

Finding something for *you* this Christmas



Above: Astoria Tuba Quartet performs in last year's Tuba Christmas in Ilwaco. This year's concert is this weekend.

Right: Celebrating pets and helping strays is the theme of Clatsop Animal Assistance's holiday party and fund-raiser this weekend.



BY CINDY YINGST
The Columbia Press

There's something local for nearly every mood this Christmas.

Those who love animals, Warrenton students and classical music will find activities to boost their spirits this year.

There are things to do for those who need to get that lovin' holiday feeling back and those who prefer to give to others.

Following are some of the best holiday events, with many of them free.

FEATURING WARRENTON CHOIRS

The Columbia River Symphony's annual holiday concert features Warrenton High School and Warrenton Grade School choirs this year.

Organizers promise inspirational holiday music the audience can listen to or sing along with.

The symphony, led by Conductor Cory Pederson, is an all-volunteer nonprofit performing arts group.

The concert begins at 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 8, at the Liberty Theatre, 1203 Commercial St., Astoria. Doors open an hour before show time. The free concert is popular, so organizers recommend attendees arrive early.

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Schools chief to resign at end of school year

BY CINDY YINGST
The Columbia Press

Superintendent Mark Jeffery, who has been at the helm of Warrenton-Hammond schools for eight years, announced his retirement at the end of the school year.



Jeffery

"I've got this phenomenal administrative team, the right people in the right places," Jeffery said. "The district is in a good place. I feel good about handing it over."

Jeffery, 63, was hired in 2010, after the district had struggled through a couple years of bad news stories and legal problems. A former superintendent, Craig Brewington, had communication issues with some of the school board members and the Oregon Government Ethics Commission had determined several board members had violated open meeting laws regarding Brewington's evaluation.

"The goal when I arrived was to make this the best district in the state," Jeffery said. "We're not there yet, but we're getting there. Everybody is in place to make that happen."

Last year, test scores for Warrenton students improved in English, math and science. It was the only district in the county to best the statewide average in any subject.

Programs put in place to help students transition from grade school to high school have substantially decreased the dropout rate.

"Mark has provided such solid leadership to this district and, personally speaking, I'm so sad that he's retiring but I completely understand," School Board President Debbie Morrow said. "He has brought the district to where

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Home-stay lodgings to play by new rules in 2019

The Columbia Press

Those offering home-stay lodging within the city of Warrenton will need to abide by new rules in 2019.

City leaders recently approved putting an ordinance in place that they've been working on since summer. It governs how home-stay lodgings are run and what types of residences can be used.

A home-stay lodging business is defined as a short-term rental within an owner-occupied single-family home.

The classification wasn't previously found in Warrenton's housing code.

"The whole idea isn't to ban them, but to get them allowed in the code,"

Mayor Henry Balensifer explained when the issue came up at a City Commission meeting in October.

The city also wants to monitor them so large numbers of housing units don't go toward vacation rentals at a time when there's a severe housing shortage.

The city has other types of short-term rentals currently allowed in the housing code:

- **Vacation Rental Dwelling:** A single-family home rented on a short-term basis that has no owner occupant. These must be within a commercial zone and have an owner or off-site manager running them.

- **Bed and Breakfast Inn:** An owner- or operator-occupied dwelling with no more than five rooms available for short-term lodging and with a morning meal provided. These can be in residential districts and must have an owner or manager on site. There must be one parking space per guest bedroom.

- **Boarding, Lodging or Rooming House:** A residence or portion of a residence in which lodging is provided for no less than two people but not more than 10, excluding members of the owner and the owner's family. These are allowed in high-density res-

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