

Register to vote

Don't forget to engage with democracy in action, right here in our neighborhood. Our congressional representative, Suzanne Bonamici, will have a town hall gathering at the Warrenton High School gym Saturday from 11 a.m. to noon.

The community group Indivisible will have a table set up for non-partisan voter registration, starting at 10:30 a.m. Bring your Oregon driver's license or non-driver ID card. All citizens 17 years of age can register, but you must be 18 years old to vote in an election.

Our next election date is May 16, for special districts, which includes the Port of Astoria, among many others.

We hope to see you there.

GAIL GALEN
Warrenton

Keep Campbell on Port

I can only express total disgust at the behavior of some of the commission members of the Port of Astoria at their meeting April 4, as reported in The Daily Astorian ("Mushen stricken at Port meeting," April 5) and by someone who attended the meeting.

During the past 22 years, I have sat on the boards of several local governments, and have also attended the meetings of many others. In all that time, I have never seen board members act in the manner that is constantly reported in The Daily Astorian concerning some on the Port of Astoria Commission.

When the Port Commission meetings become so contentious that one of the members ends up in the hospital, there is definitely a problem that must be addressed. The voters must get involved, say "enough," and vote those creating the problems off the commission.

Please join me in voting to re-elect Jim Campbell to the Port of Astoria Commission.

CAROL GEARIN
Warrenton

Port needs Spence

We in the Clatsop County community have an opportunity to change the contentious character of the Astoria Port Commission. The upcoming election is an important one. I hope we all are paying attention to the rancor and lack of focus on fiscal management which seems to plague Port Commission.

One candidate for the commission will bring a calming quality, integrity and civic management experience to the commission. That candidate is Frank Spence. Frank has 45 years experience managing cities and counties, so he is familiar with running governmental bodies effectively.

Frank has served the past two years on the Port of Astoria Budget Committee, so he is up to speed on the budgetary issues facing the Port. I have worked with Frank over the past three years on the Exploring New Concepts of Retirement Education (ENCORE) board of directors. Frank has chaired that board for the past two years.

He has an even hand in his dealings with others. Frank is a consensus builder and peacemaker. Frank Spence is just what the Port of Astoria Commission needs at this time.

THEODORE "TOD" LUNDY
Astoria

Re-elect Campbell

Jim Campbell is a candidate for Port of Astoria Commission Position 1. Jim has faithfully served as a commissioner for the Port of Astoria for 16½ years. He understands that the primary role of commissioners is to set and review the Port's mission, vision and values and to establish policies; the commission employs a CEO whose responsibility is to operationalize the mission, vision, values and policies. The CEO is responsible for daily operations, and the commissioners do not micromanage the CEO.

Jim owns a marine construction business based in Astoria. With over 50 years of business experience, he understands the concepts and reality of profit and loss. One of his goals is to ensure that the Port of Astoria's strategic plan results in the profitability of the Port. Jim is a steward of the environment, and has embraced the Port's efforts to comply with local, state and federal regulations. As a business owner, Jim is the recipient of a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Environmental Safety Award.

Jim is a strong proponent of the Port's bond measure. Funds from the bonds will provide new facilities for Life Flight, and locate its helicopter to a much safer operational space at the airport. The funds will also allow site improvements expanding the use of the



southern portion of the airport. These improvements will provide opportunity for further economic development.

Jim is a visionary and a team player. He understands that achieving a vision often means give and take on the part of all parties. He also believes in civility, and that calm heads lead to great outcomes. Jim is the most qualified candidate for the Port of Astoria Commission Position 1. Please join me in voting for Jim Campbell.

DAVID W. PHILLIPS
Astoria

End Port insanity

We have an opportunity in the May 16 election to end the insanity on the Port of Astoria Commission. There are three good candidates running for commission seats — Frank Spence, Dirk Rohne and Jim Campbell. Campbell is an incumbent and he has been a responsible commissioner. Rohne and Spence are strong, new candidates.

In my opinion, Steve Fulton and Bill Hunsinger have been poisonous to the Port. Their devotion to special interests, loud political posturing and petty bickering have made it nearly impossible for the Port Commission to make progress in furthering the economic health of Clatsop County and its people.

In fact, they've made it impossible to even have a civil and productive meeting. Hunsinger is not running this time around, but the election of Spence, Rohne and Campbell will isolate him now, and I hope we can send him packing the next time around.

We need a Port that works to the benefit of all of Clatsop County. We need a Port that keeps its word. Bornstein Seafoods and Englund Marine were recruited to the Port by one commission and its strategic plan. They were abandoned and the plan was scuttled by the next commission. We can do better.

Jim Campbell has been a good commissioner. Dirk Rohne is well known from his work on the Clatsop County Commission and the Clatsop Community College Board. Frank Spence has spent 45 years in local government as city manager and county administrator. He is prepared and principled.

I strongly support the election of Frank Spence, Dirk Rohne and Jim Campbell to the Port of Astoria in the May 16 election. Please vote.

ROGER ROCKA
Astoria

Vote Rohne for Port

As a lifelong resident of Clatsop County, I am pleased to see Dirk Rohne willing to serve us as commissioner for the Port of Astoria. Our Port has been operating in a chaotic manner for some time, and I believe that with his level head and calm demeanor, Dirk will be a good person to look at the whole picture and to help to start developing some better management.

I've known Dirk since he was very young, and it has been a pleasure to see him develop into an educated and successful young man. He showed how valuable his intelligence and independence were during his two terms as a county commissioner. Dirk knows how to work as a team, and is always willing to research a topic or situation before making a decision.

Dirk has managed a successful dairy farm throughout his adult life,

and has gained experience in managing a business that will help him in the process of balancing a budget for the Port. He believes in the role that our Port plays in keeping our local economy healthy and, will work for the benefit of all citizens and our environment.

In these troubled times, we can feel fortunate to have the opportunity to act locally to keep our corner of the world safe and healthy. Please educate yourself on local issues and return your ballot in the upcoming special election in May. I urge you to join me in marking your ballot for Dirk Rohne for Port Commissioner Position 2.

DEBBIE TWOMBLY
Brownsmead

Two endorsements

In this season of endorsements, I'd like to add mine for two dear friends and fellow Green Party members. Jacqueline DeVaney, local party chairwoman, is an excellent choice for the Clatsop Care Health District Position 3 spot. Unlike her opponent, she has many years of direct involvement with clinical and home health care issues as a practicing registered nurse. She will be an excellent advocate for all patients, residents and staff within our district, and I strongly urge you to support her.

Bob Goldberg, Pacific Green Party secretary and long-time local educator, is running for Astoria School Board, Position 5. As a parent, tutor and adjunct professor at Clatsop Community College, and instructor for Exploring New Concepts of Retirement Education (ENCORE), he has demonstrated a commitment to the educational betterment of our community. I hope you will strengthen Astoria's School Board by casting your vote for Bob Goldberg.

SUE ZERANGUE
Astoria

Letter to Port staff

Open letter to Port of Astoria Executive Director Jim Knight regarding Port staff not informing the Astoria Port Commission, at the commission meeting April 4, regarding Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) stormwater violations received by Port staff by certified mail on March 29:

I was outraged to learn on Friday that the Port has been fined \$69,319 for stormwater violations from The Daily Astorian article ("State fines Port over stormwater," April 6), instead of first learning about it from you, and that you somehow have already decided for this commission that the Port will be appealing these fines.

Even worse, I was shocked to learn that the Port received actual notice of these DEQ penalties by certified mail on March 29. How on earth did you not let this commission know about these DEQ penalties at our Port meeting on April 4?

At our April 4 meeting, this commission specifically discussed the stormwater system problems at Pier 3.

So, during this meeting you withheld from this commission all proof of the DEQ documents that you already had in hand, and specifically knew about, regarding the Port being fined \$69,319 in stormwater penalties from DEQ?

DEQ characterizes Port staff's conduct and mental state regarding these stormwater violations as "reckless" and "negligent." I am not sure

how to properly characterize your conduct and mental state in keeping this commission from learning about these DEQ violations that you had in hand.

I ask for a discussion of this matter be added to the agenda of our next Commission meeting so Port staff can answer why they did not inform this commission at our April 4 meeting regarding DEQ penalties that Port staff directly received by certified mail on March 29, and what corrective action should be taken, given this conduct.

BILL HUNSINGER
Astoria

Let's end homelessness

We could start to end homelessness in Clatsop County. Today. I think it's high time we make a commitment to our community to protect our most vulnerable. This is not impossible. This is not rocket science. We do not lack the resources, though they have not been prioritized yet.

It's this simple — we have empty buildings, and people who need a place to sleep. It may take a while to create affordable, permanent housing, but in the meantime, allowing people to get off the streets is not impossible. Can you, if you've never been in the position, imagine the despondency and alienation of being on the streets, of crawling into a soggy tent after a long day in the rain?

Can you imagine this, after working all day, coming home to nowhere, with nowhere to cook or relax? Or, if you are also a woman, facing a 50 percent chance of being sexually assaulted your first night on the street? Could you imagine this predicament with two toddlers? Could you imagine this predicament with a broken leg, or while hearing voices? How long could you hold on to hope?

You look for an affordable place to live in Clatsop County ... two weeks go by, then two months. It is unacceptable that we are to the point where we can't live in our communities without having an extraordinary amount of resources. We're human, this is our planet. We need to create permanent networks of support and hospitality, it will bring us all together.

We can learn a lot from people who have experienced, or are experiencing, homelessness. Maybe these are the people we should look to for answers on how to be a community. If we were to make the commitment, we could start immediately by opening up a building for sleeping at night (there is a very capable organization that does this nightly during the winter and could advise), allocating people power by pulling on local agencies, the city/county government employees, as well as volunteers and some of the people sleeping in the building themselves for staffing.

And I'm sure other folks may have even better ideas than these. The point is, yes — we could do this — or just continue to look the other way.

ALISON COFFINBARGER
Astoria

Campbell in, Fulton out

I witnessed the most disgraceful performance by an elected official, Stephen Fulton, in my 30-plus years working with or for Ports, at a recent Port of Astoria Commission meeting. In my opinion, his total disregard for decorum, process

and truth is an insult to the many who voted for him in his first bid. It is essential for any level of decency and progress, going forward for the Port of Astoria, that Fulton is turned back and Jim Campbell is retained in his current position.

The meeting was disoriented because of constant interruptions by Fulton, who sat lazily in his chair smirking and taking great relish in challenging, arguing and pontificating to some unseen audience he seemed to be playing to.

His disrespect for the chairman, the manager and the recently retained legal counsel is an affront to the professional staff, and to the mission and vision of the Port of Astoria. Fulton has shown us repeatedly that he respects no one, and nothing, while he banters for attention as some type of expert, which he is not.

Fulton told us in his first bid that he wanted to bring an experienced and collegiate personality to the board, and assist in mending broken relationships with other agencies. He has done exactly the opposite. His credibility is nil, and allowing him to remain on this essential board for all Clatsop County residents will further undermine this Port's ability to succeed.

Tell Fulton "no," and re-elect Jim Campbell to the Port of Astoria Commission.

BILL COOK
Astoria

Stokes for health district

A community that honors its seniors is a healthy community. In this regard, I support Mindy Stokes because she is committed to meeting the needs of seniors, and she will provide a solid, caring and dedicated voice for Clatsop Care Health District in Position 1.

Mindy worked for the health district as social services director, and then was hired to develop and administrate the Memory Care Unit. She is an advocate for patient care, and she sees the clear connection between fair wages, strong leadership and patient advocacy.

I have had the pleasure of working directly with Mindy Stokes. She is a passionate advocate and a committed community-builder who is dedicated to elder care, specifically, as well as genuine care for all. Her skills are matched by her commitment to the overall health and well-being of the entire community.

Mindy Stokes will be an energetic, tireless leader at a time when the senior citizen population is growing substantially. Her wisdom and future vision will strengthen a critical foundation of care for seniors.

I urge you to support and vote for Mindy Stokes, Clatsop Care Health District, Position 1.

MARGARET FRIMOTH
Astoria

Rohne can help Port

We support Dirk Rohne for Port Commissioner. Dirk has shown his intelligence and commitment as a Clatsop County Commissioner and a board member of Clatsop Community College, as well as other involvements. For his level-headed common sense approach to issues, his deep roots in the community, and his willingness to listen to opposing views, we feel he would provide needed leadership at the Port.

JOHN and JACKIE WECKER
Astoria