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## Investigators knock Warrenton fire readiness

City faces more than \$10,000 in fines

By EDWARD STRATTON  
*The Astorian*

WARRENTON — The city faces \$10,800 in fines from the state for safety violations at the Warrenton Fire Department.

The state Occupational Safety and Health Administration initiated an investigation after anonymous complaints. It fined the city \$7,500 for not ensuring a proper respiratory protection program, \$2,100 for not ensuring employees wore the right protective equipment, \$420 for improper training, \$420 for not maintaining a safety committee, \$180 for a lack of equipment inspections and \$180 for not keeping a hazard communication program.

Tim Demers, the former fire chief, resigned amid the investigation. The findings come shortly after the city hired Brian Alsbury, the former deputy fire chief and volunteer, to replace Demers.

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## Preservation society wants to spare old farmhouse

County plans to burn it down

By NICOLE BALES  
*The Astorian*

In a last-ditch effort to save a farmhouse on the Clatsop County Fairgrounds, the Lower Columbia Preservation Society is urging county commissioners to halt a planned burn.

In December, the Fair Board decided to donate the farmhouse to the Oregon State Fire Marshal for firefighter training instead of paying for demolition. The board agreed not to spend any more money on the house.

The Fair Board had looked at several options to restore the house over the years, including a partnership with the preservation society, but none panned out.

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## Songstress brings some love to the PAC

Shannon plans concert on Valentine's Day

By EDWARD STRATTON  
*The Astorian*

EVERYDAY people



Kelley Shannon

Kelley Shannon loves painting, cooking, cutting hair — any positive interaction that brings joy to people.

"I love anything that gives me the ability to interact with people," she said.

On Valentine's Day, Shannon, a jazz vocalist and stylist at Panache Hair & Nail Lounge in Astoria, will put her twist on decades of love songs with the help of pianist George Colligan at the Performing Arts Center.

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## KING TIDES OFFER A TASTE OF SEA LEVEL RISE



Photos by Oregon King Tides Project

Waves crash in Yaquina Bay during the king tides in December 2018. Researchers say these tides hint at what could become a new normal along the Oregon Coast as sea levels rise due to climate change.

## Tracking changes along the coast

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ  
*The Astorian*

King tides will once again hit the Oregon Coast this weekend, giving residents a taste of what life could be like in the near future.

Researchers say the tides are a preview of the rising sea levels caused by climate change that, under current projections, could eventually submerge much of the coast.

Armed with cameras and cellphones, citizen scientists in Oregon have documented these tides each winter for nearly a decade as part of the Oregon King Tides Project coordinated by the Oregon Coastal Management Program and Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition.

They've snapped shots of water and waves rushing up against houses or sloshing across highways. Photos taken from the air above the Nehalem River show just how much estuary shoreline the water is capable of gobbling up.

One main purpose of the project is to turn people's attention to the water.

Phillip Johnson, the executive director of the conservation coalition, thinks of the aerial view of the Coquille River Valley, a productive area south of Coos Bay, during king tides.

Farmhouses were surrounded by water and water was nearly a foot from a levee that protects the town of Coquille. "It looked like an inland sea," he said.

"You look at that and you think this maybe happens once, twice a winter," he said. "We get flooding this bad and we're used to it. But then you think, what if this were a daily high tide?"

How would life go on?"

King tides occur when the Earth, moon and sun are all perfectly positioned to have a particularly strong effect on tides. The highest tide during a king tide can be very, very high, especially if a winter storm gives it an extra boost.

"It's kind of a glimpse at the future," said Ed Joyce, a board member for the conservation coalition.

Joyce, who teaches geology at Clatsop Community College, oversees marine debris surveys at

a site near the South Jetty in Fort Stevens State Park and has photographed the king tides there for the past few winters. It dovetails nicely with work he has been doing in a collaboration between the college and the state to monitor long-term changes in beach profiles.

Sea level rise — caused by a warming ocean and melting from ice sheets and glaciers — as well as other climate change impacts are difficult to predict for any one location on the coast.

In some places, including at the mouth of the Columbia River, sea level rise appears to be declining, offset by shifts in

the tectonic plates that are causing areas like the Columbia River estuary and Clatsop Plains to gain elevation. But eventually, researchers predict, the water will catch up.

A decade of king tide photos is not enough to document dramatic change on the Oregon Coast. Not yet. And the king tides themselves can be almost a nonevent in some places without a winter storm behind them.

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Phillip Johnson | executive director of the conservation coalition

King tides push water levels up along Ecola Creek in 2018.



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