

2019: Leaders change and development hits town

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chase of a 58-acre property south of Walmart for \$6.3 million. It will be the site of a new middle school, followed by a new high school and grade school.

- Timothy Pior, 15, a thespian, athlete and musician, dies from complications of the flu.

- Robbie Porter is appointed principal of Warrenton Grade School.

APRIL

- Lingering and debilitating smoke from a contractor's burn piles prompts the city to re-do its burn laws.

- A long-anticipated Wendy's drive-through opens to much fanfare. In the weeks and months ahead, residents will complain of the traffic snarl created by poor planning of the entry and exit.

- A homeless camp behind Goodwill burns, indicative of the problems illegal camps pose for the city.

- Warrenton students walk away with a trifecta of wins in their division at the state's regional competition for remotely operated vehicles.

- Yadira Lopez and Joshua Colby sign a lease with the city to put their Nicaraguan food truck in the gravel lot next to City Hall. By year's end, the owner of a second food truck, Sasquatch Sandwiches, agrees to lease a spot.

MAY

- The city of Warrenton announces plans to sponsor a fish and farmer's market at Warrenton Marina. The market opens June 20.

- A charrette brain-storming session is held to gather ideas for a new commercial mixed-use project loosely named "Spur 104."

- Warrenton High School places second in the state's annual band and orchestra competition.

- Scott McClaine unseats incumbent Bill Hunsinger for



Mark Wickham



Peggy Yingst

Above: The Navy lands a hovercraft at Sunset Beach in June as an emergency exercise.

Left: Wendy's opens in April.

Above right: Col. Aaron Dorf hands over the wheel at Hammond Marina to Mayor Henry alensifer.

a seat on the Port of Astoria Board of Commissioners.

- Dooger's Seafood and Grill closes its doors after 15 years in Youngs Bay Plaza.

- The county's Emergency Operations Center at Camp Rilea could be vulnerable in a tsunami, according to new studies.

JUNE

- An aggressive mother elk goes on a rampage through a Hammond neighborhood, requiring police action so residents can go outside.

- Two amphibious landing craft owned by the Navy conduct an experiment on Sunset Beach to ensure emergency supplies would reach Clatsop County following a disaster.

- Port of Astoria Executive Director Jim Knight resigns after it appears likely the Board of Commissioners will fire him.

- Sofia Morrill of Warrenton is crowned Miss Scandinavia on opening night of the Scan-

dinavian Midsummer Festival.

JULY

- C&S Builders holds a grand opening at its new location on South Main Avenue at 10th Street in the former Warrenton Builders Supply store.

- A series of raids on homeless camps finds needles, debris and many repeat offenders.

- Don Bohn, an assistant county administrator for Washington County, is named Clatsop County Manager.

AUGUST

- Warrenton High School's Mara Dowaliby is crowned Astoria Regatta queen.

- Sheriff Tom Bergin, who has spent 35 years in law enforcement in Clatsop County, announces plans to retire at the end of the year.

SEPTEMBER

- Seven individuals and a sports team are inducted into Warrenton High School's Hall of Fame. They are Bob



Cindy Yingst

Graves, Victor Graham, Walt Ferguson, Marilyn Swindler Shayegan, Daniel Sturgell, Gary McBride, Muriel Dunn, and the 1998 WHS baseball team.

- Diane Collier, Warrenton's official historian, announces she'll retire from her unpaid position at the Oregon Welcome Center, leaving the kiosk in Youngs Bay Plaza without a tenant.

- Warrenton Police Department swears in two new officers, Dylan McCoy and Madysen Hanna.

- Pizza Hut closes restaurants in Warrenton's Youngs Bay Plaza and Seaside.

- The city approves a contract with Big River Construction to build and landscape a park at the four-way stop.

- Spruce Up Warrenton, a grassroots citizen group cleaning up downtown, wins the first-ever grant from the Reser Family Foundation.

- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers turns ownership of Hammond Marina over to the city, the culmination of decades of legal maneuvering and paperwork.

- Skipanon Water Control District leaders announce the district will disband.

OCTOBER

- The Confederated Lower Chinook Tribes, purchase 10 acres at Tansy Point for an interpretive park at the site of the 1851 Tansy Point Treaty.

- The city signs a contract with Bergerson Construction to dredge Hammond Marina.

- Warrenton is recognized for its efforts to revitalize downtown during a statewide conference of Oregon Main Street.

- Three new restaurants are planned in Youngs Bay Plaza, including two in the former Dooger's Bar & Grill and a freestanding drive-through at the corner of Highway

101 and Harbor Drive.

- Warrenton Fire Chief Tim Demers resigns amid an investigation of safety violations by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

NOVEMBER

- Warrenton residents pay less for homes, utilities and property taxes than residents of other areas, according to an analysis by the city's Public Works Department.

- Warrenton Grade School science teacher Dionne Marshall is named Region One Outstanding Teacher of the Year by the Oregon Science Teachers Association.

- Pacific Seafoods' workers dormitories are approved by the Planning Commission.

- Veterans from Fort Stevens VFW Post 10580 receive specialized quilts from the nationwide Quilts of Valor Foundation.

- The park at the four-way stop is officially named Warrenton Memorial Plaza.

- Convicted child molester Larry Leach is sentenced to 42 years in prison for abusing three young girls.

DECEMBER

- The Port of Astoria's finance director, Will Isom, is named executive director after serving as interim director for five months.

- Brian Alsbury, a longtime volunteer firefighter, is named Warrenton's new fire chief.

- Fire destroys a home at Warrenton Marina, displacing seven children and three adults.