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Port's boatyard plans are doable, consultant says

BY CINDY YINGST
The Columbia Press

Port of Astoria commissioners got a firsthand look Tuesday at a plan for expanding the boatyard and making improvements at East Mooring Basin.

The bottom line: Improvements are financially feasible and would generate growing revenue as long as the port reigns in anything grandiose.

“The real key here is to be prudent in order to have a basis for revenue higher than the cost,” Paul Sorensen of BST Associates told commissioners. “The yard is doing well, particularly in the last few years. ... We’re not talking about blockbuster growth, but about 1 ½ percent per year.”

Plans for expanding the boatyard – where all types of commercial and recreational fishermen make repairs and improvements to their vessels – has been a top goal for the port, which has been setting its financial house in order.

The state’s Business Oregon program paid the majority of the boatyard study’s \$60,000 pricetag.

Astoria is 10th in the nation for quantity of fish landed. About 75 percent of the 170 million pounds of fish landings in the city occur on Pier 2. The boatyard is adjacent, on Pier 3.

Services offered at an expanded boatyard complement the established fishing industry, port leaders believe.

The study consultants collected 10 years of data on the services port customers use and surveyed dozens of users to find out what’s lacking.

Among the recommendations: Acquire a 300-megaton boat lift, build restrooms, a washdown and bilge cleanout area, and support structures

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City takes stock of assets and albatrosses Head Start building may be next on the chopping block

BY CINDY YINGST
The Columbia Press

As the city of Warrenton works to become a leaner -- but not necessar-

ily meaner -- municipality, it has taken a hard line on ensuring things pay for themselves.

If you’re a developer, expect to pay

the building department for the cost of reviewing plans and ensuring you meet city codes.

A water user? You’ll pay what it costs the city to send water through your pipes.

It hasn’t always been that way. Earlier city leaders dragged their feet as costs went up; they didn’t want to pass rate hikes unpopular with constituents.

City managers and commissioners have taken a harder line in the past decade as the need to balance the budget grows more crucial. City-owned properties that cost more than they bring in are on the auction block. Top of the list: the Head Start building in Robinson Community Park.

“This is another piece of property we’ve been talking about getting rid of,” City Manager Linda Engbretson said. “It’s a burden on us.”

Years ago, Clatsop County gave the land to the city with the intent it would be used as parkland to benefit the public. It included a reversionary

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Photo courtesy Head Start

Warrenton Mayor Henry Balensifer reads to children in the Head Start program.

Local doctors volunteer to help in war-torn Ukraine

BY ERIK ROBINSON
OHSU Communications

A Columbia Memorial Hospital emergency room doctor has been working in Ukraine for the past month, one of several ways the hospital and its partner, Oregon Health & Science University, are helping the country besieged by war.

Since Russia invaded on Feb. 24, CMH and OHSU personnel have donated thousands of items for Ukraine. Everything from backpacks and coats, to flashlights and diapers have been delivered into the country through Poland.

In addition, OHSU has provided more than 5,600 pounds of surplus medical supplies, including wound supplies, gloves, antiseptic wipes, face masks and slings. OHSU continues to send surplus medical supplies through an organization supporting Ukraine.

As the bombs began to fall in Ukraine on Feb. 24, Dr. Stephen Donnelly immediately started scanning the internet to figure out how he could help.

Donnelly has worked at CMH since 2018.

“I saw it as a huge injustice – indiscriminate killing with no justification,” he said before leaving for Ukraine on May 16. “Both

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Dr. Stephen Donnelly in the CMH Emergency Room