



MEET THE CANDIDATES



Adam Wood



Kathy Kleczek



David Posalski



Bob Shortman



Reita Fackerell



Dan Jesse



Jack Zimmerman

Three vie for Seaside's Ward 4 seat

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

Candidates vying for the Ward 4 seat on the Seaside City Council are focusing on emergency preparedness, housing, transportation and tourism.

Kathy Kleczek, David Posalski and Adam Wood are com-

peting for the vacancy left by City Councilor Seth Morrissey, who did not file for reelection.

Oct. 13 is the last day to register to vote, and ballots will be mailed from Oct. 14 to Oct. 20.

Kleczek is the former chairwoman of the Sunset Empire Transportation District board and the representative for the district on

Northwest Transportation Options. She also serves on the Special Districts Association of Oregon's board.

She established and runs her own business, La Luna Loca, in Cannon Beach, with originally designed, colorful clothing.

"The common thread
See Seaside, Page A6

Competitive races in Gearhart

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

Issues in the races for Position 2 and Position 4 on the City Council coalesce on a proposed new site for the fire station and the potential purchase of the former Gearhart Elementary School.

Emergency preparedness, investing in the

area and preserving Gearhart's character are also important to the candidates.

City Councilor Reita Fackerell, who was appointed to Position 2 in December 2018, will face opposition from Bob Shortman.

City Councilor Dan Jesse, who was first elected in Position 4 in 2012, is running for a

third term. He faces challenger Jack Zimmerman.

Position 2

Fackerell seeks a sustainable future in the areas of finance and livability. Improving, maintaining and adding new park space is another priority.

"I feel that Gearhart is

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Preparing for the next disaster starts with 'Shakeout'

Science holds some unsettling forecasts for the North Coast.

The Oregon Coast is in a cluster of earthquakes and tsunamis, according to City Councilor Tom Horning of Horning Geosciences.

The average time between events is 330 years. Most earthquakes happen in a cluster, he said, and statistics show we are in a cluster now.

"The window has been open for the next tsunami for the last 120 years," Horning said. "It could happen at any time. Of the

past 19 tsunamis to have been generated by a Cascadia earthquake, five struck before 320 years had passed. It has been 320 years since the last one, and the clock is ticking."

Seaside's geographic location near the junction of two seismically active faults that could lead to a fatality rate of more than 50% if and when the big one hits.

This assumes a winter-time event, Horning said, and could be five to 10 that

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Firefighters on move to California again

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

With more than two dozen active incidents including the 56,000-acre Zogg fire in Shasta and 60,000-acre Glass fire in Napa and Sonoma, Clatsop County firefighters are returning to the front lines in California.

The Oregon Office of the State Fire Marshal mobilized Oregon firefighting resources, including Clatsop County Task Force 57, to assist with the coordinated response to California wildfires, following a request for state-to-state assistance made by California to Oregon, the fire marshal's office reported

last week.

More than 3.9 million acres have burned in California this year.

"I'm sure California firefighters are getting tired after all the fires," Seaside Fire Chief Joey Daniels said. "Trying to relieve them if the state of Oregon is able to do it is something we always try to do."

Of local teams, Seaside and Gearhart sent four firefighters each; Knappa and Lewis and Clark fire departments each sent three, and Astoria and Nehalem each sent two.

Seaside, Gearhart, Astoria and Knappa all dispatched apparatus

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Elk grazing near playground equipment.

Neal Maine/PacificLight Images

NO LIMIT ON NUMBER OF ELK IN GEARHART

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

From a herd of about 40 elk a decade ago, wildlife biologist Paul Atwood of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife said the population jumped to about 100 elk in the Gearhart herd just a couple of years ago.

That number is estimated now at about 150 and will exceed 200 in the near future.

"I would certainly expect local elk populations to increase," Atwood said. "There's not going to be a fast way to deal with this. With more elk comes more damage."

Sticking with the status quo, things will get worse year after year, project manager Manuel Padilla said, given the low mortality of elk and the lack of options to reduce the population.

Oregon Solutions

Oregon Solutions, housed in the College of Urban and Public Affairs at Portland State University, works across jurisdictional lines to help solve problems big and small, Padilla said. "Some are statewide, some are community specific and they can range pretty much anything you can think of."

Gov. Kate Brown designated the Clatsop Plains Elk Collaborative as an Oregon Solutions project in April 2019, appointing Warrenton Mayor Henry Balensifer and Seaside Mayor Jay Barber as project co-conveners.

There are more elk in Gearhart than any other city within the project area, Atwood said, attracted by access to lawns, fertilized landscapes and two golf courses — a recipe for "really stellar feed."

Local elk are in good body condition and have access to feed year-round, Atwood said.

Healthy elk cows are more likely to carry their calf to term, he said, and when delivered, more likely to be in good body condition than the average calf.

With a low mortality rate and few if any predators, the majority of calves are recruited into the adult population — meaning more property damage, more elk-vehicle collisions and more unwanted elk-human interactions.

While these are rare, Sgt. Joe Warwick of the Oregon State Police Fish and Wildlife Division said the number is rising.

"We deal with them on a case-by-case, individual basis," Warwick said. "My perspective is nothing can outweigh the safety of humans."

Elk management can also impact local first responders.

On Sept. 25 the Gearhart Volunteer Fire Department assisted

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Khan named state lodging group's board chairman

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

The Oregon Lodging & Restaurant Association announced Masudur Khan as its new board chairman Thursday.

Khan helms Seaside Lodging and owns and manages 13 hotels and one restaurant on the Oregon Coast including the Inn at Seaside, the River Inn at Seaside, the Coast

River Inn and the recently debuted four-story, 65-room Saltline Hotel.

Khan's wife, Taslema Sultana, operates The Gilbert Inn and the Inn at Haystack Rock.

"I like challenges," Khan said. "We have a lot of work to do in our industry, but I'm committed and excited."

A Seaside hotelier for more than a decade, Khan was named the state lodging association's 2015 lodging operator of the year.

Success during the coronavirus pandemic is

not the same for everyone, he said.

Hotel or restaurant location, size and demographic are all concerns.

"Every property is unique, and it's going to come back slowly," Khan said. "There's a lot of uncertainty. We will have to work harder to survive. We have lots to do."

The lodging business is rapidly evolving, as some visitors are looking for private dining or meeting area options.

"Groups are renting

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Masudur Khan opened the 65-room Saltline Hotel in July.

Coast River Business Journal

