

# Warrenton: 'The most important thing to do is to continue planning'

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"I will be totally honest with you: We are woefully behind," Workman told the City Commission at a recent work session.

## No firm plan

In 2010, more than three-fourths of city staff had completed the required training, but a handful of employees who have since joined the city have not.

ICS and NIMS courses are required — as is the use of the principles and command structures that are taught in the courses — for any entities that want to receive federal funding for training, response and recovery for disasters, Workman said.

"We gotta be up to date," Workman told the commission, "because if you're not, and you have an event, they could say, 'No federal funding for you, because you're not following what we asked you (to). These are rudimentary things that we want you to do,'" he said.

In addition, Warrenton does not have a firm plan to get the city's basic services running again, including a clear protocol for continuity of government if the mayor, city manager or other local leaders are away, injured or otherwise out of play.

The mayor, for instance, normally declares a state of emergency. But, if he or she is unavailable, who steps in to perform the task?

City Commissioner Henry Balensifer said these measures are largely "staff-driven" rather than commission-driven.

"The commission's function, in a severe natural disaster, is to communicate to the citizens, and to ensure that the government continues operating, in terms of budget adjustments and emergency measures



Warrenton High School students carry a "victim" during the school's end-of-year CERT exercise last year. The city warns residents that they need to be prepared.

or laws," he said. "But, for the most part, these plans are really related to staff."

## 'Element of risk'

Another question is where the city will set up an emergency operations center to stage recovery efforts. If City Hall is not a viable location — if it is underwater, say — the city will need a backup.

The emergency operations plan suggests possible sites east of U.S. Highway 101. But as businesses have continued to crop up in the area — Warrenton is, after all, the fastest growing community in Clatsop County — options have dwindled.

When Workman talks to residents about emergency preparedness, they tend to assume the responsibility lies with the city, he said.

"They're right, to a certain

extent, but it's them — it's them — that have to be prepared," he told the City Commission.

Depending on the scale of the event, police and fire department personnel, and other emergency responders may be unable to rescue people for several days. After a megaquake, roads will likely be fractured and impassable. And the ground beneath the city, composed largely of sand, may liquefy.

Workman has asked the Warrenton Community Emergency Response Team reach out more to the city's vulnerable population. The elderly and disabled residents of Alder Creek Village in Hammond, west of Tansy Creek, for example, could become isolated if even a minor earthquake harmed the bridges.

"There is an element of risk, living on the coast," Balensifer said. "We want to make

sure that we prepare for those risks as much as possible, to make sure that people are prepared for those risks as much as possible."

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has made it clear to North Coast jurisdictions that, after the "Big One," they may not arrive for some time as the agency's resources head to Portland and Seattle.

"FEMA's told us they're not going to be here for two weeks, at least," Balensifer said. "So individual responsibility for preparedness starts at home."

Balensifer said the commission will continue working with Clatsop County Emergency Management.

"The most important thing to do is to continue planning, so we can determine what investments need to be made to be adequately prepared and mitigate risk," he said.

# Couple: Two witnesses called during hearing

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multiple times on the back and side of his head. The couple allegedly dumped his body off U.S. Highway 30 about 3 miles east of Astoria and stole his white 1993 Allegro Bay motor home with a dark maroon 1991 Lincoln Continental attached on a trailer. Days after abandoning the trailer just east of Seaside on U.S. Highway 26, the couple was found traveling in the Lincoln in northern Arizona.

Wilkins' former employer had contacted police after the body was found to say the couple may have been involved in Vinge's death. The Sheriff's Office was able to use Vinge's stolen cell phone along with credit card purchases to track the couple as they traveled to Junction City, northwest Nevada and then south to Arizona.

They are being charged with murder, second-degree abuse of a corpse and two counts of unauthorized use of a vehicle. Copell is also facing a hindering prosecution charge.

The District Attorney's Office, represented by District Attorney Josh Marquis and Deputy District Attorney Beau Peterson, called two witnesses during the hearing: Sheriff's Office Detective Ryan Humphrey and Seaside Police Sgt. Guy Knight. They also played a roughly 10-minute recording of an interrogation between Copell and the two investigators shortly after the couple's arrest.

Copell indicated in the recording that Wilkins had beaten Vinge to death with a piece of beach wood following an argument on Sept. 27 while they were inside Vinge's motor home. The couple had been homeless before Vinge

allowed them to live with him in the motor home for more than a month in exchange for work they performed for him. The couple apparently was concerned that Vinge would soon ask Copell to leave the motor home and find housing elsewhere.

Copell said she was sitting in the driver's seat of the motor home and Vinge was laying on a bench at the time of the alleged murder.

"I had a little lamp light, and I didn't think he was going to do it. Oh, god," Copell, crying, told investigators.

Copell sobbed into her shirt Friday while the recording played. Meanwhile, Wilkins, who sat with his lawyer in a jury box, repeatedly glared at her with a confused look on his face.

Copell then admitted in the recording to helping Wilkins clean the inside of the motor home following the incident. Witnesses also told the Sheriff's Office that they saw Copell burning items that belonged to Vinge. The Sheriff's Office was able to recover some of the burned items and also located blood spatter and human tissue in the motor home.

The recording was the second of three statements from Copell that the District Attorney's Office filed as evidence. In her initial statement, Copell said Vinge was still alive when they left him in the motor home. The third, an intercepted note from Copell to Wilkins while they were in jail, seemed to instruct Wilkins to tell investigators that both had killed Vinge out of self defense.

Wilkins and his lawyers, meanwhile, did not make any statements during the hearing.

Wilkins' and Copell's trials are scheduled for November and December.

# Goldberg: Environmental issues were key elements of singer's studies

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Oxford University in England. As well as lending his baritone to Oxford's Keble College choir, he was selected to perform with the Schola Cantorum.

The widely traveled group, formed in 1960, has worked with notable musicians like Leonard Bernstein and violinist Yehudi Menuhin. Its name is Latin for a singing school for church choristers.

"I had the good luck in that they needed my voice," said Goldberg, surprised to learn he was one of 10 selected from 100 who auditioned.

He said his semester at Oxford has been perfect to soak up culture and history, finding Britons welcoming and not at all "stodgy."

"Sometimes it feels like 'Harry Potter,'" he said. (Hogwarts library and infirmary scenes were filmed there.)

## Intensive tutorials

Intensive tutorials deepen his understanding of environmental geography, metaphysics and political philosophy.

"I have spent most of my time reading and writing, and then weekends you can go out to the pub," he said. "I didn't expect to do as much singing, but I have been really improving," he said, delighting to per-



Goldberg Family/Submitted Photo  
**Tevan Goldberg appeared in "Fiddler on the Roof" at the Coaster Theatre in Cannon Beach shortly after his arrival in Astoria at the age of 9. He acted in several other shows before shifting his primary artistic focus to musical performance.**

form Renaissance music in "ancient Anglican churches with bullet holes from the English Civil War."

Goldberg, 20, is the only child of Bob Goldberg and Nancy Stevens. Bob Goldberg is a retired engineer, originally from New York, and Stevens is a longtime nurse. The family moved to Astoria from Seattle in 2005 when Tevan was 9, and have been active in the arts scene.

While Goldberg competed for the Astoria High School swim team, he really developed his niche in the North Coast acting and music worlds. As well as singing, he plays piano and violin, is learning the harpsichord, and wants to learn gui-

tar and organ. Memorable acting experiences were at Astoria High School, at the Coaster Theatre in Cannon Beach — with his father, who portrayed the rabbi in "Fiddler on the Roof" — and the now-closed River Theatre in Astoria.

Longtime Astoria High School drama teacher Jenni Newton recalled his teenage talents. "He especially liked to take on advanced material that challenges audiences. Tevan enjoyed joining casts of adults and seemed comfortable with mature topics and personalities. These interactions resulted in many strong relationships with local performing artists.

"When Tevan was in middle school and asked if he wanted to take an acting class once becoming a Fisherman, he shared that his community theater experience already taught him the basics and his skill level surpassed his peers.

"With a coy smile, I welcomed him to high school casts where he did learn a lot about ensemble-building practices and the team component of theater. I am certain he continued to grow in this area as he has been part of several successful performance groups in his academic and professional lives."

## 'Perfectionist'

Playing a cheeky child in

"The Christmas Story" at The River in 2007, he reunited in the cast with his sixth-grade math teacher, Mark Erickson, now retired. "He was quite a perfectionist with remarkable memorization skills and high expectations of his fellow actors," he noted, praising the way Goldberg's parents encouraged him.

"He decided what he wanted to do at a pretty young age — and didn't let anyone get in the way," Erickson said.

Astoria arts enthusiast Carol Newman recalls the young Goldberg's acting performances with fondness and has watched him mature.

"I was delighted and impressed with his piano playing, his interest in politics and writing for the school paper; the way he came home on vacation, picked up the score of whatever we were working on and joined us to sing with the North Coast Chorale," she said.

"I have appreciated that, as distracted as he might be by his full life, he was always responsive and interested, or at least willing to listen and talk intelligently," she said.

Auditioning with his own

musical creation, he earned a place for his final two years of high school at the Interlochen Center for the Arts in Michigan, majoring in music composition, while singing in choirs and playing jazz piano.

## Environment and politics

Environmental issues, key elements of his studies at Middlebury, or politics, may become his focus after graduation. Last summer, he interned in Washington, D.C., working in the ocean acidification program of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Goldberg said his travels have given him a deeper appreciation of Astoria, and the forest-like ecology of his home on Irving Avenue. "You can't get that anywhere else, and there are so many things going on for such a small town," he said.

In London, he was euphoric after the concert, which featured works by Bach and French composer Francis Poulenc's 1937 Mass in G. "It's some of my favorite music," he said, noting he developed

a fondness for sacred music during his middle school years listening to the Oxford group's online recordings.

The director, James Burton, was enthused about the newly recruited voice standing tall with his bass singers.

"It's fantastic to have the best talent from across the world," said Burton, whose next assignment will be as director of the Tanglewood Festival Chorus and choral director of the Boston Symphony Orchestra. "Tevan has been in the choir a very short time, but what a pleasure to have his voice and musicianship. It has been an absolute thrill that he could join us."

His parents were delighted to learn details.

"We're both very proud of Tevan's musical, theatrical, writing, academic, and even athletic accomplishments so far, and excited about where he will take his talents in the future," said his father. "At the same time, we are very appreciative of all the amazing people and institutions that have helped him along the way."

—Patrick Webb

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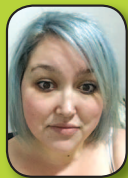
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