

Job replacing window provides plenty of laughs

Warrenton City Commissioner Rick Newton was installing a new window at his parents' home when he found a historical gem inside the walls.

The 1919 train schedule includes the recommendation that customers "Avoid waste! Keep this time table."

"I would think 102 years should be enough," Newton said.

He had the schedule laminated and gave it to the Warrenton-Hammond Historical Society for its downtown museum.

The Newton house, which was built about 1900, had

Downtown: Project to create sense of place

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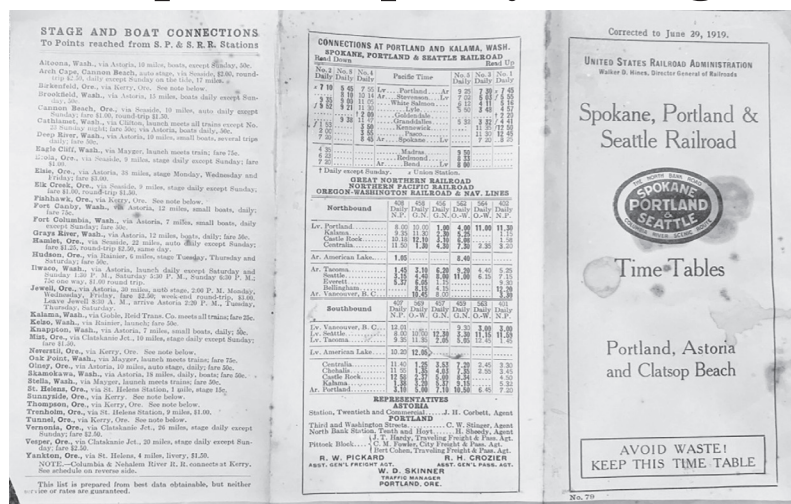
add a much-improved sense of place to the downtown business corridor and make it more attractive for more business investments."

On Oct. 27, the city issued a request for bids from companies or individuals who'd like to serve as project manager.

Previously, Warrenton's Urban Renewal Agency hired Portland-based Otak for preliminary work on the downtown project. The company conducted a topographic survey of the area — along Main Avenue between First and Fourth streets -- and estimated how much it would be for design improvements and construction.

"This is part of the city of Warrenton's urban renewal plan and will establish a setting with improved economic health, road conditions and city appearance," states the city's request-for-qualifications paperwork. "This is a multiyear project with construction expected to start in 2024 and extend into 2025."

The new project will fit in smoothly with what's already been done downtown



other old newspapers nailed to the walls for insulation. One of the gems he found included an article about

women and how they prefer to have men tell them "when, where, and what to do," Newton said.

-- façade improvements, removal of trash, renovated buildings, Commissioner Tom Dyer said.

"I think it's going to help revitalize our downtown. I'm really glad the brown building is blue — doesn't that look good?" he said of the recently painted Fenton Grocery Building. "I don't think we'll get as far as we want, but you've got to start somewhere. ... If we can get the basic downtown done, it will help set the mood for the whole downtown."

Proposals are due Nov. 17, with the contract awarded about a month later.

Main components of the project:

- All overhead utilities placed underground, \$1 million.
- "Main Street" type streetlights, \$660,000.
- Installation and repair of storm drains, sewer lines, and water pipes, \$594,000.
- Improvements to sidewalks with handicapped-accessible curb ramps and parking bulb-outs, \$385,000.
- Road repaving, striping and road signs added,

\$328,000.

- Landscaping, \$32,000.

The project manager will work with Oregon Department of Transportation, which owns the road; the utility and cable companies, whose lines will be placed underground; and property owners on South Main Avenue, to ensure improvements are made safely and access isn't cut off.

Putting the power lines underground has been on the city's "to-do" list for decades. Taxes collected within the city's urban renewal area -- which runs from Warrenton Marina south through downtown to the high school -- will continue to take place for nine more years only.

So the time is right to finish the largest and most expensive project on the city's bucket list.

"Putting the power underground is awesome," Dyer said. "And we're bringing in a guy who has the expertise to deal with it. This is a pretty complex project and having someone who has been there done that, is above my pay grade."

Business and development tidbits

Columbia Bank merging with Umpqua

Columbia Bank announced in a letter to account holders that it will be merging with Umpqua Bank in 2022.

The partnership will create the second largest bank by market share on the West Coast, according to the letter.

Umpqua Bank, which opened in 1953, is based in Roseburg, has 200 locations and is the largest bank headquartered in the Northwest.

Columbia Bank, based in Tacoma, has 150 branches in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and California, including offices in Warrenton, Astoria and Seaside.

BOATYARD GRANT

The former manager of the Port of Toledo will help the Port of Astoria develop a marketing plan for its expanding boatyard.

Bud Shoemaker retired after helping the 443-square-mile port on the Yaquina River in Lincoln County reinvent its shipyard.

Toledo's shipyard includes two marine straddle lifts to haul out vessels up to 660 tons, a 3,200-square-foot covered work bay, a retail store on site, and a variety of services and equipment such as welding, water-blasting, forklifts and cranes.

Astoria hopes to provide similar services and cater to commercial fishermen.

Astoria's port recently won a grant from Business Oregon to develop a boatyard market feasibility study.

NEW MAGIC STORE

The Magic Shop has opened in downtown Astoria.

In addition to magic kits and individual magic tricks, the store sells novelties, gag gifts, and party supplies.

The store at 1125 Commercial St. is owned by Seth Howard, who has 20 years of experience as a professional magician.

The business is open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. every day but Tuesdays.

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