

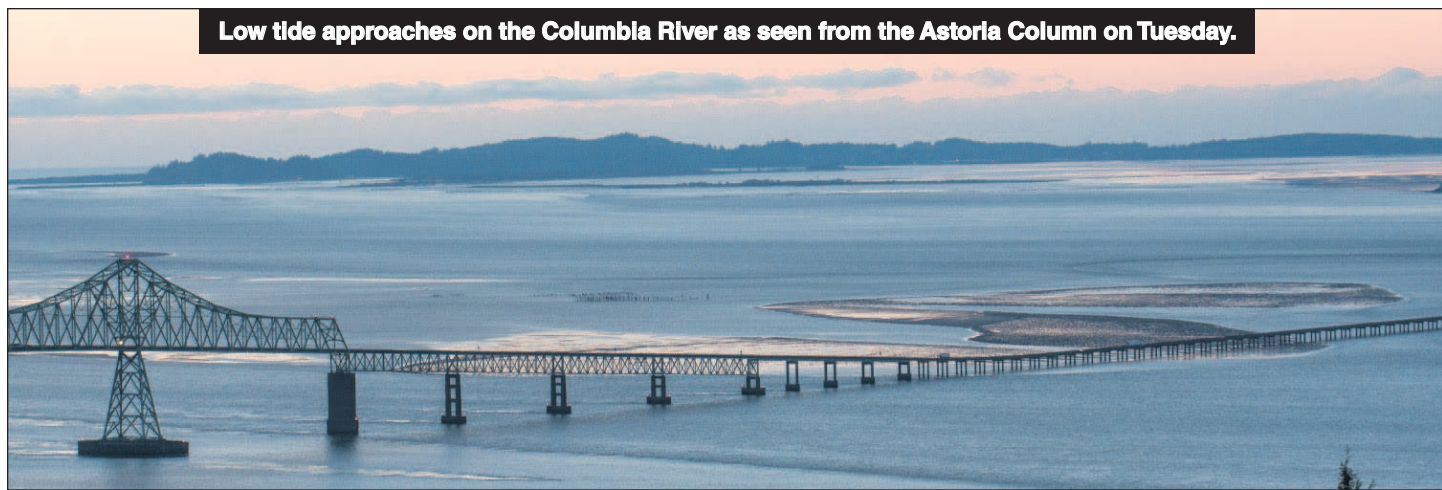


THE DAILY ASTORIAN

144TH YEAR, NO. 121

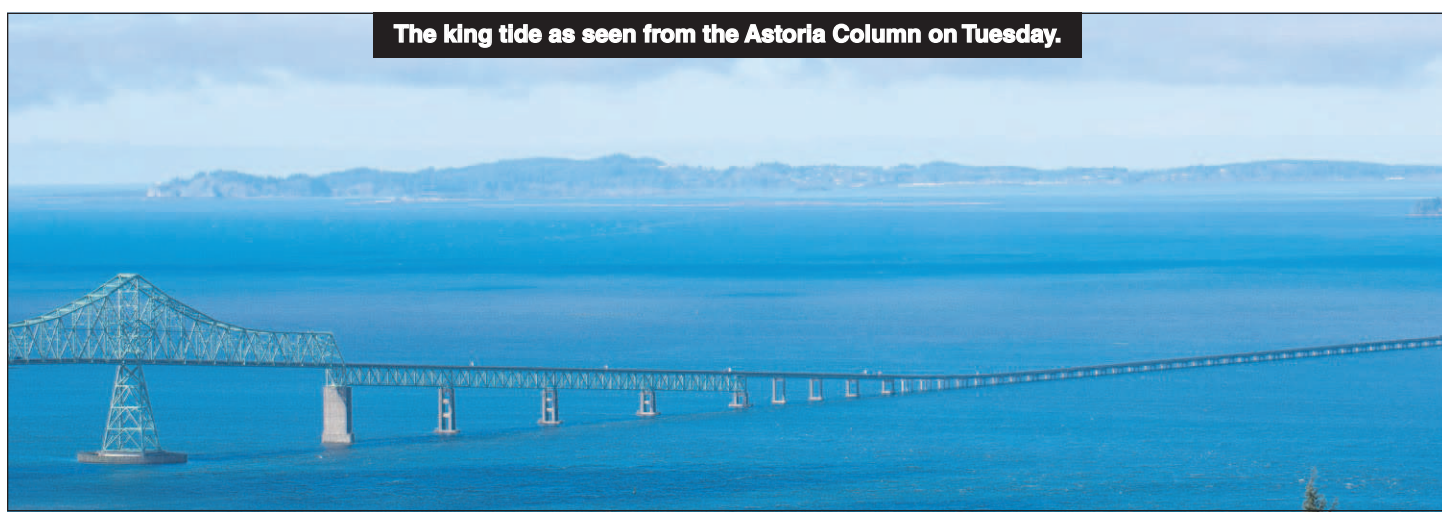
WEEKEND EDITION // FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2016

ONE DOLLAR



Low tide approaches on the Columbia River as seen from the Astoria Column on Tuesday.

King tides provide peek at rising seas



The king tide as seen from the Astoria Column on Tuesday.

Photos by Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

Studying tides helps plan for major floods

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

The second of this winter's three king tide events hit Monday through Thursday, sending tidal surges up to more than 10.5 feet around Warrenton and Astoria.

King tides, also known as perigean spring tides, are the highest-predicted tides of the year. They occur with the orbital alignment of the earth, sun and moon, pushing tides higher than usual and providing a glimpse into a future of rising sea levels.

Watching for water

By the time the tide peaked at around 10.5 feet Tuesday, water from Youngs River had risen within inches of the lanes of travel on Oregon Highway 202, one of the most striking local examples of tidal effects on infrastructure.

"The biggest effect is erosion along the shoulder of the road," said Kevin Werst, a transportation maintenance manager with the state Department of Transportation.

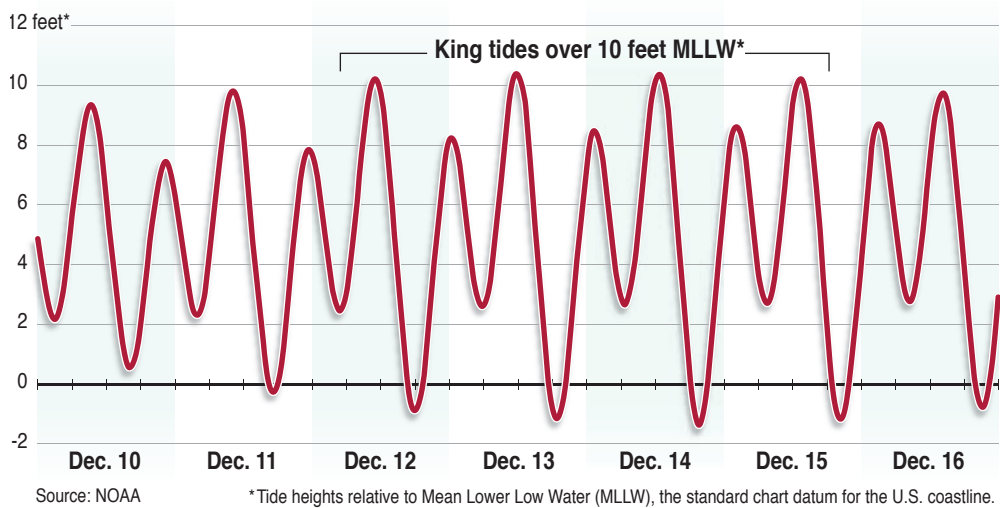
When tides peak in Seaside, the city's Public Works Director Dale McDowell said, he sends staff to monitor The Cove, a thin strip of rocky beach littered with driftwood and popular with surfers and other beachgoers.

"We basically station a guy down by The Cove, because the waves can throw logs up," he said, adding the city will sometimes close the entire beach down.

See KING TIDES, Page 9A

King tides surge in Warrenton, North Coast

King tides, which occur when the earth, moon and sun align, brought tidal surges of more than 10 feet Monday through Thursday in Warrenton's Skipanon River.



Edward Stratton and Alan Kenaga/EO Media Group



A car drives along Oregon Highway 202 south of Astoria during a king tide on Tuesday. During king tides, parts of the highway can be covered with water.

Lee will not run in 2018

Serves as chairman of county commission

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

Scott Lee, the chairman of the Clatsop County Board of Commissioners, will not seek re-election in 2018.

Lee, 52, joined the commission in 2011, his first time holding public office. He was part of a sea change in the May 2010 election that saw him replace Jeff Hazen, Peter Huhtala replace John Raichl and Debra Birkby replace Robert Mushen. Lee was named chairman of the commission in January 2014, and won re-election three months later. His term expires at the end of 2018.



Scott Lee

For the past 12 years, Lee has worked at Bikes and Beyond.

He started managing and eventually took co-ownership with Arlene Fencsak after her husband and the shop's founder, Richard Fencsak, died of cancer in 2008. She is retired, Lee said, and he would like to move on to something new.

See LEE, Page 9A

Oregon reimburses schools for lead testing

By PARIS ACHEN
Capital Bureau

SALEM — The Oregon Emergency Board on Wednesday approved reimbursing schools more than \$2 million for about 53,000 tests for lead in school water supplies.

The board established a \$5 million reserve fund in September and authorized the state Department of Education to accept applications from schools for reimbursement of costs associated with testing for elevated lead levels in drinking water.

The 53,000 tests come from school districts that represent 89 percent of public school students in the state, according to the nonpartisan Legislative Fiscal Office.

School districts had until Dec. 1 to submit invoices for reimbursement. They could make requests for tests conducted since March. The money only covers the cost of collecting and testing water supplies.

See LEAD TESTING, Page 9A

'Gentleman' Grier was Masons' chaplain for 45 years

Seaview man left legacy of friends, deeds

By PATRICK WEBB
For EO Media Group

SEAVIEW, Wash. — Look up "gentleman" in a dictionary and you will find a definition that fits Norm Grier.

"Gent-le-man ('jen(t)lman/noun): A chivalrous, courteous, or honorable man."

Grier, who died Monday, was both a gentleman and a gentle man.

His family mourns. They have lost a beloved husband

and father, who was grandfather to six and great-grandfather to 17.

Grier was 88. He died at his home in Seaview with his wife of 55 years, Willa, daughters Debe Wroble, Lori Grier and Paralee ("Punky") Suomela close at hand. He had been suffering for about a year from advanced heart failure and had been in home hospice care for the past week.

His church has lost a devout congregant. Jim Tweedie, former pastor of Ocean Beach Presbyterian Church in Seaview, remembers Grier with fondness.

"Norm Grier loved his family, he loved his church, and he

greeted each person he met as if they were the best friend he ever had," said Tweedie, who retired this summer. "He loved a good story and he loved rendering trees into firewood. He savored each moment in life as if it was the most important moment he had ever had the privilege to enjoy.

"He spoke slowly and listened carefully. He walked humbly with God. He came closer to being like Adam before the fall than any person I have ever known."

Lost brother
Ilwaco Freemasons mourn

See GRIER, Page 6A



Norm Grier took great pride in his family, some of whose photos were displayed in his Seaview, Wash., home.

EO Media Group File Photo

