

Goldthorpe: He says he has the temperament to stay even-keeled

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Another day he would be in the gymnasium making sure no one was hurting each other. Once in a while, he would have to physically restrain an inmate.

He looks back on his time at the prison as an eye-opening experience. He recalls seeing how much some inmates changed for the better.

"I personally don't believe a prosecutor should ask to send somebody somewhere that you haven't seen," he said.

Becoming a judge has been a lifelong goal for Goldthorpe. He believes he has the personality and temperament to stay even-keeled in the courtroom and make the right decisions.

"It's always a job I've seen myself willing and able to do," he said.

As a deputy district attorney, Goldthorpe only represents the state. He said he does not have the same potential conflicts and baggage as his opponents. He believes Dawn McIntosh, an attorney and former prosecutor, could not be the judge on a hearing for the many people she represented in private practice. She has an automatic conflict, he said.

In addition, Goldthorpe said,

there is a conflict with Ronald Woltjer — now a municipal court judge — being married to Circuit Court Judge Cindee Matyas. As an example, Goldthorpe says if Matyas writes a search warrant that is challenged in court, Woltjer could not be the judge to review the search warrant, and vice versa. That work would always fall to Judge Paula Brownhill.

"I wouldn't have a conflict," Goldthorpe said. "I feel I have the experience that would make me an excellent judge, and my experience shouldn't be devalued by just years as an attorney." Goldthorpe said he would bring a different world of experience to the Circuit Court.

Growing up, he became an Eagle Scout. He lived in Europe for two years experiencing how the world works outside of the United States. As a judicial clerk, he helped handle child abuse, drug, homicide and civil cases. His work in the District Attorney's Office ranges from attempted-murder cases to traffic violations.

No matter who is elected, Goldthorpe said, they will have a learning curve. "Everyone is going to have their areas that they have to learn," he said.

Woltjer: He always tries to explain his decisions to people

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Woltjer said people's experiences of how they were treated in municipal court often form how they see the entire court system. As a judge, he explains to each person their rights and makes sure they are comfortable moving forward.

"I always explain my decision to people," Woltjer said. "Even if they walk out not with the result they hoped for, at least they know they were listened to."

Working as a judge in small communities can mean sentencing neighbors and acquaintances. A judge at any level must stick to the law, Woltjer said, and make decisions based on facts and not personal feelings. In municipal court, he said, there were people who were likable that he found guilty, and more challenging people he found innocent.

"You have to make sure people are aware you are doing this solely on what is before you," he said.

As a Circuit Court judge, the majority of the day is

focused on complex felony crimes. To avoid an emotional toll, Woltjer said, he is able to compartmentalize work and not take it home with him.

However, not taking his work home may be difficult, since Woltjer's wife is Circuit Court Judge Cindee Matyas. If Woltjer is elected, the couple would work together in the same courthouse.

Woltjer insists he does not see an issue with working at the same judicial level as his wife. He compares it to two schoolteachers working in the same building, but teaching in different classrooms, grading different papers and developing different lesson plans.

"It is unusual. I will grant you that," he said. "I don't see an issue."

Whoever is elected will have more than six months to prepare. Woltjer believes his work at the municipal level has provided him a foundation. "I'm already a judge, so I have the basic framework and the basic understanding of how a hearing works," he said.

McIntosh: She says she'll have no problem dealing with busy docket

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When she became a deputy district attorney in Clatsop County in 1998, McIntosh supervised all child-abuse prosecutions. She was also a founding member of the Lighthouse for Kids, a child-abuse assessment and prevention center.

McIntosh is not concerned with the potential emotional toll from being a judge.

"As a judge it's not a steady diet of child abuse. For me, for that many years, it was," she said.

Five years after moving to Clatsop County, McIntosh went into private practice. In 2013, she started her firm in Gearhart.

As a Circuit Court judge, McIntosh said, she will have no problem handling a busy docket.

"Anybody that knows me knows that the workload is probably the least of my worries," she said. "I work very hard."

McIntosh sees the role of a judge as the person who keeps a level playing field in the courtroom. Judges make sure everyone is treated fairly and

with respect to find solutions to problems, she said.

Working in private practice before serving as a judge means McIntosh will come across people she has represented. In response to concerns about possible conflicts, McIntosh said, the fact that a judge knows somebody does not change their job of being fair and impartial.

If she did represent someone in the past and they came before her, a different judge would have to handle the case. However, McIntosh said, conflict rules are specific and many times people are willing to sign waivers and proceed.

McIntosh also points out that both Judge Philip Nelson and Judge Paula Brownhill were lawyers in the community before taking the bench.

"Just because you dealt with somebody doesn't mean there is a conflict," she said. "You have to have confidential information that causes you not to be impartial."

If elected, McIntosh said, she would prepare herself by visiting with the current judges and court administrator. "I'm ready to go back to public service," she said.

Port: The leased land's appraisal has risen from \$384,000 to \$1.29 million

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The Port leases the property from the Department of State Lands for \$129,000 annually, which is paid through the sublease to Oregon LNG. Opponents of the liquefied natural gas project shared their relief Tuesday at a Port Commission meeting that the saga is finally ending.

"We've worked almost 12 years on this, the community, the state," said Lori Durheim, who regularly attends Port meetings and criticizes the Port's sublease to Oregon LNG and its predecessor, Calpine Corp.

Ted Thomas, another regular Port Commission attendee and LNG opponent, said the Port should withdraw from the lease and request the property revert from state to county control.

"I would say that I'm pretty sure that the Port is going to have an important role to play in the dissolution, or the ending of Oregon LNG here in Clatsop County," Jim Knight, the Port's executive director, said after the meeting.

"Regarding the status of the lease, the Port has the option to amend the lease if they want to change the use, or the Port and department can mutually agree to terminate the lease," Lorna Stafford, assistant to the director of the State Land Board, said in an email. "We have not yet been contacted by the Port regarding the lease."

Calpine

In November 2004, the Port leased more than 90 acres on the Skipanon Peninsula from the Department of State Lands for five years, with two 30-year options to renew. The Port was initially charged \$38,400 a year, and the lease specified the land could only be used for a golf course or marine industrial facility.

Several days after executing the lease with the state, the Port Commission unanimously approved a sublease to Skipanon Natural Gas, a subsidiary of Calpine Corp., a California-based energy company that wanted to build a natural gas terminal at the mouth of the Skipanon River and started

paying the Port's lease to the state.

Calpine, reporting \$10 billion lost amid a slumping wholesale energy market, filed for bankruptcy near the end of 2005. To help satisfy its debts, the company sold Skipanon Natural Gas and the sublease on the Skipanon Peninsula to LNG Development Co. LLC, a subsidiary of Leucadia National Corp., a New York-based holding company. The sale came after Leucadia agreed to the Port's request for a guarantee of payment on the lease.

Oregon LNG

LNG Development Co., doing business as Oregon LNG, started its own filings with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, but ran into fierce opposition from locals and a competing terminal project by NorthernStar Natural Gas Inc., which had been planning a similar project at Bradwood Landing east of Astoria.

The Port Commission eventually renewed the agency's sublease with Oregon LNG. But amid lingering questions

over whether the Port or state owned the land on the peninsula, and how the original Calpine Corp. lease was structured, commissioners delayed renewing the lease with the Department of State Lands.

Oregon LNG sued the Port to force it to renew the lease. A judge eventually ruled the agency had violated the sublease with Oregon LNG by not renewing the lease with the state. The Port eventually renewed the lease and settled to avoid paying damages to the company.

Dueling appraisals

In 2012, the value of the Skipanon Peninsula property shot up from \$384,000 to \$1.29 million. Meanwhile, the annual lease payments Oregon LNG pays through the Port to the state went from \$38,400 to \$129,000.

An amended lease between the Port and state from 2009 said the rent would be recalculated every five years based on the fair market value of the land.

In December 2011, an appraiser hired by the state

had valued the land at more than \$1.6 million, largely because of a zoning change from urban recreational — for a golf course — to marine industrial for a gas terminal. The appraisal was challenged by Oregon LNG, and a second appraisal valued it at \$692,000.

A third-party appraiser was brought in and compared the site to other industrial property in Vancouver, Washington, and Rainier, and valued the land at \$1.29 million.



R.J. Marx/The Daily Astorian

Kyle and Stephanie Schlip are managers of Oasis Cannabis in Seaside.

Pot shop: 'Cannabis has so many healing qualities that help people'

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Schlip and her husband, Kyle, manage the store, backed by investors Sherry Bateman and Dennis Siviers, who helped purchase the building. Siviers, president and CEO of a Portland real estate and investment firm, has been coming to a family home in Arch Cape for 50 years.

He sees Seaside as "the heart of the north Oregon Coast."

"It seemed a place that made sense," Siviers said.

The store's mission is "to present the recreational in an informed way to get away from the stereotypes of recreational use," Siviers said. "We want people to be aware of all the chemicals involved in the strain of cannabis and its potential effects."

Stephanie Schlip, a Manzanita native, worked in a medical dispensary in Portland before the couple returned to the coast.

"I had no idea what the cannabis industry was like until I got into it," she said. "I realized how it really helped people.

Cannabis has so many healing qualities that help people."

Oasis Cannabis is Seaside's fourth dispensary, joining Highway 420 and Cannabis Nation in town and the Sip Stop in Elsie.

"I want us all to be friends and be teams," Schlip said. "If I don't have something I want to be able to send them down the road and vice versa."

"People will find the three places have different approaches and find the one that suits them best," Siviers said.

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