



Michael Thompson / The Argus

Installed 30-foot-tall reactors turn human phosphorus-rich Clean Water Services' Advanced Wastewater Facility in Hillsboro.

Partnership



Partnership of Kiska Kosakowski the SOS Outreach Elementary School flash event Hood.

And with much of the right-of-way's tracks still in reasonably good condition, backers embrace an even longer-term notion of eventually restoring rail service, providing both passengers and freight with a quick and comfortable alternative to the growing traffic nightmare that is Oregon 99W.

"This really has everything going for it," said Lyell Gardner, a former Washington County commissioner who has extensive experience spearheading rails-to-trails projects. "It could really be a gem for generations to come."

Carlton winemaker Ken Wraithas toiled for more than a decade to find a way to get the abandoned right-of-way into public ownership. Until recently, however, Union Pacific has stuck fast to an asking price far more reflective of land prices that could be fetched before the housing boom went flat. A partial appraisal conducted about a year ago by experts familiar with railroad property came back with a dramatically reduced figure.

See **Rail** on A2

City, Community Action partner for new appliances at Shute House shelter

By Casey Parks
For The Argus

Twenty people live in the 104-year-old Old Shute House on Southeast 12th Avenue. That means the washing machines, dishwashers and showers run nearly constantly.

That use can wear a dishwasher down quickly. Sometimes, if it starts working at all, the dishwasher runs endless cycles. Residents pull at the handle, but the dishwasher won't turn off.

The house, which provides shelter to homeless families for up to five weeks at a time, has other worn-down appliances, too. The toilets are 20 years old. The two washing machines, which use almost four times the water that new machines do, can't run at the same time.

But this week, the shelter received all new appliances from the Hillsboro

Water Department, at a cost of about \$3,000. That will save Community Action, the nonprofit that operates the shelter, about 450 gallons of water a day.

"It's a really big deal for us," said Chris Holmstedt, a community relations manager for Community Action. "It's not very often that we come across these types of partnerships where we get a break."

Hillsboro Water sometimes makes donations such as this, said Amy Geerling, a water resource technician. But the city goes through several steps before taking on a project, she said. First, the city audits the proposed space to see if new appliances would conserve a measurable amount of water. Then, they work out a cost-share. Last year, they split the cost of appliances and installation on a project at Calvary Lutheran Church.

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nds plead for his life

and raped him as a child, she said. Much of his drug use, he told her, was because of the abuse.



Bement

On Wednesday, Cathy Bement described a difficult experience parenting her son, for whom she first sought counseling when he was 4 or 5 years old in West Chicago, Ill.

By the time he reached junior high, she said, he was skipping school often and she found marijuana seeds in his room. In his sopho-

more year, he dropped out of school and started getting in trouble with police, she said. Weeks later, he moved out, she said, and for the next several years, his parents were constantly bailing him out of jail.

After serving three years in prison, Bement lived with his parents again for about a month, she said, until they kicked him out because he was so hard to live with.

"Anything he did, it was not his fault," she said. "There was a lot of arguing."

In an interview with a defense investigator, Cathy Bement said she didn't believe her son was a good person,

but she testified that she no longer feels that way. Her comment came from anger, she said, because of the hurtful things he'd said to her in the past.

"I believe if Brian had not gotten into drugs, he would be somebody — really great man," she said. "I don't think that he meant to hurt anyone personally; I know the drug thing was hurting people, but I mean to hurt — I don't know the man's name ... I believe he was scared."

Growing more emotional, she told jurors, "I can't have him die."

— Emily E. Smith
503-294-4032

James Speidel responded: "I did not want to die alone," Laura Speidel told police, the search warrant says. "I can't do this anymore. ... I'm in so much pain."

Laura Speidel told deputies that her husband told her he cut the line, placed it into the vent, turned the gas valve on high and went to work, court records say. Deputies found Speidel and his truck near Northwest Old Germantown Road and Northwest Germantown Road, according to the search warrant. He was transported to a hospital to be treated for a possible overdose of over-the-counter pain medication and vodka.

At the hospital, Speidel denied cutting the gas line, the search warrant says.

Investigators searched Speidel's truck and found a notebook containing several apparent "good-bye letters" to his wife and children. After Speidel was released from the hospital, he was arrested.

Last week, Speidel was indicted on nine counts of attempted aggravated murder in the incident.

— Rebecca Woolington
503-294-4049

Shelter

From A1

At the Shute House, the city paid for the appliances, and Community Action paid for installation.

After Community Action installs the gifts today, the Shute House will have two new front-loading washing machines, new shower wands for every bathroom, and two new toilets. The city also donated a timer for the backyard sprinkler system. A city audit found that the sprinklers often run for two hours at a time. At other times, residents have forgotten to turn the sprinklers off, leaving them to pour wa-

ter into the flooding yard all night long.

Though the new appliances will save an average of 450 gallons a day — and more during the summer — the actual water bills won't change much, said department spokeswoman Tacy Steele. An average bill would decrease from \$248.88 to \$211.44. That's because the base rate comprises most of the bill. But as rates rise — the department will consider a new increase this year — those savings become more important, she said.

"It's going to have a significant impact on our budget," Holmstedt said. "It'll free up more money for us to provide services to families."

— Casey Parks
503-294-4014

Boys 11-18 invited to join Scout troop

North Plains Cub Scout Pack 175, for boys in first-through fifth-grade, has been around for several years, but boys who wanted to continue on to Boy Scouts had to go outside the city.

That changed this year, when North Plains Christian Church chartered Boy Scout Troop 275. Darrel Smith, a scout master

and Eagle Scout, leads the troop for boys 11 through 18 years old. The group so far has only one patrol of 11- and 12-year-olds, but expects other patrols to form as word gets out about the new troop.

Troop 275 meets at 6 p.m. Thursdays in North Plains Christian Church, 31231 N.W. Commercial St. To learn more, contact Weis at 503-640-8080, or npscouts@gmail.com.

— Connie Baron
northplainsnews@gmail.com