

Jesse bids for another term on Gearhart council

Councilor calls for greater emergency preparedness

By R.J. MARX
The Daily Astorian



Dan Jesse

GEARHART — Dan Jesse is making his second City Council bid in Gearhart.

Jesse's career in public service began with the Seaside Civic and Convention Center and the Seaside Improvement Commission, before he and his wife Julie moved to Gearhart, where he served on the Planning Commission before election to City Council in 2012.

Jesse, raised in Silverton, met his wife — a lifelong Gearhart resident — while a student in Seattle. The couple returned to the region after school. Trained as a commercial photographer, Jesse is a builder by trade.

"When we moved here, commercial photography was not a viable way to make a living," Jesse said. "I love the ability in a small town to see a client I've worked with in the

grocery store, to have smiling faces and people happy with what you've accomplished. I wish I could say the same about politics."

Jesse was referring to the last four years on the City Council, which have seen a number of contentious issues, from a mayoral recall vote and vigorous short-term rental debates to ongoing litigation at Neacoxie Creek Barn.

The reason for the city's disquiet, he said, is a "generational shift," in which many longtime residents are either leaving or being displaced by newcomers. "People knew each other and had a mutual respect and understanding, how to get along and play nice together," he said.

With a vacation rental ordinance expected to pass in September, Jesse said the contentious topic would likely spill into future council sessions. "I don't think this is coming to an end," he said.

Both a referendum or a lawsuit in response to the ordinance are possibilities,

Jesse said, "and I've heard rumblings of both. At least with a referendum, people could decide based on what the referendum is."

He said he welcomed a public vote on the ordinance or portions of it, which could come in the form of a special election in 2017. "I'd like to hear what the people think, and I hate to see tax dollars going into a lawsuit," Jesse said. "I'm not convinced the people wanting short-term rentals would come out as well as they think it would if it was put to referendum."

Jesse said he hopes the dispute with Neacoxie Creek Barn owner Shannon Smith will draw itself to a conclusion as the process moves to Circuit Court. "I'm hoping we put that one behind us," he said.

One issue he would like to see greater attention to is emergency preparedness.

"I think we're still missing the boat in dealing with emergency preparedness," he said. "We need to be putting time and effort as well as money in trying to put ourselves in a better position when a catastrophic event happens."

Lorain seeks re-election in Gearhart council race

Rentals, fire hall on horizon

By R.J. MARX
The Daily Astorian



Sue Lorain

GEARHART — Nearing the end of her first four-year term, Gearhart City Councilor Sue Lorain gathered enough signatures to qualify for a re-election bid in November.

"It feels like it takes two years to get up to speed," she said. "Then you start participating. To me, a second term is important — to have the background, be more prepared and finish the things we started in the first term. It's continuity."

Lorain and her partner moved to Gearhart in 2004. A retired teacher — "I taught everything at some point," she said — Lorain spent much of her career teaching fifth- and sixth-graders in Washington's Highline School District.

Lorain serves on the Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce board and as

vice-president of Seaside Scholarships, a nonprofit providing scholarships for local students.

Lorain said she objects to the personal tone injected into local politics. "What puzzles me is how issues don't become about the community and what's good for the community, but they become personal issues against certain individuals," she said. "I'm running to make decisions for the good of the community, not for the good of an interest group, this person or that, or even where I stand

personally. I think this council position is about doing what's good for all of us in Gearhart."

Lorain said the council's short-term rental solution "meets extremes on both sides."

As chairwoman of Gearhart's Fire Hall Committee, she said she hopes to develop a community-involved campaign for the new building, designed to replace the firehouse on Pacific Way. A proposal could go before voters in 2017.

If re-elected, Lorain said she foresees a relatively calmer council interaction. "What's cool about this group now is we can disagree on issues, but at the end of the meeting we can look at each other and say something funny and laugh, and be respectful of each other as human beings. That hasn't always happened. I like the group I'm working with, even though we're not always on the same page. We're a good group, and diversified."

Chronic absenteeism holds students back, AP analysis says

Education secretary calls rate a national problem

By JENNIFER C. KERR and MEGHAN HOYER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The problem of students habitually missing school varies widely from state to state, with about one-third of students in the nation's capital absent 15 days or more in a single school year, according to an Associated Press analysis of government statistics.

Overall, the national average of chronic absenteeism was 13 percent, or about 6.5 million students, the Education Department said. In Oregon, the rate was 22.7 percent.

"Chronic absenteeism is a national problem," Secretary of Education John B. King Jr. said in a statement. "Frequent absences from school can be devastating to a child's education."

Bob Balfanz, a research professor at Johns Hopkins University and director of the Everyone Graduates Center, called the numbers disturbing.

"If you're not there, you don't learn, and then you fall behind. You don't pass your classes. You don't get the credits in high school and that's what leads to dropping out," Balfanz said in an interview.

The report was the first release of chronic absenteeism figures from the department.

The Obama administration began a program last fall that now works with states and local groups in 30 communities to identify mentors to help habitually absent kids get back on track. As part of the effort, the White House said last week that a New York-based company, STATE Bags, was donating 30,000 backpacks to children being mentored in the program.

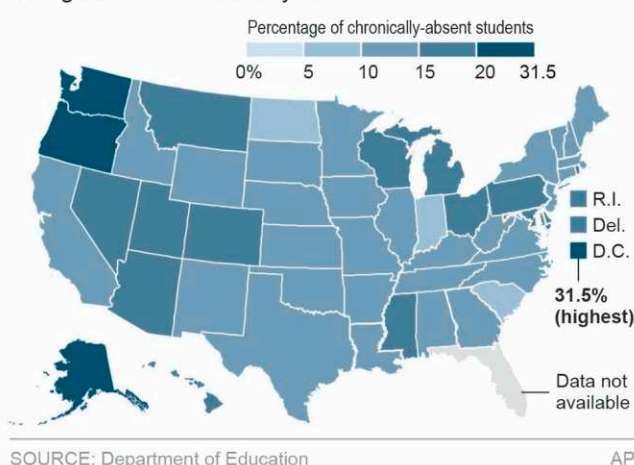
NBA star Kevin Durant is working with the administration on the initiative. "Sometimes the reasons come down to not having what you need to be present and ready ... like a book bag, school supplies or the support of a caring adult," Durant said in a statement.

Detroit is among the new communities to sign up for the My Brother's Keeper Success Mentors Initiative.

Of the 100 largest school districts by enrollment, Detroit had the highest rate of chronic absenteeism. Nearly 58 percent of students were chronically absent in the 2013-2014 school year.

Skipping school

A federal study finds that nearly 6.5 million students were chronically absent — out of school for at least three weeks — during the 2013-14 school year.



Alycia Meriweather, interim superintendent of Detroit Public Schools, said Wednesday: "This is a serious problem, which I would term a leading indicator, that impacts everything else we are trying to accomplish at the District. DPS must address this issue in order to see greater results in our classrooms and schools."

Meriweather said Detroit was working with absentee-

ism and behavior experts to address the problem, and hoping to gain "some new perspectives and ideas" from the My Brother's Keeper Summit this week in Washington.

In Washington, Michelle Lerner, press secretary for the District of Columbia Schools, said the district is taking an "all-hands-on-deck approach" to try to ensure that students attend school.

WANTED
Alder and Maple Saw Logs & Standing Timber
Northwest Hardwoods • Longview, WA
Contact: Steve Axtell • 360-430-0885 or John Anderson • 360-269-2500

Call Anytime Free Fast Estimates
Jeff Hale Painting
• Residential
• Commercial
• Cedar Roof Treatments
• Interior & Exterior
Over 20 years local experience
503-440-2169
Jeff Hale, Contractor
LICENSED BONDED INSURED
CC#9179131

18th Annual **SEASIDE GEM, MINERAL AND JEWELRY SHOW**
AUGUST 19, 20, 21
SEASIDE CONVENTION CENTER
415 FIRST AVENUE • SEASIDE, OR
FRI & SAT • 10AM TO 6PM
SUNDAY • 10AM TO 4PM
BEADS • CRYSTAL • FOSSILS • GEM STONES • JEWELRY
MINERALS • OPALS • PETRIFIED WOOD • ROUGH SLABS
SPHERES • SUN STONES • THUNDER EGGS
FREE STRAND OF PEARLS FOR THE FIRST 75 LADIES DAILY
FREE ADMISSION OPEN TO THE PUBLIC WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE
Drawing for Septarian Nodule from Morocco
Sunday at 2pm Tickets \$1 each / 6 for \$5

Grounded cargo ship pulled by tug back into Columbia River channel

Associated Press

SKAMOKAWA, Wash. — A 751-foot cargo ship from Hong Kong that ran aground in the Columbia River near

Skamokawa, Washington, has been pulled back into the channel.

Officials say a Columbia River Bar Pilot tug boat pulled the Rosco Palm back

into the channel late Friday.

The U.S. Coast Guard told KGW-TV that the vessel posed no environmental hazard and didn't block other river traffic.

National park to host long-distance radio events

The Daily Astorian

Lewis and Clark National Historical Park will host multiple ham radio events in September, including the chance for local students to talk directly with crew members of the International Space Station.

The park is partnering with the Mouth of the Columbia Amateur Radio Club.

Ham operators will set up radio stations at the park's Netul Landing on Sept. 2. The stations will be operating until the afternoon of Sept. 4.

Sometime during the week of Aug. 29 to Sept. 3, local students — who have been learning about the International Space Station — hope to have a brief radio conversation with an astronaut (Dr. Kath-

leen Rubins, Takuya Onishi or Commander Jeffrey Williams).

Since the call between the students and the space station depends on many factors, the exact date and time is not yet known.

For more information, call the park at (503) 861-2471 or visit www.nps.gov/lewi or Lewis and Clark National Historical Park on Facebook.

ENGLUND MARINE'S ANNUAL DOCK SALE
Friday & Saturday | August 19-20
Thousands of items under the tent

MARINE SUPPLIES for your boat	GEAR to catch fish
• VHF radios	• Rods & reels
• Life jackets	• Buoy 10 salmon gear
• Safety gear	• Tuna gear
• Marine stereos	• Crab pots & rings
• Binoculars	<i>Pro-staffer on hand with downrigger demonstrations and advice</i>
• Pumps	TAKING CARE of your catch
• Miscellaneous supplies & accessories	Propane burners & pots
GARMIN® factory rep on hand displaying the latest technology	Vacuum sealers & bags
	Knives & sharpeners
	Coolers

95 Hamburg Ave., Astoria
ENGLUND MARINE & INDUSTRIAL SUPPLY
(503) 325-4341