



Innovators wanted

Couple opens 'maker-space' with a twist

BY CINDY YINGST
The Columbia Press

Have a grand idea but worried about the effort or cost of seeing it to fruition?

Travis Rowland may have the solution.

He and his wife, Nina, have opened Vegabond 3D, a place where business ideas can be nurtured and innovators can find tools to put plans in motion.

"My main mission here is to help people find their passion," he said, "and help people improve their relationship with themselves through creativity."

Starting a business is a huge barrier to creativity, Rowland said.

So he has brought in many of the tools an entrepreneur would need and plans to rent them by the hour, by barter and through membership sales. Vegabond 3D is in the Premarq Center.

There are six 3D printers, sewing machines, vinyl cutters, virtual reality gear, snap circuit equipment, cameras, painting materials, a fire

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Above: Travis and Nina Rowland are hosting open houses this month at Vegabond 3D in the Premarq Center.

Right: The couple's children use the computers in the computer lab.

Cindy Yingst



Food truck pod by City Hall awaits design

BY CINDY YINGST
The Columbia Press

The city has hired an award-winning landscape architect to develop a food truck pod that will be anything but boring.

"The Food Pod project is a fun one, and I hope that it brings a lot of energy to downtown Warrenton when completed," said Scott Hess, Warrenton's Community Development director.

Warrenton Urban Renewal Agency, an entity established in 2007 to revitalize downtown using special tax money, signed an agreement late last year with GreenWorks, a Portland-based landscape architectural firm. GreenWorks specializes in spaces that incorporate nature into urban environments.

The company will provide three concepts for the site and an advisory panel will select one or a combination of two or all three plans.

City leaders want to see electrical hookups, a covered seating area, public picnic tables, adequate drainage and a gray-water disposal site. The lot could hold up to six food trucks.

The agency has set aside \$100,000 for improvements to the lot and is spending \$20,000 on design.

Last month, the agency renewed its agreement with Tres Bro's, a truck specializing in Nicaraguan food, which has been on the lot since summer 2019. But the truck is using the sole electrical hookup available there, which has discouraged other trucks from moving in, including Sasquatch Sandwich, which backed out of its rental agreement last year, and it

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Sewer fix should pave way for airport development

The Columbia Press

Big River Construction of Astoria was awarded a contract Tuesday to immediately begin replacing the sewer system at Astoria-Warrenton Regional Airport.

The replacement is essential for the Port of Astoria to develop its industrial park adjacent to the airport, and completing the job allows the industrial park's first tenant, Scoular, to build its seafood processing plant there.

"We're going to replace most of the

sewer infrastructure we have out at the airport," said Matt McGrath, deputy director of the Port of Astoria.

Work includes building three pump stations, adding three lines to the city's existing pump station near Lektro, removing and replacing pipes and asphalt, and filling or removing old sewer structures.

Big River Construction was the lowest of four bidders at \$331,342, just below the port engineer's estimate of probable cost.

All development at the airport has

been halted until the port, which owns the property, can solve the leaky pipe problems.

The city of Warrenton's water treatment plant is nearing capacity. And wastewater coming from the airport has been substantial, with an average of 13,000 gallons per day in the summer to a whopping 150,000 gallons per day in the winter.

Clearly, rain has been seeping into the system, forcing Warrenton's overtaxed plant to go into overdrive.

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