



AP Photo/Eric Gay

Clatsop County is discussing whether to revive voters' pamphlets in odd-year elections.

## Pamphlets: 'All elections should be considered equal'

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years," Commissioner Sarah Nebeker said at a Board of Commissioners meeting last week. "I'd like us to explore that."

Nebeker was reacting to statements from several residents who support the pamphlets.

"One of the best ways to decrease voter turnout is to not inform your electorate," said Tiffany Mitchell, an Astoria resident who represented Indivisible North Coast Oregon. "All elections should be considered equal."

Andy Davis, a data analyst with Greater Oregon Behavioral Health Inc., was a candidate for an Astoria School Board seat in the May special district election. While Davis, who lost the election to incumbent Jeanette Sampson, was campaigning door to door, he frequently encountered voters who would inquire about separate races on the ballot. He specifically recalled voters asking about candidates in the contentious Port of Astoria Commission races, which received extensive media coverage.

"Frankly, the Port can-

didates got as much coverage as they could have expected ... which left very little room for candidates for other offices like school boards," Davis said.

Also on the May ballot was a \$1.96 million bond measure that would have partially funded a Life Flight Network expansion and improvements to the Astoria Regional Airport. The measure failed by 146 votes in an election that drew just 35 percent voter turnout. Jim Knight, the executive director of the Port of Astoria, pointed to a lack of voters' pamphlets as one of the reasons for the bond's defeat.

Krevanko moved to Clatsop County after spending 25 years with the Washington County Elections Division. She spent nearly nine of those years as an elections supervisor. In her experience, many voters — unaware of the fees and paperwork required for a candidate to be included in a pamphlet — often contact the county to complain their favorite candidate was not described.

"I felt like it almost caused more confusion," Krevanko said.

## Wrestling: 'This has been a lengthy process'

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"I contemplated retiring, because I'm about 53 now," Jaime said.

After talking with his wrestlers, Jaime reached out to the Astoria Armory, a nonprofit community center that hosts all manner of low-cost, family friendly entertainment, from Friday skate nights, roller derby and donkey basketball to free holiday meals and pictures with Santa Claus. The venue's signature draw, the Shanghaihaied Roller Dolls roller derby team, recently disbanded.

The Armory was immediately receptive to hosting Jaime's wrestling show, he said.

The cavernous gym at the Armory is exponentially larger than the single-story event center, leaving Jaime to figure out a seating arrangement that doesn't make the venue seem too empty. Wrestling nights usually draw around 75 attendees a month, including 50 to 60 diehard fans for whom he keeps a monthly storyline going, Jaime said.

"We really gear our shows toward kids," he said. "There's no bad language. There's no blood, unless there's an accident."

Jaime plans on retiring from the ring in the coming years, but said he'll keep on as an owner, promoter and possibly a commissioner character. He also hopes to bring some of his KISS, Poison and ZZ Top tribute bands to the Armory.

### Nearing purchase

The Friends of the Astoria Armory, the nonprofit that runs the community center, has been trying to close on a \$500,000 loan with lender Craft3 to purchase and improve the venue. But the building has faced numerous cleanups from historical issues, from asbestos and lead contamination from a firing range in the basement to underground oil tanks. In



Photos by Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

The gym floor of the Astoria Armory, which used to host the matches of the Shanghaihaied Roller Dolls, will soon be home to Pacific Northwest Professional Wrestling.

April, high winds blew off portions of the roof, exposing the gym floor to rain.

Mike Davies, president of the nonprofit, said the lead contamination has been cleaned up, and a new roof installed. The nonprofit hopes to be in possession of the Armory by the end of the year.

Carl Seip, a spokesman for Craft3, said the lender hopes to finish its due diligence soon. The nonprofit could then get a loan to purchase the building.

"This has been a lengthy process, as it usually is when dealing with volunteer nonprofit boards, and certainly in situations with structures that are historic and suffer from deferred maintenance," he said.



Roger Jaime, who runs Pacific Northwest Professional Wrestling and performs under the persona C.C. Poison, is bringing his high-flying act to the Astoria Armory.

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