

Avakian: Claims of advocacy on the job

Continued from Page 1A

Bontecou, who previously worked as Avakian's campaign manager during his 2011 bid for Congress, was hired as his executive assistant at BOLI in late 2013, according to Andrzejewski.

Andrzejewski claims campaign records show Bontecou received \$1,000 from Avakian's campaign fund in 2014 and donated \$220 to Avakian's campaign fund in 2016.

Andrzejewski also claimed Bontecou posted political endorsements of Avakian on social media during "official BOLI business hours."

Pyle said bonuses Labor and Industries employees received in 2014 and 2015 were in appreciation for "advice and counsel" given in those years.

He said that to his knowledge, BOLI employees did not engage in campaign work on state time.

Pyle also said volunteers,

including Labor and Industries employees, have "supported" Avakian's campaigns in "a variety of ways."

"It is also worth noting that some BOLI employees are former campaign employees," Pyle wrote. "...These bonuses were issued in appreciation for providing advice and counsel but the volunteers had no expectation of payment."

Political advocacy

Oregon law says that public employees cannot engage in political advocacy on the job.

Andrzejewski also raised questions about redactions in public calendars for BOLI employees obtained by a watchdog group, the Oregon Capitol Watch Foundation, through a public records request.

Under Oregon's public records law, public employee's calendars are considered public records, with an exemption for

personal appointments.

Calendars for the three employees for an eight-month period in 2015 included 1,660 redacted entries, a number of personal appointments inconsistent with personal time claimed by the employees on payroll records, Andrzejewski claimed.

Andrzejewski claimed the agency "stalled" on the Oregon Capitol Watch Foundation request.

Jeff Kropf, the executive director of the Oregon Capitol Watch Foundation, who made the initial requests for employee calendars, payroll, travel and reimbursement information, could not be reached for comment Monday.

Charlie Burr, a spokesman for BOLI and one of the employees who received a bonus and made a contribution to Avakian's campaign committee, deferred questions about campaign funds to the campaign. He said that the

public records request made by Kropf to BOLI was filled in a timely manner. "We did not delay the release of the records and in fact, waived fees for the original portion of the request," Burr wrote in an email Monday. We fulfilled the calendar portion of the request eight calendar days after receiving payment."

Pyle said the Forbes piece was politically motivated.

"On the face of this, and digging in to the personal schedules of employees and things like that, this is more of Dennis Richardson and his supporters using public records requests to invade the privacy of public servants of Oregon," Pyle said Monday.

Pyle referred to a 2012 incident in which Richardson, Avakian's opponent in the race for secretary of state, obtained the emails of thousands of state employees through a public records request and sent messages to those addresses en masse.

Seaside: Applicants 'can't just walk in and get a business license by walking into City Hall'

Continued from Page 1A

"I don't know the details of Astoria and how that could be prevented under code," he added. "That would be something I would like to talk to about with Mr. Mitchell."

Seaside City Manager Mark Winstanley said applications are reviewed by building, planning and fire officials.

Applicants "can't just walk in and get a business license by walking into City Hall," he said. "They can start the process, but that does not finish the process."

While councilors adopted the ordinance, Montero was alone in voting against a second reading. She said she wanted more time before making a decision.

"I would advise anybody who's renting their buildings out, put in their leases that they forbid that kind of butane extraction or see what their insurance companies say," Montero said after the meeting, referring to a possible cause of last week's fire in Astoria. "I really am concerned what could happen in Seaside if someone's not following the rules."

eOMEDIA group The most valuable and respected source of local news, advertising and information for our communities.
www.eomediagroup.com

Gearhart: Dec. 16 is deadline for applications

Continued from Page 1A

testimony and all the accounts" over a more than three-year period after growing numbers of complaints about short-term rentals.

"The city took their time, they listened to everybody," Connell said. "The process provided an opportunity to reinforce the intent of the Gearhart comprehensive plan, that Gearhart is primarily a residential community and tourism shall be limited."

The city held at least 30 meetings and issued eight drafts of the staff report, she said. More than 300 letters, both for and against the new rules, were considered. A Planning Commission draft ordinance was modified to eliminate a minimum-stay requirement and lift some permit limits.

Sign-up underway

Gearhart's Ordinance 901 regulating vacation rentals imposes caps mandates registration to existing short-term rental properties.

According to Gearhart's City Administrator Chad Sweet, properties available for less than 30-day periods may only be transferred by inheritance, not sale.

Applications will only be accepted if a homeowner can prove they've rented out their homes by paying transient rental tax to the city prior to submitting the application. No new permits will be issued after the application period which ends Dec. 16. They'll need to pay a \$600 application fee — less \$100 if homeowners can show an approved go bag.

After an application is processed and the vacation rental dwelling found to meet the city's requirements, the city-issued permit must be posted in a prominent location within 4 feet of the front entrance, Sweet said.

The ordinance details occupancy limits, parking rules and property management contact

information. Property owners have until Dec. 16 to file their application.

While property owners can apply for a variance from a requirement by applying to the Planning Commission, all conditions must be met within 180 days from Dec. 16, the last day of the 60-day short-term property owner application period.

Initiative ahead?

Townsend said he hopes the notice of appeal will lead to discussion between property owners and city officials. "It would be a good idea to work on some of the things that are punitive to be a win-win for everybody," he said.

"There's no reason for there to be winners or losers if we can figure this out," Townsend

said. "I think regulation is fine, but it should be fair and reasonable. We need to sit down and think about the goals of everyone involved. Some people want to eliminate STRs, others want to regulate. I'm in the regulate camp."

If the state appeal is unsuccessful, Townsend said, property owners plan to file a city initiative to present alternative short-term rental rules.

"The initiative is the nuclear weapon we don't want to use," he said. "As a commu-

nity in Gearhart, we should be trying to find a solution that works for everybody, not one where there are winners and losers. That doesn't make for a very good community."

Residents supporting the new rules have indicated they will look to the city to challenge any repeal of the rules and could file a counter-initiative.

"We'll see what LUBA says," Connell said. "It's a legislative process. We took all the time needed and listened to everybody."

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

OCTOBER is Carrier Appreciation Month!

We want to hear from you!

Tell us about your carrier and how they have provided you with excellent service.

Email: circulation@dailyastorian.com
Online: www.dailyastorian.com/da/carrier-appreciation

We created a \$0 premium Medicare plan just for Oregonians

Since 1984, we've taken a more personal approach to keeping Oregon communities healthy, and that includes offering you an affordable, high-quality plan that goes beyond basic Medicare. And because our service team members live and work right here in the community, you'll get prompt, personal services... every time you call.

FamilyCare Health Medicare Benefits Include:

- \$0 Monthly Plan Premium
- \$0 Medical Deductible
- \$0 Primary Care Doctor Copay
- \$0 Lab Tests
- \$0 Routine Eye Exams
- \$0 Tier 1 Generic Drug Copay
- Up to \$480/Yr Reimbursement for Any Gym Membership
- \$200 Prescription Eyeglass Credit

Call us to set up a face-to-face meeting to discuss your Medicare Options. We'll be happy to come to your home or other convenient location. Ask for our FREE Guide and we'll send our info kit out to you today!

866-225-2273
medicaresales@familycareinc.org
www.familycareinc.org

FamilyCare Health

FamilyCare Health is a Medicare Advantage organization with a Medicare contract and a contract with the Oregon Medicaid program. The benefit information provided is a brief summary and not a complete description of benefits. For more information, contact the plan. Limitations, copayments and restrictions may apply. Benefits, premiums, co-payments and co-insurance may change on January 1 of each year. You must continue to pay your Medicare Part B premium. FamilyCare Health complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex. ATENCIÓN: si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 866-798-2273 (TTY/TDD: 711). CHÚ Ý: Nếu bạn nói Tiếng Việt, có các dịch vụ hỗ trợ ngôn ngữ miễn phí dành cho bạn. Gọi số 866-798-2273 (TTY/TDD: 711). (Y0103_ADV_00326 Accepted)

NEW

Full color, scenic montage postcards of Astoria now available at the Daily Astorian office!

3 for \$1

Tourists, visitors, family & friends will love sending these!

949 Exchange Street, Astoria • 503-325-3211

HALLOWEEN COSTUME CONTEST

BRING IN OR EMAIL YOUR PHOTOS
CLASSIFIEDS@DAILYASTORIAN.COM
949 EXCHANGE STREET

www.DailyAstorian.com/da/halloween

Categories

- Most Original and Creative
- Best Adult Costume
- Best Pet Costume
- Best Kid Costume
- Best Baby Costume
- Best Couples Costume
- Best Group Costume
- Best Homemade Costume

WINNERS ANNOUNCED NOV. 9TH

VOTING CLOSING NOV. 6TH

ENTRY DEADLINE NOV. 2ND 5PM

VOTING OPENS NOV. 3RD AT: