

Letters to the Editor

City transparent under Balensifer

There have been some unfortunate and misinformed opinions circulating about Mayor Balensifer, the City Commission and the work they have done.

The accusation that the current city administration and government is not transparent is simply untrue.

My husband and I began attending weekly Mayor's Coffee meetings a couple years ago, as well as the City Commission meetings. Through our attendance, we've met some neat people, have been able to voice our ideas on improving our city, and even found ways to be better involved, such as joining the Economic Roadmapping process that Mayor Balensifer helped start.

From our observation, Mayor Balensifer and the commission work well together, and we see no reason to change that.

If you don't want to sit through the formality of commission meetings, or fall asleep reading budgets, the mayor hosts a coffee every week and holds town halls on pressing issues. The coffee is a low-pressure informal hour focused on providing updates and listening to constituents. We also hear from the school district and nonprofits like the VFW. Both the Mayor's Coffees and town halls are a great opportunity to meet city employees responsible for daily operations and better understand how the city operates.

The mayor has an occasional column in The Columbia Press, posts a great deal of information on Facebook and, under the new city manager's leadership, now has a City Administration Facebook

page to provide updates not covered by the police or fire department Facebook pages.

With the exception of legal documents, the city website contains the packet of information the commission gets ahead of the meetings, as well as the budget and capital improvement plan, which outlines all the infrastructure projects and equipment purchases the city plans to do in the next six years. That's all information available from your smartphone or computer. Sounds like a transparent city government to me.

Brenda Hoxsey
Warrenton

Balensifer should remain mayor

This letter is in support of Mayor Henry Balensifer.

Over the years, I have had the opportunity to observe Henry, first when he was appointed to the Warrenton Planning Commission, and then when he was elected to the Warrenton City Commission.

After Mayor Mark Kujala resigned his position, the City Commission voted to appoint Henry as Mayor Pro Tem in order to fill Mr. Kujala's unfinished term.

Mayor Balensifer does an excellent job of serving all the citizens of Warrenton and he makes sure that all of the areas in our city are included -- from the airport to Fort Stevens, the Hammond area and our marinas.

I have seen our mayor handle items brought forth by citizens that were not listed on commission agendas in addition to answering questions that come up at his weekly "Coffee with the Mayor," where everything is on the table.

Mayor Balensifer's profes-

sionalism is demonstrated by staying informed through contact with city staff and researching and reading up on the various issues that are of concern to the citizens of Warrenton.

If issues require additional information, he makes sure that they are looked into and the results shared with the citizens and city commission. He runs meetings that are kept under control and is respectful of the differing opinions that come before the commission.

Please join me in voting to retain Henry Balensifer as the mayor of Warrenton.

Ken Yuill
Warrenton

Just say 'yes' this election period

There is a lot for our community to say "yes" to on this year's November ballot.

"Yes" on Measure 105 protects families, Oregon jobs and our state's economy.

"Yes" on Measure 104 limits the power of Oregon government to raise taxes and allows families to keep more of their hard-earned money.

"Yes" on Measure 106 gives Oregonians the choice of how their own tax dollars are spent.

"Yes" on Measure 103 prevents local governments from taxing groceries.

A "yes" vote on these measures and a "yes" vote on 4-195, Clatsop County's Jail Bond Measure, supports local law enforcement who protect our families and communities, upholds our most important values and keeps power in the hands of the people.

Oregon wins with "yes"!

Christine Bridgens
Warrenton

Local woman appointed to state panel

Tiffany Brown, Clatsop County's emergency services manager, has been appointed by Gov. Kate Brown to the Oregon Seismic Safety Policy Advisory Commission.



T. Brown

The panel, also known as the Earthquake Commission, is tasked with promoting statewide awareness and preparedness for natural disasters.

Brown's appointment runs through June 2022.

The Oregon Legislature established the group in 1991 to influence decisions and policies regarding pre-disaster minimalizing of earthquake and tsunami hazards, increase

public understanding of the risks, exposure and vulnerability through education, and be responsive to new studies and issues raised around earthquakes and tsunamis.

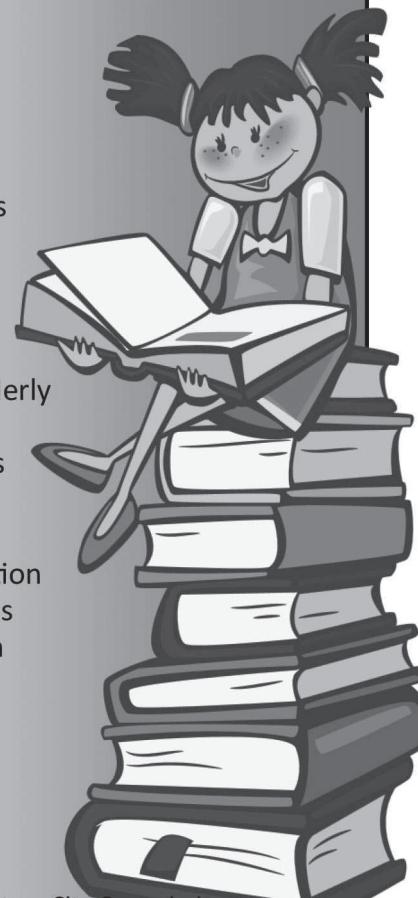
Brown has been emergency services manager since 2013.

PAID POLITICAL AD

The library's new location has been successful, and the operations levy funding has not even kicked in yet.

In 13 months, the library has:

- Issued 394 new library cards
- Expanded children's programs (due to having a larger facility)
- Safer, easier access for disabled and elderly patrons
- A larger staff thanks to an increase in volunteers
- Greater book selection
- Integrated programs with the Warrenton Grade School Partners
- Automation implementation in progress



Personally paid for by Rick Newton, City Commissioner