



CANDIDATES FOR WARRENTON MAYOR *In their own words*

Henry Balensifer



- **Age:** 29
- **How long have you lived in the city?** Except college, all my life
- **Occupation:** Communications Manager for LEK-TRO, Inc.
- **Education:** Bachelor's degree in political science, George Fox University; diploma, Warrenton High School
- **Community involvement:** I volunteer with or am on the board of the following organizations:
 - Warrenton High School Fisheries Program
 - Chair, Clatsop County Housing TAC/Task Force
 - NW Oregon Works Board
 - Clatsop Economic Development Resources
 - Columbia Pacific Economic Development District
 - Astoria-Warrenton Chamber of Commerce
 - Lower Columbia Tourism Committee
- **Why should people vote for you?** I have a vision for Warrenton, proven and steady leadership skills and I am focused on the issues. Alongside the city commission, I'm already involved in downtown revitalization, making development code changes to manage future growth, and working on pressing issues like downtown revitalization, economic development, housing, and elk.
- **Top three issues affecting the city:**

See 'Balensifer' on Page 10

John Washington



- **Age:** 54
- **How long have you lived in the city?** 19 years
- **Occupation:** Retired
- **Education:** Associate of arts degree
- **Community involvement:** School board involvement, parent-teacher organization, Safe and Sober Party Chairman in 2013, beach clean-up, assist with library float for parade.
- **Why should people vote for you?** If the people would like transparency, honesty and a voice, then they should vote for John Washington!
- **Top three issues affecting the city:**
 1. Low-income housing
 2. Bond issues
 3. Homelessness
- **How would you approach those three issues?**
 1. Low-income housing: By analyzing the market and availability of land, and offering incentive packages to contractors. It would not only provide housing, but entry-level and unskilled labor positions as well.
 2. Bond issues: I would ask city council members to lift the moratorium on marijuana stores and research an increase of tax monies allocated to the city by state agencies for participating in the program, which would lessen the tax burdens of the bond on residents.

See 'Washington' on Page 10

Arnie's Cafe moving downtown

By CINDY YINGST
The Columbia Press

Arnie's Café, Warrenton's iconic diner, is moving downtown.

Owners Crystal and Mike Green are working with City Commissioner Rick Newton to turn his former Napa Auto Parts store into a slightly bigger and much better version of Arnie's Café.

"We'll be bringing it more into the downtown corridor," Crystal Green said. "We're hoping all the construction will be done by summer of next year."

The Greens have owned Arnie's for four years, having purchased the breakfast and lunch place from Mary Garrett.



Arnie's plans to move 14 blocks north next year, from 1609 S. Main Ave. to 269 S. Main.

"The name will stay the same. The menu will stay the same," Green said. "We hope to expand on a few things, but we won't be open for dinner. We'll have the same feel, just a nicer, cleaner place."

The couple plans to hold on to the building now housing Arnie's
See 'Arnie's' on Page 8

Pacific Seafoods plans Alaska-style bunkhouses for seasonal workers

By CINDY YINGST
The Columbia Press

No one recognizes the need for housing as profoundly as an employer with entry-level jobs to fill.

Pacific Seafoods wants to turn the old Pacific Fabricators' metal shop along Hammond's riverfront into an Alaskan-style dormitory with beds, a kitchen and community areas where residents can socialize.

"This is driven by the housing crisis everywhere throughout the state," said Mike Miliucci, an attorney for Pacific Seafood Group. "For the past three to five years, we've had a tremendously difficult time trying to find housing for our seasonal workers."

While some have been put up in hotels, much of the seafood packing season falls during tourist season, he said. Another option is to purchase

an already built apartment complex, but that would mean evicting current residents and "that's just not the way Pacific operates."

However, Warrenton's development code does not allow housing in areas zoned water-dependent industrial shorelands.

Warrenton Planning Commission, which considered Pacific Seafood's case last week, voted to amend the code to allow dormitories within the zone as long as they're for employees who work at water-dependent industrial businesses. The special housing would be discontinued if the ownership changes or the business ceases to operate.

"The proposal is just one specific approach to providing a range of housing options in an area that's experiencing a housing crisis," said Kevin Cronin, Warrenton's Commu-
See 'Housing' on Page 6