



City's gets 'great news' about marina

After years of delays, feds eliminate roadblocks so city can own Hammond Marina

BY CINDY YINGST
The Columbia Press

Warrenton has been waiting for years to take ownership of Hammond Marina.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will transfer the marina to the city by quitclaim deed, which should go into effect in three to six months.

"We received great news today," City Manager Linda Engbretson told city commissioners Tuesday.

She held up a public notice from the Corps stating the transfer poses no significant impact to the federal government and there was nothing left to do to make the transfer a reality. Except a final commission vote approving a 25-year lease agreement, which was completed Tuesday night.

"For so long we couldn't get a lease because this (transfer) was happening and now that it is hap-

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Above: Point Adams Research Station could be the prototype for a marina theme.

Below: A cormorant and two ducks rest on a dock at the Hammond Marina.



Fight erupts at City Hall

A candidate for mayor and a city commissioner nearly come to blows

BY CINDY YINGST
The Columbia Press

A grudge between mayoral candidate John Washington and City Commissioner Rick Newton developed into a shouting match at the end of Tuesday night's commission meeting.

During public comment, Washington accused Newton of making a scene that included a loud rant and profanity at his meet-the-candidate gathering last weekend.

At the end of Tuesday's meeting, Newton left the dais, went to the podium on the floor and accused Washington of making misleading statements in campaign literature and trespassing on a resident's property to place a campaign sign.

Newton brought the sign to the meeting and handed it to police Sgt. Jim Pierce to dispose of as he saw fit.

"Hey, you stole that sign," Washington yelled from the back of the room. "Leave my signs alone. I'm not going to tell you that again."

Mayor Henry Balensifer, who is on the November ballot with Washington as his opponent, adjourned the meeting after Newton's comments and did not allow Washington a chance for rebuttal, saying he'd already been allowed to speak during the public com-

ment period.

Newton was given a police escort to his vehicle.

WASHINGTON'S CASE

During public comment, Washington told commissioners that someone had threatened a business owner displaying one of his campaign signs that he'd have no more business if the sign weren't removed.

He said Newton and Balensifer's father attended his public meet-and-greet in an attempt to "destroy me in front of my supporters."

Newton mischaracterized his campaign and loudly proclaimed

in front of children "this is nothing but erroneous lies and bull----" after reading Washington's campaign literature.

Newton's theatrics at the end of the commission meeting were "an attempt to sabotage my campaign, without a doubt," Washington said the following morning. "I've never experienced anything like this in my life. ... He slandered me. He said I trespassed, which I did not. I'm prepared to retain counsel if I need to."

Eric Williamson, owner of Xtreme Automotive in Hammond, was fishing in Alaska, but Williamson's son, Brandon, allowed Washington to place the sign on his property.

It was illegal for Newton to
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Newton



Washington

Pearl Harbor survivor to be memorialized at Rilea

The Columbia Press

kima, Wash.

Barnett and her husband, Scott, served as Keeth's caretakers during his final years.

Keeth was just 16 when he joined the military and was sent to Pearl Harbor. Within months, his base was under attack by the Japanese and he saw many friends die.

He later served in the Solomon Islands, in Guadalcanal and Munda. He escaped death more than once and suffered through six bouts

of malaria, according to old newspaper accounts.

A dispute with other family members made it difficult to celebrate and memorialize his life locally, Barnett has said.

A local military cemetery was hesitant to place a simple marker without a body or cremated remains. Willamette National Cemetery also was unable to help.

Then Brian Dutton, owner
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Taking care of an ailing parent with dementia is difficult. Putting her father to rest was much harder, said Donna Barnett of Hammond.

Spurgeon Keeth, Clatsop County's last known Pearl Harbor attack survivor, died Dec. 28 at age 92. A military honor celebration was held at Camp Rilea a short time later, but his body was returned to other family members in Ya-