is investigating.

Van fire leaves couple homeless



D.B. Lewis/The Columbia Press

Firefighters work to extinguish a blaze that started in the engine of a 1995 Ford van about 5:30 p.m. Sunday. The couple told police they'd recently purchased the van and were homeless and living in it. The vehicle started to smoke as they drove across Youngs Bay Bridge and they pulled into the Premarq Center, where it erupted into flames.

All-class reunion set for summer

Warrenton High School will celebrate a century as a school this year with an all-school all-class reunion.

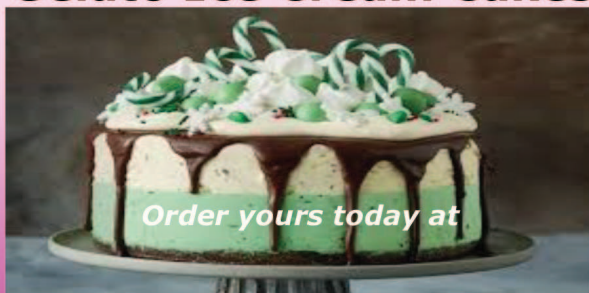
Anyone who attended War-

renton High School from 1918 to 2018 is invited.

The reunion is set for 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. July 21.

For more information, call 503-738-3493.

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170 SW Third St., at City Park

Sponsored by the Warrenton Community Center Advisory Board.
All proceeds support the Warrenton Community Center.
For more information, call 503.861.2233