



EmPowerment



Above: Valerie Miller of Girls Build supervises Sahalie Heavenrich, 10, of Astoria as she makes a cut with the skill saw. Looking on are Lydia Johnson, 10, of Seaside, and Teslyn Wintersteen, 10, of Astoria.

Left: Brooke Holmes, 9, of Ilwaco, Bristol Long, 8, of Chinook, and Eleanor Nye, 9, of Astoria use sanders to finish an inlaid-wood project.

Cindy Yingst/The Columbia Press

Program offers life lessons via power tools

BY CINDY YINGST
The Columbia Press

Not every girl wants a career wielding a chain saw or hammer, but those who might are gaining an excellent foundation this week.

Girls Build, a Portland-based program, brought power tools and women with a wealth of construction trades skills to Warrenton Grade School for a weeklong camp.

Forty girls, ages 8 to 14, are building a picnic table for the grade school, an airplane play structure for Warrenton Head Start and are completing training exercises in sheet-metal work, solar-panel installation, plumbing, wood-working, and copper pipe soldering.

Warrenton's camp was fully funded by Hampton Lumber.

"It's really important to open the doors to the trades for girls at a young age and also to show them

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Sheriff Bergin to hang up holster, but not the hat

BY CINDY YINGST
The Columbia Press

The key to success comes down to a simple formula for Sheriff Tom Bergin: attitude and timing.

And for him the time is right to leave the county's top law enforcement post. He'll be one year shy of completing three elected terms when he steps down at the end of the year.

"I'm to the point now where it's time to pull the plug. I'm worn out," admitted Bergin, 61.

He had surgery for kidney cancer last year, had both knees replaced and went through a divorce. He'd hoped to make it until the end of his term.

"But you finally just realize it's time and there's much younger and smarter guys than I'll ever be," he said.

A cowboy at heart and a gentleman in practice, he parks away from the front door at sheriff's headquarters, giving the better spots to his staff. His favorite movie is "We Were Soldiers." Among the decorations in his office are a Toy Story "Woody" doll, a signed poster of Dwight Yoakam, whom he made an honorary deputy during a performance here, and campaign signs from former county sheriffs John Raichl (1987-2004), Almond Eastman (1983-1987), and Carl Bondietti (1959-1983).

During the 35 years Bergin devoted to law enforcement, he has arrested people, arrested their kids and, years later, their grandkids. But he's also been able to help people, their



Bergin

Warrenton hopes to plump up its housing choices

BY CINDY YINGST
The Columbia Press

City leaders, hoping to provide more options to more people, are considering changing the housing code to allow a variety of nontraditional dwellings.

Changes are in the works after a year of "thinking outside the box" in work sessions, public hearings, surveys and even a charrette (a meeting in which all stakeholders come together to find innovative solutions to problems).

The county and the city both conducted housing needs assessments this year, which showed plenty of available mid- to large-sized sin-

gle-family homes, but a lack of more affordable options.

"Warrenton, by far, has the largest youth homeless population" in the county, said Kevin Cronin, Warrenton's community development director.

He serves on the board of Clatsop Community Action, a nonprofit agency that specializes in food, housing and energy assistance and believes the city should do everything it can to provide a solution for those who just miss the mark in either buying or renting a home.

During an Aug. 15 workshop, he asked Warrenton planning commissioners to give him guidance on the

types of nontraditional dwelling units they'd find acceptable.

"I don't want to see anyone in Warrenton cut out," said Paul Mitchell,

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Courtesy city of Warrenton

An example of cottage clusters.

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