

Marina: With boat basin soon in city hands, task force designs improvements

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pening, they've required us to have a lease," Mayor Henry Balensifer said. "That's the federal government for you."

It took 10 years for the government to decommission the Umatilla Chemical Depot in Eastern Oregon, he said.

There is some grant money available from the state that will help with dredging, if the transfer happens quickly, Engbretson said. "But it has to be in the city of Warrenton's name."

The city assumes full responsibility for operating and maintaining the channel and breakwater and, if the Army determines the city is no longer operating it as a public

entity, ownership reverts to the federal government.

Also Tuesday, a city task force that has been looking at ways to improve the marina presented its report.

Among the recommendations:

- Create a theme focusing on the historic value of Hammond and adopting a small-harbor recreational marina. Structures should focus on Craftsman and Victorian styles of the late 1800s to early 1900s, even using the former Point Adams Coast Guard station as a prototype.

- Place signs at the entrance of Hammond that say "Welcome to Historic Hammond, Ore."

Hammond Marina Task Force members

Pat O'Grady, Paul Kujala, Tim Jenkins, Adam Svensen, Christie Shreckengost, Jim Ray, Gerry Poe, Mark Kujala, Harbormaster Jane Sweet, City Manager Linda Engbretson and City Commissioner Pam Ackley

- Immediately dredge areas with silt buildup and pursue grants to purchase a dredge.

- Add additional docks for transient vessels and schedule repairs and replacements of current docks.

- Perform continued shoreline stabilization.

- Install a boardwalk connecting Seafarers Park to city trails.

- Assist in the development of a multi-use event building on the west side of Lake Drive along with a pier on the east side, a take-out restaurant, a boutique-style hotel and additional camping.

- Acknowledge that success of the marina as a destination should take place only in context with the larger Hammond community, its parks and the street system.

"There's a lot of exciting things happening in the city and a lot of it's happening in Hammond," Balensifer said.

"This is the closest port to the ocean to fish," said Mark Kujala, who presented the report along with task force member Gerry Poe.

"It was a thriving charter boat and sport boat port and we have seen a transition to open guide boats in the last 15 years along with declines in returning salmon and smaller annual quotas," Kujala said.

Construction of a pier with a roof would be attractive to crabbers and fishers, Poe added. "It would attract a lot of people daily. It will snowball the more public attractions you have."

This weekend

Home and Chef Tour benefits kids

The Assistance League's 11th annual Home and Chef Tour will be 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 13.

The theme this year is "The Beaches" and will feature six homes in Pinehurst, Surf Pines, The Highlands, The Reserve and Gearhart.

Each location will offer appetizers prepared by a different local chef, including Fulio's, Nisa's Thai Kitchen, El Catrin Mexican Cuisine,

The Wayfarer and Sweet Shop Gearhart. Floral arrangements have been donated by Erickson Floral Company, The Natural Nook, Bloomin' Crazy Floral and Elizabeth Bunce.

Tickets are \$30 and available at Holly McHone Jewelers, 1150 Commercial St., Astoria; Columbia Bank locations in Astoria, Warrenton and Seaside; and online at assistanceleaguecp.org.

The event benefits Assistance League of the Columbia Pacific's Operation School

Bell Program, which in 2018-19 will provide clothing to over 700 children in five school districts in Clatsop County.

Scrapbook event is fund-raiser

ScrapHunger's 12th annual event is set for 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 13, in the cafeteria at Warrenton Grade School, 820 S.W. Cedar Ave.

Participants are urged to bring canned food, which will be turned over to the Clatsop County Food Bank, in exchange for admission and raffle tickets.

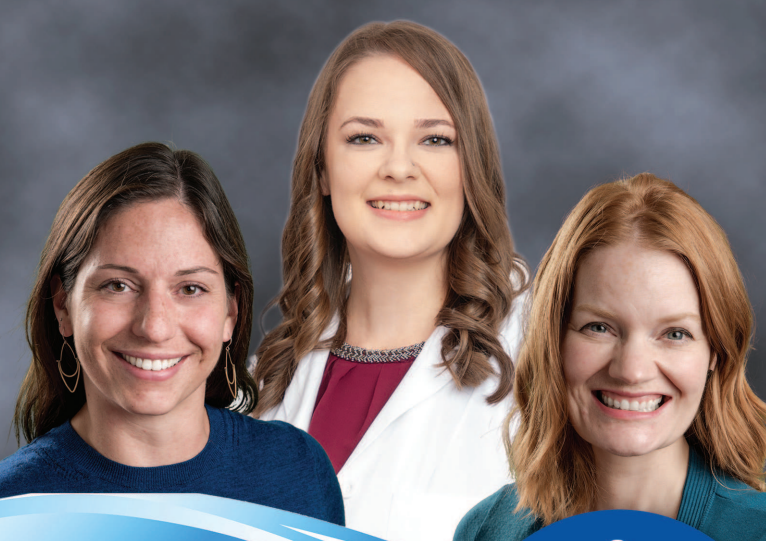
There will be scrapbooking classes and give-aways.

Journey tribute band takes stage

Escape!, the Journey Tribute Band, will perform at 7 p.m. Oct. 13 at the Liberty Theatre, 1123 Commercial St., Astoria.

Tickets are \$28 and can be purchased at the box office or online at libertyastoria.showare.com.

Escape! has been performing since 1996.



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