

**BRIEFS**

**Silverton City Hall designer hired**

The City of Silverton has agreed to pay \$467,879 to Mackenzie Engineering, Inc., to design a new police facility, municipal court/council chambers and city hall on the old Eugene Field School property.

The city received nine qualified proposals for architectural services after it opened the RFP process in late January. A selection team comprised of Silverton City Councilor Dana Smith and city staff conducted interviews in mid-March.

City councilors then

voted unanimously to authorize City Manager Christy Wurster to enter into a contract with Mackenzie Engineering, which occurred April 22.

The city purchased the 3.46-acre Eugene Field property for \$1 million in 2017. Its seller was the Silver Falls School District, which had closed the old elementary school campus in 2016.

**Graystone Lounge opens in Towne House spot**

SILVERTON – The new Graystone Lounge is open, offering takeout and delivery meals from

its menu in the Velvet Curtain Room. The lounge's location at 203 E. Main St. was most recently home to the Towne House. Right now, the eatery's Italian meals are designed for takeaway, and many are offered "family size." Pickup and delivery is Thursday and Friday nights. Delivery is available for \$5, within a 5-mile range of downtown. Owners Joshua and Paige Echo-Hawk are also renovating the lounge side of the building. Dan Oesterblad is the general manager. For more information, log on to [www.graystonelounge.com](http://www.graystonelounge.com).

**Appeal Tribune**

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**Primary**

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get and a lot of that was to provide long-term support for people with disabilities."

Norton spent 23 years in the Coast Guard and currently works as a program coordinator for the Oregon Military Department, working with the National Guard and helping them be prepared for emergencies.

He's volunteered with the Salem Community Emergency Response Team and said his time working through disasters taught him about working with entities at the state, county and city levels.

Norton said Marion County needs to take steps to prepare for the threat of the Cascadia Subduction earthquake and the impacts that will have on aging infrastructure, including roads and bridges.

"We know these things are going to fail and there's things we could be doing now to better prepare us for that," Norton said.

He feels his experience with the Coast Guard



**Carson**

**Norton**

during disasters including response to 2005's Hurricane Katrina and 2010's Deepwater Horizon oil spill give him a unique view of the need for emergency preparedness.

"I think that military background and working with the public in that regard would be useful," Norton said.

Carson Cottingham said her biggest priority is to tackle the homelessness issue in Marion County.

She said she wants the county to investigate what it can do to support low-income housing, expand access to shelters for women and children in potentially dangerous situations and provide mental health support for people in the homeless community.

"I've seen the human impact," she said. "No one should be unhoused, especially not children. My heart breaks because how can they learn if they don't have stable housing."

Carson Cottingham said the current crisis has demonstrated the necessity for planning and infrastructure to help the most vulnerable during the times of crisis, such as home-bound seniors and those with disabilities.

Marion County is the top agricultural producing county in the state, and the majority of those farms are located in unincorporated parts of the county.

Norton said his experience in the agricultural sector between a youth working in fields and for agricultural processors in the Willamette Valley growing up and his family's Eastern Oregon ranch gives him a perspective on what farmers go through.

"Having a science background is going to be beneficial in that we are mostly an agricultural area," Norton said.

Carson Cottingham admits she hasn't had much first-hand agriculture experience, but previous generations of her family and her grandfather taught agriculture at Bend High School.

She said she plans to make the effort to meet constituents through all sectors, including the ag-

ricultural community, and listen to their concerns to learn what she could do to help them.

"I believe in our family farmers," she said. "I believe in the value that agriculture brings to our county."

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**Ashley Carson Cottingham**

Party: Democrat.  
 Age: 41.  
 Home: Salem.  
 Family: Husband Carroll, two sons.  
 Education: Bachelor's in Music from University Oregon, Law degree from Vermont Law School.  
 Work: Deputy director, long-term care ombuds-

man for the State of Oregon; previously director of aging and people with disabilities for DHS; Executive Director for the Older Women's League; staff director for the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Primary Health and Aging.

Public offices held: None.

Campaign cash on hand: \$5,150.98 as of April 29.

Campaign contact: [ashley4oregon@gmail.com](mailto:ashley4oregon@gmail.com)

**Dan Norton**

Party: Democrat.  
 Age: 56.  
 Home: Salem.  
 Family: Wife, Barbara, two children.  
 Education: Bachelors

in Zoology and science education from Oregon State University, Masters in Environmental Science from John's Hopkins.

Work: Emergency Management Program Coordinator for the Oregon Military Department; previously U.S. Coast Guard for 23 years; small business owner; high school teacher in Salem-Keizer and Silverton school districts.

Public service: Salem Community CERT council member.

Campaign cash on hand: None filed with Secretary of State.

Campaign contact: [drnorton@proton-mail.com](mailto:drnorton@proton-mail.com)

**Gates**

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**Gates a source of flux**

Gates is the only one of the four cities that gets its water from the North Santiam River's surface water and it is downstream of the other involved cities.

Turmoil has roiled the town in recent years.

There are only about 500 people in the city about 30 minutes east of Salem. In the 2018 election, no one filed to run for city councilor or mayor.

During a contentious city council meeting weeks before the election, Dan Tucker grew frustrated with how the city council addressed property owners using shipping containers on their land.

He abruptly announced to the crowd he was running for mayor, and he and fellow write-in candidates CaroleAnne Boniface, Tom Smith and James Hensell were elected.

"I went out and



**Scenes from around Gates, Oregon, on April 29, 2020.**  
 MADELINE COOK / STATESMAN JOURNAL

knocked on a few doors, talked to people and we found a group of council people who were willing to work, good honest people and we voted them all in," said city councilor Ron Carmickle, who was appointed to the council in August 2019.

**The lone holdout**

Tucker joined the task force soon after being elected mayor.

Days before the Gates city council was to vote on joining the intergovernmental agreement in February, a rift arose.

Lisa McCall, a Gates citizen, went door to door with a flier advocating Gates not join the sewer district, saying another jump in utility bills was certain if residents were forced to join the sewer project.

She took a survey of homeowners and said 65 residents were opposed to the city joining the project.

"Water bills in Gates have doubled over the past 10 years," McCall said.

A standing-room-only crowd gathered in the Gates city hall for the February 20 meeting and three contentious minutes into the meeting, a

citizen asked if there was going to be public comment allowed. Tucker responded there would be no public comments, adjourned the meeting and left.

"I abruptly ended the city council meeting in February because I realized that I needed to know the opinion of the citizens of Gates concerning the sewer project before allowing the issue to come up for a vote," Tucker wrote.

Tucker took his own survey of all Gates water customers. He said 99 people wanted the project to go forward and 26 were against it.

At the delayed March city council meeting, which was held by phone, the issue was tabled, but before the council could meet again, city councilor Tom Smith resigned.

And at the April 16 meeting, which was held by phone, the council was divided.

Tucker voiced his strong support for the agreement.

Carmickle said he grew concerned after a lawyer's review of the agreement and raised concerns how the project would benefit those in Detroit and Mill City more than those in Gates.

"I think it would be in everybody's best interest if the task force went back to the drawing table and looked at the IGA with the city of Gates and looked at it without a bias and looked at it and try to find some solutions to it," Carmickle said.

"We know that it needs the sewer system. What we're against is the IGA."

Boniface said he was concerned the property owners of Gates would be required to join the system at a significant cost, but Gonzalez said conversations with an attorney indicated the authority to include an opt-out clause for property owners couldn't be added to the IGA at this point.

When the vote was taken, Tucker and John McCormick voted to join the district, Carmickle and Hensell voted against it and Boniface abstained.

With that vote, Gates didn't join the sewer project.

Minutes later, Tucker abruptly announced he would resign as mayor effective the following day.

"I find that I can no longer work with individuals on the city council," Tucker said.

**What's next for the project and Gates?**

Even without Gates' involvement, the rest of the participants want the wastewater project to go forward.

"My thought is it's not dead yet," said Cameron, who lives in Detroit. "We have to look at all the options that are ahead of us. Until there is a definite 'stop, don't go because it's too expensive or it's too geographically difficult,' we're moving forward with it."

Gonzalez said an attorney would review the intergovernmental agreement to determine if it can continue with Mill City, Detroit and Idanha as previously signed or if it needs to be redrawn and go back to the cities for adoption again.

She said the task force will address how to go forward at its May 7 meeting and address any alternatives.

"The county has been very specific in that we want to help in places that we're requested and not help in places that we're not requested," Gonzalez said.

And now Gates has two vacancies on its six-member city council.

After Tucker's resignation, McCormick became the sitting mayor, but the city still needs two more city councilors.

A special Gates city council meeting has been called on Zoom for 7 p.m. May 4 to appoint a new city councilor or two.

The city's charter "doesn't get specific for the mayor other than the council president steps in for the mayor. I'm assuming that that means the council president fills in until the next election," city recorder Traci Archer said. "That's something I'm going to ask our city attorney about."

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