

Thompson files, Clement passes on Clatsop County commission seat

Field set for May primary

By JACK HEFFERNAN
The Daily Astorian



A familiar face in Astoria politics will vie for a Clatsop County Board of Commissioners seat, while the incumbent will bow out.

Doug Thompson, a real estate broker, property manager and former Astoria city councilor, filed for the District 3 seat ahead of Tuesday's deadline. Commissioner Lisa Clement, co-owner of Clemente's Seafood, will not seek re-election.

Thompson made his decision after learning Clement did not file, he said.

"I'm in it to win it," he said.

Thompson is the chairman of the Clatsop County Democratic Central Committee. He is resigning from the post to pursue the commission seat, he said.

He earned a business administration degree from Portland State University before serving as a city councilor from 1991 to 2002.

The county commission has three positions up for election.

Pamela Wev, an Astoria land use planning consultant, and Peter Roscoe, a former Astoria city councilor and owner of Fulio's

Pastaria, have also filed for the District 3 seat. The position covers parts of Astoria as well as Miles Crossing, Jeffers Garden, Lewis and Clark, Youngs River, Olney, Green Mountain and parts of Walluski.

Commissioner Scott Lee, the board's chairman, announced in 2016 that he would not seek re-election in District 1. Mark Kujala — former Warrenton mayor and owner of Skipanon Brand Seafood — Andrew Davis — a medical data analyst — and George McCartin — a retired lawyer and frequent public meeting attendee — have all filed for the seat.

Commissioner Lianne Thompson will campaign for a second term and run against Susana Gladwin, a Jewell farmer. The District 5 seat covers most of South County, including Cannon Beach, Arch Cape, Elsie, Jewell and parts of Seaside.

The race to replace state Rep. Deborah Boone in House District 32 includes six candidates.

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Marquis makes case for new jail

DA speaks at Columbia Forum dinner

By JACK HEFFERNAN
The Daily Astorian

A little more than a week before Clatsop County commissioners decide whether to put a \$23.8 million bond for a new jail on the November ballot, one of the county's top law enforcement officials made another public pitch.

District Attorney Josh Marquis was the featured speaker Tuesday night at the Columbia Forum dinner, held at Columbia Memorial Hospital's Community Center. During the talk, he laid out much of his case in favor of a new jail.

"You're probably not

going to be in jail. You're not going to think about a jail. You're not going to go to the jail, hopefully. Nobody you know will go to the jail," Marquis said. "We are capped at 60 beds. We need at least 180 to 200."

County commissioners approved a \$51,000 feasibility study last year to explore relocating the jail from Duane Street in Astoria to the now-shuttered North Coast Youth Correctional Facility in Warrenton. After commissioners and the sheriff's office heard proposals from architects ranging from \$12 million to \$28 million, the current figure — which could include about \$6 million paid directly by the state and county — is based on a designed 148-bed facility

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Josh Marquis



Citizens' Climate Lobby

Members of the Citizens' Climate Lobby meet with U.S. Rep. Suzanne Bonamici.

CHANGING POLITICAL CLIMATE

Climate change group searches locally for help nationally

By JACK HEFFERNAN
The Daily Astorian

During a climate change presentation in Astoria in February, Tod Jones — a retired fisheries manager — challenged a speaker's comments about human contribution to ocean acidification. Later in the meeting, as Jones again made a counterpoint, Chris Farrar — a member of the Clatsop County Planning Commission who was seated behind Jones — leaned over his shoulder.

"It's called acidification. Get over it," Farrar said.

Following a silence in the room, another a spectator tried to lighten the mood.

"I'm sorry, is this Astoria? That nice quiet little town? Are we in the right place here?" he asked rhetorically.

The episode was just one of a few tense moments that night, and it caught the attention of the organization hosting the event.

Citizens' Climate Lobby, a nonprofit group founded in 2007 with hundreds of national chapters, will launch an Astoria chapter later this month. The chapter will represent the organization's first on the Oregon Coast.

Their goal: build political will at local levels to spur Congress to act.

"We basically create political cover for our members of Congress so that they can step out into the limelight, do something that is near and dear to their hearts even if they're not doing it in public because it's dangerous," said Tamara Staton, the organization's Pacific Northwest regional coordinator. "They're aware of the

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A dock and small building just off John Day Road juts out over the river. The area is vulnerable to flooding.

Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian



Worker injured in hash oil explosion fires back



Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

A lawyer for contractor Jacob Magley, injured after a butane explosion and fire in Astoria in October 2016, claims his client was a construction worker not culpable in an illegal hash oil-making operation.

Calls claims of culpability a smokescreen

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

Jacob Magley, the worker badly burned in an October 2016 butane explosion and fire in Uniontown and later accused of culpability by the parties he is suing, called the allegations against him a smokescreen to deflect from an illegal hash oil-making enterprise.

Magley was a contractor working in the basement

of a building leased by William "Chris" West and Jason Oei for growing marijuana and manufacturing butane hash oil at the corner of Portway and Industry streets. A flash fire ignited from odorless butane gas in the air blew Magley backwards and badly burned his hands and face.

Magley sued West, Oei and three of their companies in Multnomah County Circuit Court for \$8.9 million. He claimed the two had been building, a method of vaporizing concentrated marijuana with an open heat source, while making the hash oil.

Magley also sued prop-

erty owner Richard Delphia and several of his companies; two of investor John Harper's companies; and Sweet Relief, an Astoria marijuana store that leased space above the processing operation. Harper in turn filed claims against Whip-It Premium butane gas distributor Rich & Rhine and manufacturer United Brands Products Design Development and Marketing Inc., blaming them for any defects in the product.

The defendants all filed motions to dismiss Magley's case, claiming he had helped West and Oei make the hash

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