



# SEASIDE Signal



OUR 109th YEAR • December 25, 2015

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## City wins top grades in financial audit

**City Council approves budget changes to coincide with audit**

By Katherine Lacaze  
Seaside Signal

The city of Seaside recently was audited for fiscal year 2014-15 and the city's finances are in good shape, according to city staff.

During the Monday, Dec. 14, Seaside

City Council meeting, Richard Proulx, of Portland-based Kern & Thompson certified public accountants, presented the results of an audit of the city's financial statements from the 2014-15 fiscal year, ending June 30. The audit was completed in November.

Kern & Thompson reviewed the financial statements of Seaside's governmental activities, business-type activities, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information "to obtain reasonable as-

urance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement," the report states. The audit also evaluated the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by city management, in addition to the overall presentation of the financial statements, according to the report. The audit was done according to federal standards.

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WENDY RICHARDSON

## Community mourns loss of Wendy Richardson

Seaside Signal

Community members, business leaders and co-workers at The Daily Astorian and Seaside Signal mourn the sudden loss of Wendy Richardson. Richardson, a Warrenton resident, was a longtime South County advocate and had been an advertising representative for publications since 2007.

Richardson suffered an aneurysm Sunday afternoon. She was flown via Life Flight Network to Providence Portland Medical Center and was removed from life support Sunday night at 8:05 p.m., according to family members. She died Monday afternoon.

"It is immensely sad this morning to report that Wendy Richardson died this weekend," EO Media Group Publisher Steve Forrester said Monday. "Wendy was widely admired and loved in Seaside, and she was well known in Cannon Beach, where she owned a business years ago."

Richardson, 56, is survived by her husband, Al Richardson, to whom she was married for 25 years, and three children, Alix, 24; Andie, 23; and Nick, 19. They recently moved to Warrenton after many years in Gearhart.

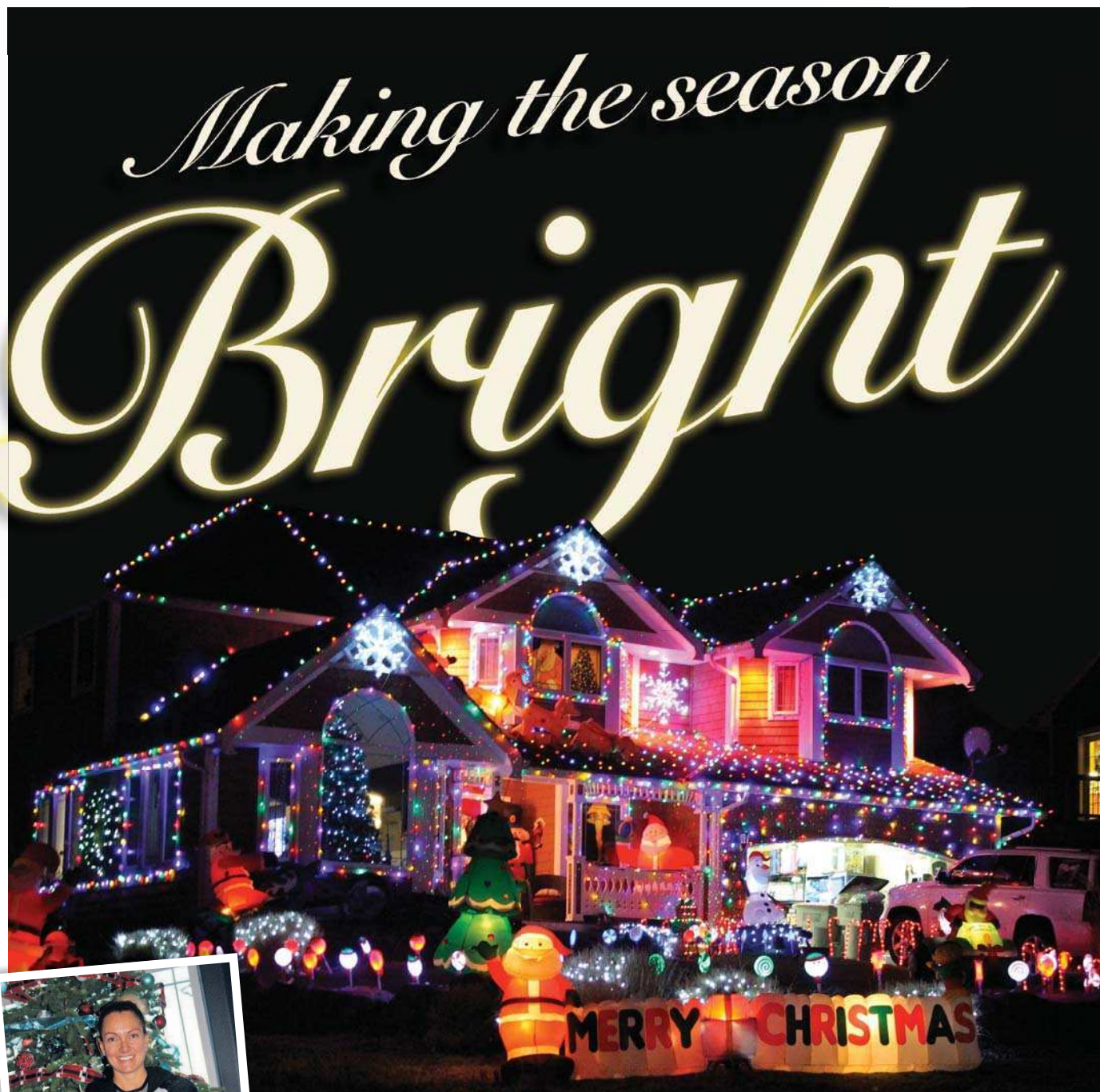
Her mother, Dorie Shannon, died in 1996.

Her father, Roger Shannon, survives her. She is also survived by three brothers, Jeff, Scott and Randy Shannon and two stepdaughters, Tiffany Hunt and Gretchen Teevin, and five grandchildren.

Wendy Shannon was born March 24, 1959, in San Juan, Puerto Rico, where her father served in the U.S. Coast Guard.

Roger Shannon served three Clatsop County tours with the U.S. Coast Guard, and retired in Astoria.

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KATHERINE LACAZE/SEASIDE SIGNAL

Seaside resident Kristi Israel is a huge Christmas fan. Her holiday spirit is evident in the display of lights, decorations and music at her home on Skyline Drive.

## Israels give Skyline Drive home a holiday makeover with elaborate decorations

By Katherine Lacaze  
Seaside Signal

Seaside resident Kristi Israel loves the Christmas season. Her penchant for the holiday is made evident, if by no other means, through her beautifully decorated home on Skyline Drive.

Since moving in about five years ago, and also at her previous residence, Israel has celebrated the season by swathing her home in lights, inflatable snowmen, illuminated candy canes and more.

"I'm a big Christmas fan," Israel said. "I always have been."

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KATHERINE LACAZE/SEASIDE SIGNAL

Seaside resident Kristi Israel, pictured with her 7-year-old son Kane, is a huge Christmas fan.

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## Homelessness doesn't take a holiday

**Helping Hands raising awareness, funds to assist those in need through the winter months**

By Katherine Lacaze  
Seaside Signal

As the end of the year approaches, accompanied by a slew of annual holidays, Helping Hands Reentry Outreach Centers is encouraging the community not to forget those whose season is not all too merry and bright.

The Seaside-based nonprofit organization is running its third annual Homeless For the Holidays campaign to raise awareness and funds to support homeless individuals and families throughout the winter months. The campaign started Nov. 15.

Already in 2015, the organization has provided services to more than 700 women, men and children. The nightly need increases in December and January, and consequently, the organization's expenses "just about double" as it tries to assist everyone, according to Chief Executive Office

Alan Evans. Especially with the recent storms across the Pacific Northwest, people find themselves displaced and with nowhere to go.

"Now is the hardest time of year for everybody," Evans said. "We always reach out for help from our supporters, hoping that you will donate your end-of-the-year gift to Helping Hands. The obstacles people are facing to stay afloat are devastating and the stories are real."

Lisa Chambers, 44, of Astoria, can relate.

This time last year she was going through Helping

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KATHERINE LACAZE/SEASIDE SIGNAL

Lisa Chambers, of Astoria, is enjoying a holiday season with her 8-year-old son Zar. A year ago, the two were separated and Chambers was going through Helping Hands' reentry program.