

Knappa names top administrators

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

KNAPPA — The Knappa School Board on Tuesday approved the contract of Paulette Johnson, who starts next month as part-time superintendent.

Johnson comes from Sunnyside School District in central Washington, where she was the director of teaching, learning and assessment since 2014. For 20 years prior, Johnson was an elementary school principal in the Rainier School District in Washington. Before Rainier, Johnson was principal in John Day for two years. She taught in Hermiston for the decade prior and in Idaho for four years.

Johnson was signed for the next three years at Knappa, starting at \$65,000 a year.

"I believe that educators should meet children where they are socially, emotionally and educationally," Johnson said in a release. "We should teach the whole child, and each child should be able to learn in a safe and secure environment.

"As educators we have a sacred trust and we must do everything in our power to ensure that children are learning and growing. I am thrilled about the opportunity to be the Knappa superintendent. Together, we can be difference-makers in the lives of the district's children."

Johnson replaces Terrence Smyth, who was hired a year ago as principal and superintendent, but quit less than six months into the job. Smyth cited health concerns and the commute from Jewell as reasons for leaving. He lives in a district-owned residence with partner Alice Hunsaker,

the superintendent of Jewell School District.

Smyth briefly filled in as principal at Jewell School, as well as teaching finance and art. During graduation earlier this month, Smyth said he will look at other teaching and interim superintendent positions.

After Smyth's departure, Knappa contracted with the Northwest Regional Education Service District, which brought in Deputy Superintendent Paul Peterson to serve as interim superintendent.

Smyth replaced Jeff Leo, who joined Knappa in 2011 as a principal and later superintendent. Leo left Knappa last year to be superintendent of Banks School District.

New principal

Laurel Smalley, a science teacher with the district since 2006, filled in as principal after Smyth's departure and was recently hired into the position full-time.

Smalley, who grew up in southeastern Alaska, said she prefers rural schools. She previously taught with the Southeast Island School District, which includes less than 200 students K-12 spread throughout nine rural schools in Alaska's panhandle.

In Knappa, Smalley had been a teacher on special assignment for the past six years, handling discipline, student achievement and attendance in middle and high school.

"My goal for the upcoming school year is to work on building a smooth transition for students moving from (middle school) to (high school), continued work with staff, supporting students academically and strengthening avenues of communication between staff, students and families," Smalley said in a release.



Paulette Johnson



Laurel Smalley

Piper serenades the sea



Peggy Ebert/Submitted Photo

An unknown bagpiper serenaded the waves during a gray sunset at Surfside, Wash., last week. "This was a first for us seeing a bagpiper playing his heart out on the beach while wading in the waves," resident Peggy Ebert said.

Cannon Beach celebrates the Fourth of July

Holiday marks start of peak summer season

By LYRA FONTAINE
The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH — Ready, set ... summer! Independence Day weekend is the start of peak summer season in Cannon Beach.

Fireworks are prohibited on the Cannon Beach ocean shore at all times, allowing for a quieter, pet-friendly holiday that also prevents marine life and shore birds from being harmed. After firework displays were banned on July 4 years ago, some locals remember fire dancers being a part of

festivities. This Fourth of July weekend has activities for both locals and visitors alike.

Spot the puffins

The Friends of Haystack Rock organizes a puffin watch with help from the Haystack Rock Awareness program. During normal scheduled Haystack Rock Awareness Project shifts, the public can take a closer look at puffins nesting on Haystack Rock using scopes and binoculars that are provided. Scopes and binoculars will be set up Saturday from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m., Sunday from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m., and Monday from 6 a.m. to 11 a.m. Friends of Haystack Rock members and staff will be available to answer questions.

Classic parade

Join the police department, fire and rescue, veterans, local businesses and residents in cars or on bikes at the annual July 4 parade starting at 11 a.m. The parade begins northbound on Spruce Street and loops back onto Hemlock Street headed south through downtown. Sign-up for the parade is from 9 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. at the American Legion. After, there will be face painting and hot dogs at the American Legion and strawberry shortcake served at U.S. Bank.

Books and art

Choose from thousands of used books at the Cannon Beach Library Fourth of July sale from Saturday to

Monday, the library's biggest fundraiser of the year. After spending time by the beach or at the parade, head to the Cannon Beach Gallery for the "Landscape as Perception" exhibit, the gallery's contribution to the Plein Air and More festival.

Seaside celebrations

If your Fourth of July is incomplete without colorful aerial explosions, head to Seaside for the fireworks display on the beach at 10 p.m. Daytime Seaside activities include an 11 a.m. parade starting at the Seaside Museum, a Seaside Museum old-fashioned social from noon to 4 p.m., and a 1:30 p.m. drum and bugle corps performance at Broadway Field.

Administrator leaves mental health agency

By DERRICK DePLEDGE
The Daily Astorian

A third top executive has left Clatsop Behavioral Healthcare as the mental health agency seeks to rebound in a leadership shakeup.

Nick Benas, the former director of business operations, is the latest to exit. He follows Sumner Watkins, the former executive director, and Michele Crump-Hart, the former clinical director.

Benas had often served as the spokesman for the agency over the past year as questions mounted over management and

quality of care.

Amy Baker, the interim executive director, said Benas was no longer an employee.

"As per our policy, we will not comment publicly on personnel issues," Baker said in a statement. "However, at CBH, we appreciate and acknowledge the contributions of all of our former employees."

Baker, in a guest column for The Daily Astorian Wednesday, said her immediate priority is to stabilize the agency and ensure the safety of the people who receive services. She promised transparency as the agency makes what she described as

"much needed changes in the next six months."

Clatsop County contracts with Clatsop Behavioral Healthcare for mental health services.

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