

Data center proposed near Costco

The Columbia Press

A technology data center bringing 75 or more professional-wage jobs is proposed for the North Coast Business Park.

County commissioners voted unanimously last week to sell a 67-acre parcel for \$1.2 million to Agile Design LLC, a company founded by Mark Cox of Santa Barbara, Calif.

His plans are for a three-phase business campus with a 100,000-square-foot data center, a conference center, technology incubator and research and development space. Cox has 60 days to investigate the property and arrange financing.

Cox's concept plans include some housing.

"It's going to be a huge employer," said Kevin Cronin, Warrenton's Community Development director. "It will be like a mini-Goo-

gle campus getting plopped down in the middle of Clatsop County."

The property, in an undeveloped area behind Costco, is zoned for light industrial, which meshes well with Agile's plans, Cronin told Warrenton

planning commissioners. Cox grew up in Astoria, attended Clatskanie High School and graduated with a bachelor's degree in marketing and finance from the University of Oregon.

He co-founded one of the country's first 200 nationwide internet service providers in 1997, Global Frontiers Inc. And in 2004 founded Web Hosting Pros, which provides web hosting services.

The data center, which could begin construction by the end



Cox

of next year, Cox told county commissioners.

Why here?

The property is affordable and Oregon is the nation's leader in linking undersea Internet cables with the rest of the country.

There are 17 such cables off Oregon.

"I'm passionate about building win-win relationships, exercising creativity and focusing on goals," Cox writes in his profile on the professional website LinkedIn. "I also love learning new things; I can dig into almost anything and learn quickly and easily."

Initial construction is estimated at \$200 million, according to the county.

"It will be interesting to see how he puts together the financing for it," Cronin said.

Bark fires plague fire agencies

A multitude of bark fires have kept firefighters busy during the past month.

Shoppers throwing cigarettes into planted areas at Walmart accounted for about a dozen of the fire calls. Other bark fires were reported at Safeway and the DMV in Astoria.

Late last week, Hampton Affiliates called for help when one of the bark piles in the company's lumber yard began smoking.

"Walmart's were all caused from poorly discarded cigarettes and compounded by the fact their bark is new and their watering system was damaged by an errant motorhome that didn't see the (landscaped) island," War-

renton Fire Chief Tim Demers said.

The fire at Hampton was not caused by cigarettes.

Fresh bark compresses when put in piles and, if it gets wet before compression, begins to rot, Demers explained. The piles build heat and can spontaneously combust. Grass clippings and other organic material will do the same thing.

"Compound that with some wind and it can fan up a significant fire," Demers said.

The fire department worked with Walmart to ensure there are no additional bark fires in the company's planter boxes and there have been none since, he said.

Seat open on county fair board

Applicants are sought for an open seat on the Clatsop County Fair Board.

The position is for a term that expires Dec. 31, 2019. Applications are due by Aug. 31.

The Fair Board is responsible for managing Clatsop

County Fair & Expo and organizes the annual Clatsop County Fair.

It meets on the first Tuesday of each month.

Applications can be found online and at the County Manager's Office at 800 Exchange St., Suite 410, Astoria.

Early morning fire destroys garage on Date Avenue

A garage full of items at 126 N.W. Date Ave. was destroyed by fire early Aug. 9.

"Our crews did an excellent job and got a very quick knockdown that saved the home, all the outbuildings and vehicles clustered around the burning garage," Warrenton Fire Chief Tim Demers said.

Disaster responders from the American Red Cross assisted two adults living at the home with temporary shelter, food and other services.

The fire was reported at 1:30 a.m. in a detached garage.

"The crews were able to get there and suppress it before it got to the home," Demers said.

"Fortunately, the home was the prescribed 10 feet away from the garage and we were able to defend it. This is a

great example of why the fire department has setback standards that we vehemently enforce."

The was very full and required firefighters to remain on scene to ensure the fire was completely out.

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