

Several contested races are set for college, school boards

Filing deadline ended Thursday

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

Clatsop County's education boards feature several contested seats in the May special district election.

On the Clatsop Community College Board, newcomers Pamela Mattson McDonald and Mary Beth Cottle are challenging incumbents Patrick Wingard and Rosemary Baker-Monaghan.

Mattson McDonald is an author, artist and former merchant marine who has taken the college's maritime sciences and business programs.

Wingard, a land use planner with the state, was appointed to the board in 2012.

Cottle, a former K-12 teacher with a focus in bilingualism who moved from Portland to Cannon Beach in July, said that while she has no background with college governance nor any specific issues to push, she was raised to embrace public service.

Baker-Monaghan was appointed to the college board in 2000 and is now on her fifth election cycle.

School boards

On the Astoria School Board, incumbent Jeanette Sampson, a sales executive at a local radio station, is facing a challenge from newcomer Andrew Davis, a data analyst with Greater Oregon Behavioral Health, Inc. Incumbents

Grace Laman, a clinical dietitian and health instructor, and David Oser, the Craft3 chief financial officer, are running unopposed. Incumbent Jenna Rickenbach, a community volunteer, faces a challenge from Bob Goldberg, a former teacher and volunteer with Coast Community Radio.

The Warrenton-Hammond School Board includes multiple newcomers. Oregon Department of Transportation employee Michael Atwood has filed for the Position 3 being vacated by Kelly Simonsen. Seaside Police dispatcher and recent school board appointee Stacey Brown is running unopposed, as are insurance agent and incumbent Darlene Warren and recent appointee Dan Jackson, manager of a local storage unit complex.

On the Seaside School Board, Bruce's Candy Kitchen production manager and incumbent Brian Taylor is running unopposed. Newcomers Andrea Wahl, a test scorer and attorney, and Lori Lum from Lum's Auto Center have filed to replace departing incumbent Lynn Ulbricht. Michelle



Mary Beth Cottle



Pamela Mattson McDonald



Patrick Wingard



Rosemary Baker-Monaghan

Wunderlich, owner of Seaside Coffee Roasters, has filed to replace Tom Maltman, another departing incumbent. Retired physician and incumbent Hugh Stelson faces a challenge from retired teacher Karen Custer.

In Knappa, incumbents Tammy Goozee, Craig Weaver and Cullen Bangs are running unopposed.

In Jewell, incumbent and bookkeeper Melissa Cokley faces a challenge from landscaping store manager Michael Wammack. Incumbent Bryan Swearingen, with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, is running unopposed.

Transportation, parks districts

On the Sunset Empire Transportation District, incumbents Kevin Widener, Kathy Kleczek, Pamela Alegria, Lylla Gaebel and Jim Servino are all running unopposed.

On the Sunset Empire Parks and Recreation District Board, newcomers Kindwyn Hoge and Veronica Russell are facing off, along with newcomer Jeremy Mills running unopposed. Incumbents Michael Hinton, Edward Hassan and Alan Evans are running unopposed.

Clatsop Care Health District has two contested races

By ERICK BENDEL
The Daily Astorian

The Clatsop Care Health District Board has two contested and two uncontested races.

Mindy Stokes, a former district employee, is challenging incumbent and board chairwoman Karen Burke for Position 1 in the May special district election. Both live in Astoria and have backgrounds in health care.

Stokes worked for the district for four years, serving as the social services director at Clatsop Care Center, then administrator at Clatsop Care Memory Community in Warrenton. Burke, a nurse and educator, is also vice chairwoman of the Clatsop Community College Board.

Roy Little, of Astoria, is running unopposed for Position 2, a role he has kept since

1995. He ran a private practice in town, and is now a physician at Clatsop County Jail and conducts child abuse assessments at The Lighthouse for Kids.

Michael Aho, a Warrenton resident who ran a grocery store, is looking to remain in Position 3; the board appointed him last year to fill a vacancy. He faces competition from Jacqueline DeVaney, of Astoria, who works in home health care and a medical and surgical step-down unit.

And for Position 7, Allison Sansom, the director of nursing at the college, is running unopposed for a two-year unexpired term. The Astoria resident is a former administrator at Clatsop Care Center and Clatsop Care Retirement Village.

The special district election comes during a delicate time for the health district.

This month, the board voted unanimously to hire a Salem-based private management firm, Aidan Health Services, Inc., to replace CEO Nicole Williams and help salvage Clatsop Care Center, Astoria's oldest nursing home that has faced reductions in census, staff and public funding.

The approval of Aidan's contract was met with apprehension, even among community members, like Sansom, who support the decision but find the circumstances regrettable.

The Clatsop Care Health District manages three facilities — Clatsop Care Center, Clatsop Care Retirement Village and Clatsop Care Memory Community — and offers in-home care throughout the North Coast. The district covers the entire county except Gearhart, Seaside and Cannon Beach.

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Where did you attend school?

I'm a recent graduate from the University of California, Davis, School of Veterinary Medicine.

Any specific areas of interest?

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Why did you choose to become a veterinarian?

I was working in research after finishing my undergraduate degree and thinking about what I wanted to do with my career long term. I determined that I enjoyed the spontaneity of working with animals much more than laboratory work so I decided get the best of both worlds with a veterinary degree. This way I can still stay involved in science by using it to get your pet the care it needs!

Pets of your own?

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Incumbents on Cannon Beach fire board seek re-election

By R.J. MARX
The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH — Garry Smith and Mark Mekenas will run for re-election to the Cannon Beach Rural Fire Protection District Board of Directors.

Smith will run unopposed for Position 3 and Mekenas is unopposed in his Position 4 bid.

Smith is a firefighter with 35 years experience and six years on the board. "I am running for re-election to continue to help maintain an effective and professionally run fire department for the residents and visitors in our area," Smith said.

Mekenas, owner of Cannon Beach Surf and the Beach Store since 1998, filled a vacant board seat in 2015. "I'm looking to keep improving our fire department here in town," Mekenas said. "I have never been a firefighter, but I have been for-

tunate to have these guys teach me about firefighting through all the things they do."

The board was in the news from the fallout over the firing of former Fire Chief Mike

Balzer, who settled a civil rights lawsuit against the district. Smith was one of three board members who survived a recall last year motivated by Balzer's dismissal.

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