

Girls Build: Learning the power of power tools

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consider it.”

The weeklong camp for girls ages 8 to 14 is sponsored by Hampton Lumber.

On Wednesday, the 41 girls in the program were going through work stations to get experience in a variety of fields. All 16 staff members and volunteers are women working in construction and other hands-on jobs.

Olivia Merila, 10, of Warrenton got to lay the foundation for a playhouse the group will donate to Head Start Preschool. Others built the walls, installed windows and put on a roof.

“It was really fun to learn how to work the big machinery,” Olivia said.

Other stations explored woodworking, solar-panel installation, copper soldering, plumbing, firefighting and making sheet-metal lamps.

Everyone got a chance to put on volunteer firefighter Billie O’Bryant’s yellow jacket and hat and operate a fire hose.

“I just love doing this kind of stuff,” O’Bryant said. “Girls can do anything they put their minds to.”

She is one of two women with the Warrenton Fire Department and she hopes some of the camp’s participants will be persuaded to consider her field. Warrenton



Cindy Yingst/The Columbia Press

Lizzy Trickey of Portland helps Lilyann Duncan, 11, of Astoria use a circular saw.

needs more volunteers.

“It’s great to see the girls get familiar not only with tools, but the whole experience,” said Hallie Sweet, a Warrenton Public Works office assistant.

Sweet and analyst Trisha Hayrynen were showing the girls how Public Works employees repair leaks in city water pipes.

“My daughter is here participating,” Hayrynen said. “Yesterday they got to operate an excavator and other heavy equipment. That was her favorite part. Once they got in the seat and realized

the power they had, they were empowered by it.”

Kamryn Wade, 10, of Astoria liked learning how to solve problems.

“I thought it was real cool how you could fix the water leak by putting clamps on it,” Kamryn said. “I like building things.”

Sahalie Heavenrich, 9, of Astoria is glad her mom pushed her to come to camp.

“She knows it’s hard for me to do things with other people. I like to do things by myself,” Sahalie said. Operating an excavator was awesome and twisting bolts on the water leak simulator is a good skill to have, she added.

This summer, Girls Build will have other camps in Portland, Josephine County and Seattle. Warrenton “has been lovely to say the least,” Hughes said. “They were excited to have us and ready for us. Hampton made it very easy for us.”

Other local camp sponsors are Warrenton Fultano’s, Warrenton Mini Mart, Warrenton Subway and Action Sign Works.

Toxins found in Cullaby Lake

The Oregon Health Authority issued a health advisory Tuesday for recreational use of Cullaby Lake due to a cyanobacteria bloom, or toxic algae.

Water monitoring confirmed the presence of the bacteria, according to the health authority. The concentration of toxins found can be harmful to humans and animals.

People should avoid swimming and high-speed water activities, such as water skiing or power boating.

A second advisory was issued for high bacteria levels in ocean waters at Neskowin Beach, in Tillamook County.

People should avoid the

beach there because of fecal bacteria, which can cause diarrhea, stomach cramps and skin rashes. The higher levels could come from ocean sources or inland sources, such as storm runoff, failing septic systems or livestock waste.

The toxins at Cullaby aren’t absorbed through the skin, but people who have skin sensitivities may experience a puffy, red rash at the affected area.

Drinking water directly from Cullaby Lake is especially dangerous now. Public health officials advise campers and other visitors that toxins cannot be removed by boiling, filtering or treating water with camping-style filters.

September 8, 2018

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Mike Balensifer of Warrenton snapped this photo of a bull elk that got snagged in fishing floats earlier this week.