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Brian Dutton, Owner

Port: Resigning director says he wishes port well

Continued from Page 1
1/2 years with the port," he said. "I'll probably take some extended time off to gather myself to see what comes next."

Commission Chairman Frank Spence said he's glad the issue is resolved. He became the swing vote, joining commissioners Hunsinger and Dirk Rohne in a decision to fire Knight after getting a dismal report back from their ad hoc finance committee.

"It might take up to two years to get back into good shape," Spence said. "During the ne-

gotiations that were taking place all afternoon between Mr. Knight's and the port's attorneys, neither side wanted this dragged out. We wanted closure and to have everything completed by the end of day and the end of this fiscal year, which ends at the end of this month."

Spence said the entire commission is looking forward to having Scott McClaine join the panel, replacing Hunsinger, effective next month.

"He will be a new fresh objective independent voice on the

commission. And now we have to face all the problems and attack them. ... We intend to work together in the best interest of all the people of Clatsop County."

The Port of Astoria was founded in 1914 to boost trade but the past two decades have been a rocky road.

Twenty years ago, Peter Gearin was hired as executive director. He was fired under a cloud eight years later and eventually pleaded guilty in federal court to violating the federal Clean Water Act over mishandling contaminated dredge spoils.

Gearin was replaced by Jack Crider, who resigned a year later; Herb Florer, who served as interim director; Hank By-naker, who resigned after a year; and Mike Weston, who was appointed interim director and replaced by Knight.

WHS hires new basketball coach

Warrenton High School has a new girls basketball coach.

Jake Mullins previously had been varsity assistant coach and coach of the boys JV team for three years.

He is a 2004 WHS graduate and holds a master's degree in Education from Western Governors University in Salt Lake City. He teaches social studies and science at Warrenton Middle School. He will continue to be a member of the WHS football coaching staff.

"(We're) excited to bring Jake

Mullins in as our next head girls basketball coach," said Ian O'Brien, vice principal. "He has high energy, outstanding work ethic and understands the game of basketball with a passion for Warrenton High School athletics."



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