

Few challengers for May 19 special election

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

Clatsop County's May 19 Special District Election is shaping up to be a mostly one-sided affair.

The deadline to file for candidacy was Thursday, and most positions are unopposed contests.

The three Port of Astoria commissioners up for election or re-election face no competition.

Bill Hunsinger of Astoria, a commercial fisherman and longtime longshoreman, is the sole candidate for Position 3. He's running for his third elected term since defeating Oregon State University Extension Sea Grant agent Jim Bergeron in 2007.

In May, Ric Gerttula resigned from Position 5 of the Port Commission, and Jack Bland resigned from Position 4.

Former sheriff and Clatsop County Commissioner John Raichl of Astoria, appointed to Position 5 in 2014 to fill Gerttula's remaining year, is running unopposed. Robert Mushen of Cannon Beach, a retired doctor appointed to

Position 4 to fill Bland's remaining year, is also running unopposed.

Two initiatives were gathering signatures to make it on the May 19 ballot and ask voters whether to remake how Port commissioners are selected. One was to make them locally recommended, vetted and governor-appointed; another was recall the Port Commission in 2017 and make them all regionally elected, like Clatsop County commissioners. Neither initiative appears on the May 19 election web page and will not be on the ballot.

Old guard leaves college board

Clatsop Community College's Board of Directors is entering a new era. Paul Gillum, its longest-tenured member, has not filed for re-election. Gillum joined the college board in Zone 2, Position 4 in 1999.

Five-sevenths of the Clatsop Community College Board of Directors is running unopposed for re-election, including:

- Karen Burke of Knappa, the retired head of CCC's nursing program, appointed in

April 2014 to fill the remainder of Clatsop County Commissioner Dirk Rohne's term in Zone 1, Position 1. Rohne, a Brownsmead resident elected in 2007 to the college board, said he asked Burke to replace him.

- Robert Duehmig of Astoria, appointed in December to replace Frank Satterwhite in Zone 2, Position 3. Satterwhite resigned after 16 years on the board.

- Tessa James Scheller of Warrenton, appointed to Zone 3, Position 6 in 2010 and elected in 2011.

- Anne Teaford-Cantor of Astoria, who is running for Gillum's position. Teaford-Cantor is a member of the steering committee for the Lower Columbia Diversity Project.

- Seaside Public Library director Esther Moberg, running for Zone 3, Position 7. Moberg was appointed in December to replace Larry McKinley, who was appointed in April to replace Kirsten Ayles of Warrenton. Ayles, an accountant after taking similar job in Seattle for King County, Wash. McKinley, the Northwest Area

Manager for the Oregon Department of Transportation, resigned after taking a position as Access Management Program Manager with ODOT in Salem.

K-12 Schools

Astoria and Warrenton's school boards each feature one contested race.

In Astoria, Janice Horning is challenging incumbent Jenna Rickenbach for Position 5. Horning ran in 2013 and lost to Grace Laman. On March 31, Rickenbach was appointed to complete the term of Laurie Choate, who took a position with South Puget Sound Community College's nursing program in Olympia, Wash.

Martin Dursse is running unopposed for re-election in Position 2, as is Shawn Helligso in Position 3.

In Warrenton, Dennis Warren is challenging incumbent Joe Talamantez for Position 7. Talamantez, the finance manager at Management and Training Corporation, was appointed last year to fill out the term of Len Mossman. After five years on the Warrenton-Hammond School Board, Mossman resigned to

focus more on his priorities as a high-ranking member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Warren, a retired teacher, was elected in 2007 to the Warrenton-Hammond School Board and retired. In 2011, he didn't file for re-election and was replaced by Isaac Anderson.

Board Chairwoman Debbie Morrow, who was appointed to the board in 2010 and elected in 2011, is running unopposed.

But two other board members on the Warrenton-Hammond School Board will be new.

Dalan Moss of Coast Rehabilitation Services is running for Position 5. Former Major League Baseball player Brian Bruney had been appointed to the position to replace former Astoria Finance Director Mark Carlson, but did not seek election.

Greg Morrill, president of Bergerson Construction in Astoria, is running unopposed in Position 2, for which Anderson didn't file re-election. One of his employees, Adam Neahring, was elected to the board in 2013.

For the Seaside School Dis-

trict, Chairman Mark Truax is running unopposed for reelection to Zone 4, Position 2; Patrick Nofield is running unopposed for reelection to Zone 1, Position 1; and Vice-Chairman Steven C. Phillips is running unopposed for Zone 5, Position 1.

For the Knappa School Board, Candi Vanderburg and Ed Johnson are running for unopposed for re-election. In Jewell, Ginger L. Kaczynski is running unopposed for reelection to Position 1; Position 3 has no candidate; and Brian K. Meier, who owns Brian K. Meier Trucking in Seaside, is running unopposed for Position 5.

Most special district elections are unopposed or include no candidates for certain positions, including health, rural fire, sanitary service, water, Sunset Empire Park and Recreation and Clatsop County Rural Law Enforcement districts.

April 28 is the last day to register to vote; ballots are mailed out April 29; and election day is May 19. For a full run-down of elections and candidates, visit <http://bit.ly/1x-8VBP5>.

Statue: 'This is about making Pendleton more fun'

Continued from Page 1A

They graced the bronze with green glasses, an oversized green top hat sporting a shamrock and banner that said, "Kiss me! I'm Irish." All of it, they said, was about fun.

Saturday afternoon, though, Harmon said she found someone removed the decorations, so they replaced them. Moments later she spied a man yanking them off again. Harmon threw open her window and yelled at the man to stop, she said, and he shouted back the decorations were desecrating the representation of Sundown. Becker made for the downstairs door.

"I went down the stairs because he had our hat, the

St. Paddy hat, in his hand," Becker said. "I grabbed the hat and went back into the building."

The man followed Becker inside and grabbed him by the back of the neck. Becker said he wore a tank top, and the scar from his neck surgery to remove discs is easy to see. Becker said he reacted.

"I used my forearm and pushed him against the mailboxes ... and opened the door with my other hand," Becker told the *East Oregonian*. "The guy was in his 60s or 70s."

Becker said he did not want to hurt the man, he only wanted him gone. When Becker returned upstairs, though, Harmon said the man had their other decorations

and was heading north on Main.

They followed in a car and caught up to the man at the intersection of Northwest Fourth Street and Ellis Avenue. Becker said Harmon bailed from the car before he stopped and confronted the decoration-taker.

"He grabbed her by the wrist and swung her," Becker said, "and hit her with the bag in his left hand." The impact broke blood vessels in her face, he said.

The couple called police, but officers did not find the man. Pendleton police Chief Stuart Roberts said the suspect was white with short gray hair and a short mustache, about 6 feet tall and thin.

Roberts also said no one

was injured, and police are looking at a potential harassment case, not an assault.

Becker said if police catch the man, he will press charges. He said his neck has ached since the fracas, but he has not gone to a doctor.

The couple said they wanted to find a way to make sure that decorating the statues was OK. Becker said he called Pendleton City Manager Robb Corbett over and over Monday until they spoke. Corbett recommended a petition, Becker said.

"Within 24 hours we got all those signatures," Becker said. "We are really persistent in getting this done."

Several signers work downtown near the statue, including at Beckman Saddles, Frazier Office Supply and

Virgil's at Cimmiyotti's. Harmon said only two people she approached would not sign the petition — one for personal reasons and one who is against signing petitions for religious reasons. Harmon presented the petition Tuesday night to the Pendleton City Council.

Harmon said the council gave a positive response. The council did not express opposition to the petition, and councilwoman Becky Marks said she found the decorations charming. The council opted to take more time, though, before taking action on the petition.

Chief Roberts added the city does not have an ordinance prohibiting the decorating of statues, and Corbett plans to allow the decora-

tions unless and until the city receives multiple complaints.

Harmon and Becker said the statue decorations draw people to Main Street, and plenty of folks enjoy them and even take photos with the dolled-up Sundown.

"This is about making Pendleton more fun," Becker said.

Harmon said she hopes the city council sees it the same way. But if not, the couple would cease decorating.

Until then, she said, they plan on decorating the statue for Easter. And now that so many business owners and workers on Main Street are aware of the recent incident, she said, perhaps more people will keep an eye out if someone removes the adornments.

Sign: 'You can put up any sign you want'

Continued from Page 1A

Several people have called City Hall over the past few days to complain about the new sign, while others have taken to Facebook and The Daily Astorian to comment.

Cindy Magie, a stay-at-home mother and fisheries biologist, said she is disappointed by what she considers a graphic image placed so prominently on Marine Drive.

"It is frustrating that after our efforts to shield our kids from inappropriate sexual images on TV and movies, our kids will now be exposed to this very graphic image every morning riding the school bus to elementary school," she wrote the newspaper. "Please consider returning to the previous signage."

The city, through its development code, can regulate the number, size, placement and physical characteristics of signs, but not the content, which is protected free speech.

"We do not, and we cannot, regulate the content of a sign," said Mike Morgan, the interim city planner.

The Oregon Constitution, in Article I, Section 8, has free speech rights that are broader than the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The Oregon Supreme Court has interpreted the state Constitution to protect all forms of speech equally, while the U.S. Supreme Court has given lesser protection to commercial speech, such as advertising.

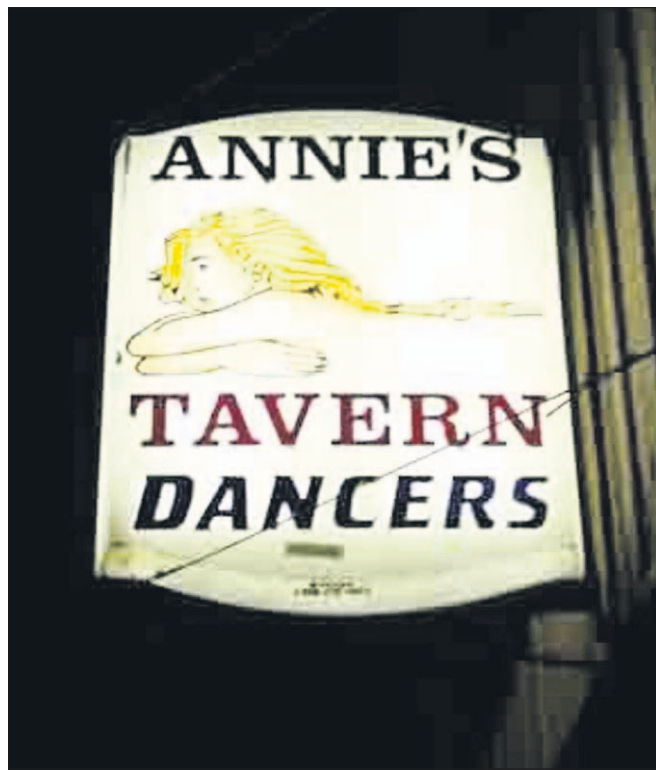
"Part of our open society is having the ability to express all kinds of ideas," said Jann Carson, the associate director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon. "And, I think, civilizations have generally been better when those ideas can be expressed, rather than suppressed."

"When we give the government the authority to sup-



Via Annie's Saloon Facebook page

This new sign went up recently at the Annie's Saloon, causing quite a stir on social media and an uptick in phone calls to the city.



Via Wikimedia Commons

The previous sign for Annie's Saloon.

press one idea, then they have the authority to suppress any idea."

Middleton recognizes her free speech rights.

"You can put up any sign

you want," she said, "because I'm protected by the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America. And so is the newspaper. And so is Annie's."

CMH Urgent Care in Warrenton

Open daily, 9am-6:30pm

1639 SE Ensign Lane (near Staples and Petco)
503-338-4500 • www.cmhurgentcare.org



Urgent Care in Warrenton With shorter wait times.

We're here when you need care now

When you need healthcare now, come to CMH Urgent Care in Warrenton and Astoria. With onsite x-ray and lab services, you'll be on the road to recovery soon.

CMH Urgent Care:

- Works with most insurances, including Medicare and Medicaid.
- Provides onsite lab and x-ray services.
- Cares for people of all ages.



2111 Exchange Street, Astoria, Oregon • 503-325-4321
www.columbiamemorial.org • A Planetree-Designated Hospital