



Warrenton to restrict new water connections outside city limits

By CINDY YINGST
The Columbia Press

Warrenton has stopped approving new hookups to the water system from developments outside the city.

The new policy was approved at Tuesday night's City Commission meeting and is effective immediately.

Limiting connections has been on the radar since a 2018 study showed the city's water supply could be inadequate during peak

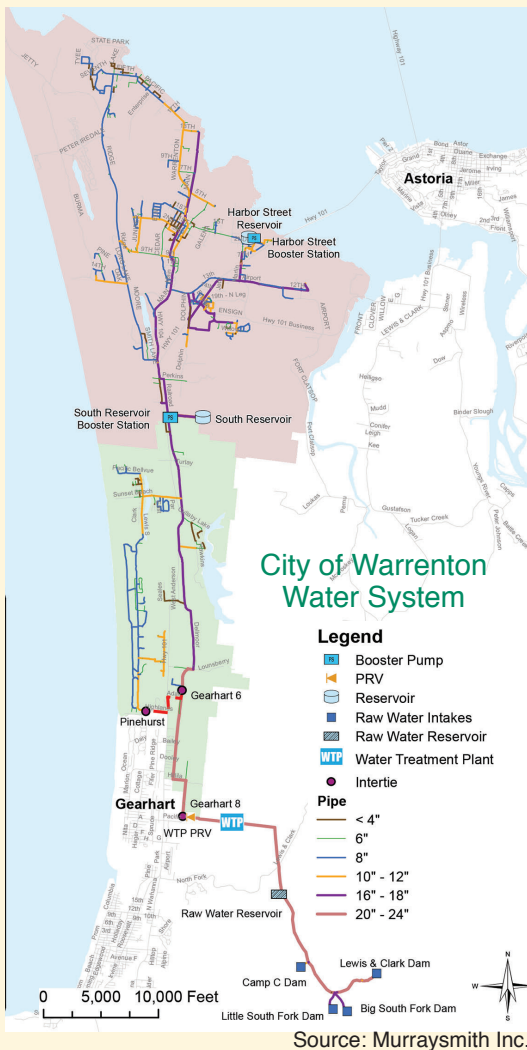
summer months to meet the needs of water customers in 15 to 20 years.

"I get concerned about not acting fast enough," said Mayor Henry Balensifer, who made the recommendation to develop the new policy last month.

At that time, the City Commission approved a \$41,500 contract with Murraysmith Inc. of Portland to review the city's water supply outside city limits and come up with ways to increase it. Previously, the company has developed a water master plan for the city, which included an analysis of its water connections.

About 35 percent of Warrenton's water goes to accounts outside city limits.

"Service to customers outside the city has been significant, which may impact the need to expand the supply system," the company states in its contract proposal. "The cost of construct-



Cows graze in a field just outside Warrenton city limits, one of many areas that could eventually become residential or commercial.

Man dies after fire at Sunset Lake RV Park

The Columbia Press

A resident of Sunset Beach RV Park died Sunday following a fire that destroyed his fifth-wheel trailer.

Michael David Murphy, 64, had been able to escape the blaze, which was reported at 6:55 a.m. Sunday at the park, 33242 Sunset Beach Lane. He was taken to Seaside Providence Hospital, where he was treated and released, but he died later that day.

Murphy, a 1975 Warrenton High School graduate and former truck driver, had also worked part time in the park. He was suffering from stage 4 lung cancer.

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A photo of Mike Murphy posted on Facebook.

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