

Mayor drops plans to become city manager

BY CINDY YINGST
The Columbia Press

Mayor Henry Balensifer has ended plans to seek the Warrenton city manager post left open with the retirement of Linda Engbretson.

He told fellow commissioners and Engbretson his plans in an email last Friday. (Engbretson has agreed to remain on duty until a new city manager is hired.)

"The purpose of this correspondence is to officially withdraw my candidacy to seek the city manager position," his email states. "As a result, I intend to seek re-election this year and to participate in the remainder of the selection and interview process for a new CM. If there is any issue with me doing so, I have copied (City Attorney) Spencer (Parsons) to ensure my involvement does not create any legal or ethical issues and will comply accordingly."

On Tuesday night, city commissioners met with Erik Jensen and Amelia Wallace of Jensen Strategies, the company that will help them hire the next city manager.

Commissioners agreed their top priorities include at least a bachelor's degree in public administration, planning, political science or related and at least three years of local government experience as a manager.

The ideal candidate would also have experience in public finance, public infrastructure management and improvement, and have great communication skills and an understanding of how a city manager form of government works. Other desired skills would be in economic development/

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Warrenton survives the Great Flood of 2022

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The great snowstorm that began Christmas evening was followed a week later by the gargantuan flood of 2022.

A perfect storm of heavy rainfall -- combined with snowmelt from the mountains and beyond, plus some of the highest tides of the year -- turned Warrenton and much of the region into a perfect mess.

The city received up to 11 inches of rainfall in 24 hours, according to

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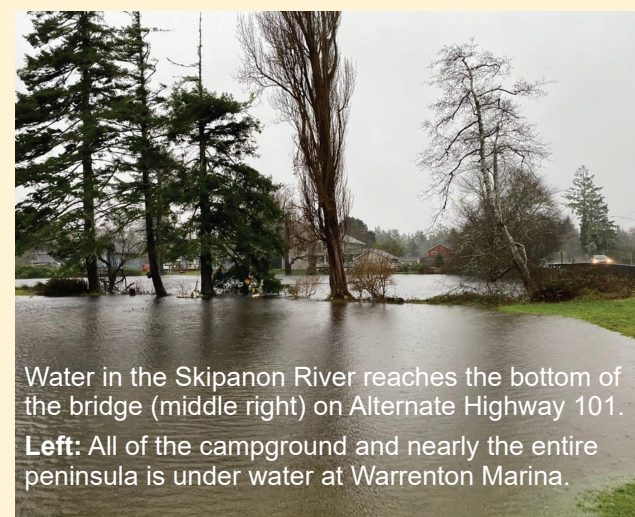


Courtesy Hampton Lumber

Hampton Lumber's yard off Skipanon Drive was under water.

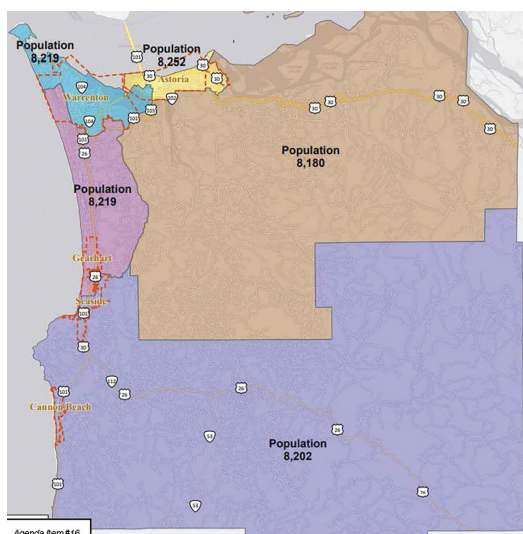


Courtesy Warrenton Police



Water in the Skipanon River reaches the bottom of the bridge (middle right) on Alternate Highway 101.

Left: All of the campground and nearly the entire peninsula is under water at Warrenton Marina.



County adopts new election boundaries

The Columbia Press

Clatsop County commissioners adopted modified commissioner election boundaries Wednesday night, just in time for the next election cycle.

"The delay in the release of the census has delayed everything for us," County Manager Don Bohn said.

Census results were delayed because of problems collecting data during the pandemic.

The county's charter requires the figures be used to create fair and

even representation boundaries within 120 days of the decennial census.

Typically released in the spring, the federal government released the data on Aug. 12 last year. And that has caused wproblems for the county to get everything ready for the May 17 primary, when three Clatsop County commission seats will be up for election.

Wednesday night's action was taken in the form of an emergency

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