

## New Medix headquarters wins initial city approval

*The Columbia Press*

Medix Ambulance's plans for a new headquarters on Dolphin Avenue received initial approval from Warrenton's Planning Commission on Sept. 9.

The 13,607-square-foot building would replace the existing ambulance dispatch center just east of

Highway 101 and adjacent to the new Warrenton Middle School. Medix's current building is just 2,976-square feet.

"Medix has been a great part of our community for a long time and I'm excited to see them go into a facility that will enhance their operation," Commissioner Ken Yuill said. The property is zoned for general

industrial development.

"The Medix facility is a unique facility and development," said Will Caplinger, Warrenton's interim planning director. "It's not specifically listed as a permitted use, but it's a similar use. ... This is, basically, an extension of an existing use."

Medix provides advanced life

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## Man arrested after break-in, rape attempt

*The Columbia Press*

A Warrenton man, the subject of many disturbances in a neighborhood near Warrenton High School, has been arrested on suspicion of attempted sexual assault and other charges.

A woman reported she'd woken at 4:30 a.m. Sept. 9 and found a man standing in her kitchen, according to a press release. The man told her he was being chased by people and needed a place to hide.



Wolf

The woman walked past him to open a door, but he prevented her and closed the door, according to police. Then he "pushed her against the door and, by his actions, she believed he was attempting to sexually assault her."

She elbowed the man and screamed for her husband, who was asleep in the bedroom, according to the press release. "The husband ran out and was loading a shotgun when the male subject fled the house and disappeared in the neighborhood."

Police canvassed the neighborhood near Southeast 15th Street, South Main Avenue, and Alternate Highway 101, but didn't find the man. The couple was out of town for several days, but when they returned on Sept. 12, the victim identify the man through a photo lineup.

Steven Michael Wolf, 44, of Warrenton was booked at Clatsop County Jail for first-degree burglary, first-degree kidnapping, attempted rape in the first degree, and violating a restraining order.

Wolf also had been arrested for a burglary on South Main Avenue the day before the break-in and attack.

During the past five years, police have responded to many calls on Alternate Highway 101, where he has been accused of breaking into a relative's home, creating a disturbance, or violating a restraining order.

## City leaders struggle to get along

**BY CINDY YINGST**

*The Columbia Press*

Like stress cracks in a dam, tension on the Warrenton City Commission reached a bursting point Tuesday night.

Commissioner Rick Newton asked the panel to consider whether fellow Commissioner Mark Baldwin had violated rules of conduct in the ways the two men have interacted.

"I am very tired of his continual crap attitude toward me," Newton wrote in an Aug. 28 email to Mayor Henry Balensifer.

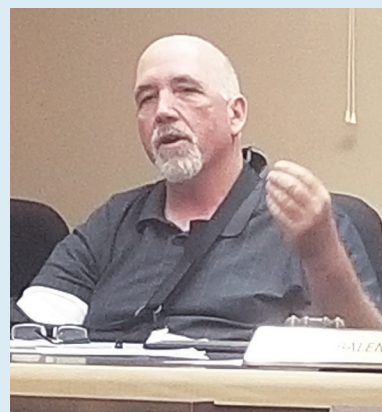
Newton, a rental property owner and retired businessman, claims Baldwin, a construction contractor, has a bad attitude toward him that originates from an arrangement Newton made with Baldwin's landlord over use of an alley that runs between his tenant, Arnie's Café, and Baldwin's shop.

The tension intensified in March after commissioners ignored Newton's advice about how to configure a food pod in the gravel lot next to City Hall.

Two months later, Newton walked out of an Urban Renewal Agency meeting about the food pod court saying, "Even though I've got 40 years of retail, hundreds of hours



Commissioner Rick Newton



Commissioner Mark Baldwin

of training, recognized five times nationally by NAPA for excellence of service, you guys decide I didn't do anything, ... so I'm excusing myself from this. I'm gonna go home."

At a June 4 meeting of the county's Public Safety Coordinating Council, a law enforcement board on which Newton serves, he told members he nearly stepped down from his position at the city "because of the unintelligence of the business people that I sit on the commission with in Warrenton. I'm the only one that knows anything about business and they wouldn't listen to me."



Poe



Balensifer



Dyer

Later that month, city commissioners met in executive session to consider taking action against Newton, including asking him to step down. But the closed-door meeting turned into more of a counseling session that included Newton apologizing in open session.

But since then, Baldwin has

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