

WALK TOWARD THE FUTURE



Photos by Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

The Astoria High School Class of 2018 took a traditional walk downtown on Thursday with stops at the Flavel House and the Liberty Theatre. The graduation ceremony is Saturday.

Astoria Co-op gets green light

New building in Mill Pond

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Daily Astorian

The Astoria Co-op cleared its last major hurdle with the city Thursday night, landing an approval to build a larger store east of downtown.

The city's Design Review Committee voted 4-1 to approve the organic and natural food store's application to build on property in the Mill Pond neighborhood. Unless someone appeals the committee's decision, this marks the last public hearing for the co-op's application.

Committee member Hilary Phelps was the sole "no" vote, and Sarah Jane Bardy gave her "yes" with reluctance. She was conflicted about the grocery store's application, especially the way the building was situated on the property, but agreed the application met the city's criteria.



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

The Astoria Co-op Grocery plans an expanded store in the Mill Pond neighborhood.

"We have worked really hard to try to meet that criteria and we've done that and they were able to recognize that," Matt Stanley, general manager for the co-op, said afterward.

When asked how soon the co-op needs to break ground to stay on track, Stanley said: "Really the sooner the better."

The co-op is tapping into the federal new markets tax credit to help cover the costs of the expansion, estimated to cost \$8 million total.

"The funds are conditionally approved for the co-op, but they don't stick around forever," Stanley said.

The co-op faced a set-

back in May when the Design Review Committee asked the grocery to adjust aspects of its proposal and decided to continue the hearing into June. Committee members worried about how the building was situated, pedestrian

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Educator hopes to rebound in Jewell

Resigned over controversial retweet

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

JEWELL — A prospective new hire by Jewell School District is turning some heads because of a past social media post.

Stephen Phillips, who is finalizing a contract to be a new executive administrator in Jewell, comes from Beaverton School District, where he resigned as deputy superintendent in April after retweeting a claim that undocumented immigrants are more dangerous than assault rifles and should be banned from the United States.

The retweet caused the school district to apologize and some in the community to form a petition calling for Phillips' dismissal. He later apologized and announced his resignation in a letter to Beaverton Superintendent Don Grotting, calling the retweet a mistake that does not define him as a person.

Phillips said he is hoping to prove himself anew at Jewell.

"Long story short, it's going to take time," he said. "It's going to take people getting to know me, and realizing I'm an educator that cares about kids and wants what's best for kids — that's all kids."

More than 20 candidates applied for the executive administrator position. Jewell Superintendent Alice Hunsaker said the dis-

trict underwent a thorough search and vetting process before deciding on Phillips.

"I think people deserve the opportunity to learn from mistakes and know that they're not going to make them again," she said. "And I'm very confident that that's not a mistake Mr. Phillips will make in the future."

"Steve has an extensive amount of experience to bring to the district, and I think we're lucky to get a candidate of his quality."

Phillips spent two years at Beaverton as deputy superintendent. He was recruited there from the Malheur Educational Service District in Eastern Oregon, where he was superintendent for four years and director of secondary education for four years prior.

He spent five years as a middle school vice principal and two as a math teacher in Nyssa near the Oregon-Idaho border. His first teaching job was in the Burnt River School District, which he said served about 100 students during his time there.

Jewell, located in rural southeast Clatsop County, averages around 150 students K-12.

Members of the Jewell Education Association had opposed Phillips' hiring after learning of his past. Don Anderson, an English teacher and co-president of the association, said 13 out of 14 teachers responding to a survey did not support his hiring. The association includes about 20 members.

One teacher resigned over Phillips' hiring, Anderson said.



Stephen Phillips

Price will run for mayor

City councilor seeks top post

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Daily Astorian

Astoria City Councilor Cindy Price will run for mayor in the November election.

"The magic of Astoria is real," she said in a statement. "But we've been discovered. There are opportunities, and there are challenges. Astoria must avoid becoming a combination of Lincoln City and the worst parts of Portland."

Her challenger so far is Dul-

eye Taylor, the owner of Old Town Framing Co. and president of the Astoria Downtown Historic District Association.

Taylor and Price, who represents the downtown Ward 3 district, have collaborated on causes and projects in the past, most recently on efforts to bring the historic Astoria ferry — Tourist No. 2 — back to the city. They are co-presidents of the ferry group's board of directors.

Mayor Arline LaMear chose not to run for re-election, creating an opening for the city's top post.

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Astoria City Councilor Cindy Price was elected in 2014.

