



# THE DAILY ASTORIAN

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ONE DOLLAR

## Former clerk serves claim against county

Filing alleges unlawful firing over ballot errors

By KYLE SPURR  
The Daily Astorian

Former Clatsop County Clerk Maeve Kennedy Grimes is seeking damages and possible reinstatement after she was fired in December over two errors found on the general election ballot.

Kennedy Grimes' attorney Andrew Altschul of Portland served a torts claim notice on the county this week claiming Kennedy Grimes' firing was, "nothing short of shocking."

"Rarely do we find a case with such a blatant violation of the law," Altschul wrote in the notice.

County Manager Scott Somers initially

placed Kennedy Grimes on paid administrative leave Oct. 20 after two errors were found on the November general election ballot.

One mistake left off a zero in the amount of the Clatsop Community College Bond Measure 4-176 as "not exceeding \$8,200,00." The second mistake gave Cannon Beach voters incorrect instructions in the at-large election for the City Council involving George Vetter and Mike Benefield.

As a result of the errors, the Oregon Sec-

retary of State's Office required the county to distribute supplemental ballots, costing about \$14,000.

According to the torts claim notice, Kennedy Grimes was alerted by a citizen about the errors and immediately contacted the Secretary of State's Office, who directed her to proceed with the supplemental ballots. However, Somers ordered her to consider other options.

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## Sisters honored for 'exemplary volunteerism'



JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian

Jeanne Maddox Peterson, a recipient of the Lady Liberty award, is greeted with a standing ovation after getting up to speak at the Lady Liberty Award Luncheon in the McTavish Room of the Liberty Theater Thursday.

## Liberty awards go to educator, dance teacher

By DERRICK DePLEDGE  
The Daily Astorian

Two remarkable sisters — Jeanne Maddox Peterson, a dancer; and Judith Maddox Bigby, an educator — were recognized Thursday afternoon for their devotion to the North Coast.

At a luncheon at the Liberty Theater's McTavish Room, the women were celebrated at the fourth annual Lady Liberty awards for what Rosemary Baker-Monaghan, the theater's executive director, described as their

"exemplary volunteerism."

Maddox Peterson, a professional dancer who has taught dance for much of her life and has for four decades directed the Little Ballet Theatre's annual production of "The Nutcracker," was honored for "exceptionally high quality of dance and choreography classes and for her graceful way of mentoring to generations of local students."

Maddox Bigby, the first woman to serve as principal in the Astoria School District as leader of John Jacob Astor Elementary School,

was honored for her "lifelong focus on education and her advocacy for children."

### Accolades

Friends and former co-workers marveled at the persistence, dedication and, occasionally, toughness the sisters have brought to their work while also raising families. (A middle sister, Jocelyn Maddox Hoffman, an educator who lives in Beaverton, was among the family members who attended the luncheon.)

Seaside High School Principal

Sheila Roley, a "dance mother" whose daughter took ballet from Maddox Peterson, said the instructor creates a professional atmosphere and sets expectations high.

"What I saw was the beauty of believing in kids, and of commitment, and of consistency, and dedication," she said. "And having young people under your tutelage aspire to be their best, whether they ultimately became dancers or they followed another path."

Ernie Atkinson, a friend who taught at Astor Elementary while Maddox Bigby was principal, called her a dynamo. He compared

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## Back to the city?

County manager is on short list for Seattle burb

By KYLE SPURR  
The Daily Astorian

Clatsop County Manager Scott Somers has applied to become the next city manager of Mill Creek, Wash., a city of 18,750 north of Seattle.

Somers was recently notified that he is on the short list of five finalists for the position.

The application process closed in March, Somers said.

"They came to me," he said. "It's a possible option."

Somers said this is the first job he has applied for since becoming Clatsop County manager in July 2012. Prior to Clatsop County, Somers worked as city manager of Reedsport.

"My family and I have spent the last six years on the rural coast of Oregon and we are looking to relocate back to the Seattle area for family reasons and quality-of-life improvements," Somers wrote in his cover letter. "I'm seeking a long-term position in an area where we want to establish roots and long-term and lasting personal and professional relationships."

According to The Everett Herald, the five finalists are scheduled to tour Mill Creek and meet with city staff Thursday. That evening, people can meet the candidates at a public reception at 6 p.m. in the City Hall annex building, The Herald reported.

The Mill Creek City Council is expected to choose a city manager at its meeting at 6 p.m. April 21, after interviewing finalists April 17 behind closed doors.

The four other finalists are George Korthauer, former city manager of Petoskey, Mich.; Richard Leahy, city manager of Woodinville, Wash.; Rebecca Polizzotto, assistant state attorney general in Douglas, Alaska; Donald "Pete" Rose, city administrator in Lake Forest Park, Wash.

If hired, Somers would replace former Mill Creek City Manager Ken Armstrong, who resigned Jan. 2 after the City Council placed him on paid leave in November.

Armstrong was paid \$144,200 per year, according to the Herald, which would be a pay raise for Somers, who earns \$137,000 per year in Clatsop County.

In his cover letter, Somers highlights achievements of his time in Clatsop County. He notes his work in balancing the county's budget by reorganizing the county structure, transitioning employees from a "Cadillac" health care plan to a high-deductible plan and outsourcing juvenile detention services to Cowlitz County, Wash.

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## A not-so-welcome mat for sea lions

Electrified mats may deter pesky pinnipeds

By EDWARD STRATTON  
The Daily Astorian

Surveying tape and foot traffic has so far been the best answer to keeping sea lions off the docks at the East End Mooring Basin. The Port strings the colorful tape up along the side of the docks where boats are moored and people are coming and going.

Now the Port is testing electrified mats to keep sea lions off its docks.

Smith-Root, a Vancouver, Wash.-based fisheries technology company, created a Pinniped Deterrence System, a plastic mat with charged lines, for an Exxon Mobil off-shore drilling platform in southern California.

A business development associate for Smith-Root, Gary Bock, was in town for the Pacific Coast Congress'

41st membership conference, a collection of harbor and boatyard operators from Alaska, British Columbia, Washington, Oregon and California. The conference was hosted by Astoria and Warrenton, along with the ports of Peninsula and Ilwaco, Wash.

Laid across Bock's display table Thursday at the Red Building was a long plastic mat with three charged electrodes running down the middle.

"It's less than shuffling your feet across the carpet on a winter day and touching a door knob," Bock said, dipping his fingers in a cup of saltwater before laying them across two of the electrodes.

The mat Bock had at the conference created a low-voltage pulse every couple of seconds, resulting in a light

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EDWARD STRATTON — The Daily Astorian  
The Pinniped Deterrence System designed by Smith-Root uses low-voltage, direct current pulses of electricity traveling through electrodes spaced out on a perforated plastic mat that can be secured to docks.



grand opening celebration



sunday april 12, 8am • highway 101 & ensign lane