

Hammond man to run for Warrenton mayor

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — A Hammond man will challenge Mayor Henry Balensifer in the November election.

John Washington, 54, has lived in Hammond for 18 years. Now retired, he worked as an automotive technician and commercial truck driver. He served on school boards when he lived in Idaho, but this will be his first time running for a government office in Clatsop County.



John Washington

Balensifer was appointed to finish out the rest of former mayor Mark Kujala's term after Kujala resigned last year. Balensifer, who was elected to the City Commission in 2012, promised to run for mayor when the term he took over from Kujala expired.

Balensifer works for Lektro as the towless aircraft tug company's communications and government relations manager.

Washington plans to campaign on street repairs, greater transparency in city government and more attention to people's concerns.

"I feel that people in Warrenton and Hammond need a

voice," he said. "The citizens of Warrenton and Hammond have become complacent to the fact that the City Commission doesn't consider much of what they have to say."

He was inspired, in part, to run over the City Commission's decision in 2015 to restrict marijuana businesses to the east side of U.S. Highway 101. Warrenton voters had approved the sale of recreational marijuana in 2014, but the city had enacted a one-year moratorium on dispensaries earlier that same year.

At the time the commission passed the ordinance limiting where the drug could be sold, Commissioner Rick Newton said they were trying to respect the will of the people while also "doing our best to deal with an activity that we don't support."

While Washington says he does not use marijuana, he is not opposed to others using it. Listening to the commissioners, he thought, "What gives the five of them the right or power to decide for the entire town of Warrenton and Hammond?"

"OK," he decided, "it's time for me to do something about it."

ELECTION RACES

U.S. House District

1: U.S. Rep. Suzanne Bonamici, D; John Verbeek, R; Drew Layda, L

• **Governor:** Gov. Kate Brown, D; state Rep. Knute Buehler, R

• **State House District 32:** Tiffany Mitchell, D; Vineeta Lower, R; Brian Halvorsen, I

• **Clatsop County Board of Commissioners, District 3:** Pamela Wev, Peter Roscoe

• **Astoria mayor:** City Councilor Bruce Jones, Dulcye Taylor, Michael Miller

• **Astoria City Council, Ward 1:** David Drafall, Roger Rocka

• **Astoria City Council, Ward 3:** Joan Herman, Ron Zilli

• **Warrenton mayor:** Henry Balensifer, John Washington

• **Warrenton City Commission, Position 4:** Commissioner Rick Newton

• **Seaside mayor:** Mayor Jay Barber, John Chapman

• **Seaside City Council, Ward 1:** City Councilor Steve Wright

• **Seaside City Council, Ward 2:** City Councilor Tita Montero

• **Seaside City Council, Wards 3 and 4:** City Councilor Dana Phillips

• **Cannon Beach mayor:** Mayor Sam Steidel

• **Cannon Beach City Council, at large:** City Councilor Mike Benefield, Robin Risley, Greg Swendenborg

• **Gearhart City Council, Position 1:** City Councilor Kerry Smith, Jack Zimmerman

• **Gearhart City Council, Position 3:** City Councilor Paulina Cockrum

Jail bond: Bond involves a remodel this time around

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Bergin's role

For the jail bond, the story is Sheriff Tom Bergin. He is putting the finishing touches on a political action committee — Vote Yes for Safe Streets — and has scheduled presentations at city council meetings throughout the county for the second half of September and early October. Signs and media advertisements are in the works.

Lt. Matt Phillips, the jail commander, and Chief Deputy Sheriff Paul Williams will help Bergin with presentations. In his time with the sheriff's office, Bergin has been involved with two unsuccessful jail bonds, including one as the county's top cop in 2012.

Bergin has also taken a leading role in supporting Measure 105, which would repeal Oregon's sanctuary law. The sheriff released a letter Monday with 15 other sheriffs urging voters to approve the ballot measure in November. Bergin's move could hamper efforts to pass the jail bond, said Commissioner Scott Lee, the board's chairman.

"I think absolutely it complicates things. Some of these folks are going to walk away simply because of this controversial position he's taken," Lee said. "I'm disappointed. Really, I am. I've always been against this measure."

Bergin said the two issues are distinct and that the feedback he's received has been largely positive.

"I just don't see the correlation. I know it may upset some, sure, but I also know there's a silent majority out there," Bergin said. "I'm not a fence walker. You have to pick a side, stick with it and do what you believe is best for this community."

A new jail could be easier to sell this time around because it involves a remodel rather than a brand-new facility, Bergin said. He plans to start the campaign off at a lighter pace before pressing the issue more regularly closer to November.

"We know the target groups," Bergin said. "When you're connected with the community and the voters, you don't have to take these giant steps to reach out to people."

County staff can't endorse or oppose candidates or ballot measures while at work. Each county commissioner has advo-

cated for the new jail whenever the topic arises, but they are largely delegating promotional efforts to the sheriff.

"We had good support from the board," Lee said. "I think the sheriff said he is going to take the lead there. We've done a much better job already of promoting the jail than the other time around."

Commissioner Lianne Thompson agreed that the sheriff should lead the effort. She said she is not actively campaigning for the bond, but wishes the commission had a more concerted approach.

"It's kind of like one of those movies where each one is pointing at the other and saying, 'Who's going to take the lead?'" Thompson said. "I'll do what I can, but I'm not the boss of things."

Aside from voters who fear a tax increase and disapprove of adding jail beds, the bond has a number of other things to contend with. Bonds for \$70 million in renovations to Astoria schools, \$38.5 million for the Warrenton-Hammond School District and \$20 million for an expansion of the Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District's pool and fitness center in Seaside will also be on the ballot.

"I think that's going to be a real issue for you," Stranzl told county commissioners last spring. "Ideally your voters can look at it and make a decision to compartmentalize these two school bond measures."

County officials may also have to deal with disgruntled hoteliers and city leaders. Despite heated opposition from some hotel owners, commissioners passed a 1 percent lodging tax increase in the county to offset operations costs at a potential new jail. The decision irked members of the Cannon Beach City Council, who bemoaned that they were not consulted prior to the vote.

Lee and Bergin downplayed the potential impact of the lodging tax.

"My perception was that it shows the county was committed to funding this without putting all the money on taxpayers," Lee said.

Thompson, who represents South County, is not so sure.

"I think it doesn't bode well that the Cannon Beach City Council was not happy that it was not included in the discussion," she said.

Unpredictability
Adding to the unpredictability is the other political races that may influence voters in November.

A potentially competitive governor's race between Gov. Kate Brown, a Democrat, and state Rep. Knute Buehler, a Republican, could help drive voter turnout across the state.

On the North Coast, Democrat Tiffany Mitchell will face Republican Vineeta Lower and Independent Brian Halvorsen to replace retiring state Rep. Deborah Boone in state House District 32.

In the first runoff election for county commission in a decade, Pamela Wev, a land use consultant, and Peter Roscoe, a former restaurateur and Astoria city councilor, will square off for the District 3 seat that covers central Astoria, Lewis and Clark and other communities to the west.

Astoria City Councilor Bruce Jones, Dulcye Taylor, the president of the Astoria Downtown Historic District Association, and Michael Miller, an activist, are running to be Astoria's next mayor.

Astoria will also have two City Council seats on the ballot. Joan Herman, an Astoria planning commissioner and radio programmer, and Ron Zilli, a longtime state forester, are vying for the downtown Ward 3 seat being vacated by City Councilor Cindy Price. In the west side's Ward 1, David Drafall, a hairdresser, will face Roger Rocka, former director of the Astoria-Warrenton Area Chamber of Commerce, to replace City Councilor Zetty Nemlowill.

In Seaside, Mayor Jay Barber is being challenged by radio station owner John Chapman.

Predicting how voter interest in these races might impact the jail bond is a fool's game, Lee said. "This is not a normal election cycle. People are crossing party lines for various reasons."

Toward the end of the next 10 weeks, though, the answer should become clearer.

"You should feel good on Election Day that it's going to pass," Stranzl said last spring. "If November rolls around and you don't think your bond's going to pass, it's not going to pass."

Council seat: Rocka moved to Astoria in 1994

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like Airbnb-style vacation rentals operated out of people's homes. He is pushing for all such businesses to have licenses through the city and be run "by the books."

Rocka, 78, is on the Tillicum Foundation Board of Directors for Coast Community Radio. He grew up in Chicago, spent time in California and moved to Astoria in 1994, where he worked for the chamber for a decade. He has a background in broadcast news, but also owns a dinner theater business in Fresno, California, that he started in 1978.

During his time with the chamber, Rocka was part of efforts to create the Astoria Riverwalk and organized

one of the first big riverfront cleanup events. He was also part of a group that made it their mission to create a safer and more inviting downtown.

Rocka is married to Jan Mitchell, who serves on the Planning Commission. Together, they were vocal in their criticism of two liquefied natural gas projects proposed in Clatsop County in the early 2000s. They were part of a group founded at that time, Columbia River Estuary Action Team, or CREATE, that dedicated itself to protecting the Columbia River.

"In my heart of hearts, I believe in equality," he said. He wants to do what he can to create a city that exemplifies that belief. "I think the council can set an example for that."

LOCAL MEASURES

- \$20 million for new Clatsop County Jail
- \$70 million for Astoria School District
- \$38.5 million for Warrenton-Hammond School District
- \$20 million for Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District
- 3 percent marijuana retail tax in unincorporated areas
- 3 percent marijuana retail tax in Gearhart

THE DAILY ASTORIAN

TV SCHEDULE

Evening listings

WEDNESDAY

| WEDNESDAY EVENING | | | | | A - Charter Astoria/ Seaside - L - Charter Long Beach | | | | | AUGUST 29 | | | |
|-------------------|-------|---|-------------------------------|--|---|---|------------------------------------|---|--|--|---|---|---|
| A | L | 6 PM | 6:30 | 7 PM | 7:30 | 8 PM | 8:30 | 9 PM | 9:30 | 10 PM | 10:30 | 11 PM | 11:30 |
| 2 | KATU | (2) KATU News at 6 (N) | | Jeopardy! | Wheel of Fortune | The Goldbergs | Amer. Housewife | Modern Family | Amer. Housewife | Shark Tank | | KATU News (N) | (3:55) Jimmy Kimmel |
| 3 | KOMO | (4) KOMO 4 News (N) | | Wheel of Fortune | Jeopardy! | The Goldbergs | Amer. Housewife | Modern Family | Amer. Housewife | Shark Tank | | KOMO 4 News (N) | (3:55) Jimmy Kimmel |
| 5 | KING | (5) NBC News (N) | KING 5 Special (N) | KING 5 News | Evening | America-Talent "Live Results 3" (N) | | World of Dance "The Cut 2" Judges send | | | | KING 5 News (N) | (3:55) Tonight Show |
| 6 | KOIN | (6) KOIN Local 6 (N) | Evening News (N) | Extra | Ent. Tonight (N) | Big Brother (N) | | SEAL Team "Takedown" | | Criminal Minds "Annihilator" | | News (N) | (3:55) Colbert |
| 7 | KIRO | (7) KIRO 7 News (N) | Evening News (N) | KIRO 7 News (N) | Ent. Tonight (N) | Big Brother (N) | | SEAL Team "Takedown" | | Criminal Minds "Annihilator" | | KIRO News (N) | (3:55) Colbert |
| 8 | KGW | (8) KGW News at 6:00 p.m. (N) | | Tonight Cassidy | Inside Edition | America-Talent "Live Results 3" (N) | | World of Dance "The Cut 2" Judges send | | | | KGW News (N) | (3:55) Tonight Show |
| 9 | KRCW | (9) Modern Family | Modern Family | The Goldbergs | The Goldbergs | Burden of Truth "The Ties That Bind" | | Supergirl "Damage" | | News at 10 (N) | Friends | Two and a Half | Two and a Half |
| 10 | KOPB | (10) Journeys Japan (N) | Business (N) | PBS NewsHour (N) | | Nature "India's Wandering Lions" | | Nova "The Origami Revolution" | | POV "Bill Nye: Science Guy" | | Age Wise | Age Wise |
| 12 | KPTV | (12) 6 O'Clock News (N) | | Family Feud | Family Feud | MasterChef "American Heroes" (N) | | MasterChef "Waste Not Want Not" (N) | | 10 O'Clock News (N) | | News (N) | Page Six TV |
| 13 | KPDx | (13) Mike & Molly | Mike & Molly | Big Bang Theory | Big Bang Theory | Prime News (N) | | MasterChef "Waste Not Want Not" (N) | | Family Guy | American Dad! | The Game | The Game |
| 13 | KCPQ | (13) Modern Family | Modern Family | Big Bang Theory | Big Bang Theory | MasterChef "American Heroes" (N) | | MasterChef "Waste Not Want Not" (N) | | Q13 NEWS AT 10 (N) | | News (N) | The Simpsons |
| 20 | TBS | (20) Family Guy | Family Guy | Big Bang Theory | Big Bang Theory | Big Bang Theory | Big Bang Theory | Big Bang Theory | Big Bang Theory | Full Frontal | | Conan (N) | Conan (N) |
| 22 | KZJL | (22) Friends | Friends | Mom | Modern Family | Mom | Modern Family | Q13 News at 9 (N) | | Big Bang Theory | Big Bang Theory | Two and a Half | Two and a Half |
| 29 | ESPN | (29) (4:00) ITF Tennis U.S. Open (L) | | | | SportsCenter (N) | | SportsCenter With Scott Van Pelt (N) | | SportsCenter (N) | | SportsCenter (N) | SportsCenter (N) |
| 30 | ESPN2 | (30) Rolling With Tide | | Rolling With Tide (N) | | ESPN Films "Roll Tide/ War Eagle" | | 30 for 30 "Trojan War" | | | 30 for 30 "Catholics vs. Convicts" | | |
| 31 | NICK | (31) The Loud House | The Loud House | The Loud House | SpongeBob SquarePants | | | SpongeBob | SpongeBob | Friends | Friends | Friends | (3:55) Friends |
| 32 | DISN | (32) Raven's Home | Raven's Home | Raven's Home | Raven's Home | Raven's Home | Raven's Home | Raven's Home 1/2 | Raven's Home 2/2 | Friends | Friends | Raven's Home | Raven's Home |
| 34 | FAM | (34) *** Ace Ventura: Pet Detective '94 | | Courtney Cox, Sean Young, Jim Carrey. | | Alone Together (N) Alone (SF) (N) | | *** Ace Ventura: Pet Detective '94 | | Courtney Cox, Sean Young, Jim Carrey. | | The 700 Club | The 700 Club |
| 35 | FMC | (35) (4:30) Goosebumps | (25) *** Goosebumps '15, Adv) | Odeya Rush, Jack Black. | | (20) FXM Presents *** Parental Guidance | (12) Marisa Tomei, Billy Crystal. | | | (25) FXM Presents *** Crimson Peak | (15) Tom Hiddleston, Mia Wasikowska. | | |
| 36 | LIFE | (36) Grey's A. "The Room Where It Happens" | | Grey's A. "You Haven't Done Nothin'" | | Michael Jackson: Searching for Neverland | (17) Sam Adegoke, Chad L. Coleman. | | | (05) Biography Pres "Michael Jackson" | (05) Michael Jackson Icon | | |
| 39 | ROOT | (39) (4:00) The Dan Patrick Show (N) | | In Depth (N) | MLS Soccer Toronto FC at Portland Timbers (L) | | | Post-game | | MarinersPre-game | MLB Baseball Seattle Mariners at San Diego Padres | | |
| 39 | FS1 | (39) UFC Top Ten | UFC Knockouts | The Ultimate Fighter (N) | | TUF Talk (N) | MLB Whiparound (L) | | | UFC Knockouts | | TUF Talk | UFC Tonight |
| 43 | SPIKE | (43) Mom | Mom | Friends | Friends | Friends | Friends | *** Wedding Crashers (2005, Comedy) | | Vince Vaughn, Rachel McAdams, Owen Wilson. | | | |
| 44 | COM | (44) (1:15) South Park | (5:50) South Park | | (25) South Park | South Park | South Park | South Park | South Park | South Park | South Park | South Park 1/3 | South Park 2/3 |
| 45 | HIST | (45) American Pickers "Good and Evil" | | American Pickers "Hyder's Hideaway" | | Amer. Pickers "Double Bubble Trouble" | | American Pickers "Mystery Picks" (N) | | (05) A. Pickers "The Doctor Is Waiting" | | (05) Pickers "A Hard Rain's Gonna Fall" | (05) Born This Way "Home Alone" |
| 46 | A&E | (46) Hoarders "Lloyd/ Carol" | | Hoarders "Adella/ Teri" | | Born This Way "One Small Step" (N) | | Born This Way "Joyride" (N) | | | | (05) Born This Way "Home Alone" | (05) Born This Way "Home Alone" |
| 47 | TLC | (47) Say Yes to the Dress | | My 600-lb Life "June's Story" | | My 600-lb Life "Brandi and Kandis' Story" | | | | Dr. Pimple "The World's Largest Lump" | | 600-lb Life "Brandi and Kandis' Story" | 600-lb Life "Brandi and Kandis' Story" |
| 48 | DISC | (48) Exp. Unknown "World's 8th Wonder" | | Exp. Unknown "Corsica's Nazi Treasure" | | Expedition Unknown "Nazi Gold Train" | | Exp. Unknown "Hitler's Atomic Secrets" | | Exp. Unknown "Nuzis in Argentina" | | (05) Expedition Unknown | (05) Expedition Unknown |
| 49 | NGEO | (49) Tijuana Drug Lords | | World's Deadliest Gangs | | Drugs, Inc. "Boston Benzo Buzz" | | Drugs, Inc. "London Falling" (N) | | Drugs, Inc. "Suzer Meth" | | Drugs, Inc. "Boston Benzo Buzz" | Drugs, Inc. "Boston Benzo Buzz" |
| 50 | TNT | (50) (5:30) *** Contraband (12, Act) | | Giovanni Ribisi, Kate Beckinsale, Mark Wahlberg. | | *** Transformers (2007, Action) | | Megan Fox, Josh Duhamel, Shia LaBeouf. | | | | Tower Heist (11, Action) | Eddie Murphy. |
| 51 | AMC | (51) (5:25) *** The Goonies '85, Adventure) | | Corey Feldman, Josh Brolin, Sean Astin. | | *** Uncle Buck (1989, Comedy) | | Amy Madigan, Jean Louisa Kelly, John Candy. | | (20) *** Smokey and the Bandit (77) | | Jackie Gleason, Sally Field, Burt Reynolds. | Jackie Gleason, Sally Field, Burt Reynolds. |
| 52 | USA | (52) Law & Order: S.V.U. "Tangled" | | Law & Order: S.V.U. "Redemption" | | Law & Order: S.V.U. "Motherly Love" | | Suits "Sour Grapes" (N) | | The Sinner "Part V" (N) | | (05) Law & Order: S.V.U. "Inheritance" | (05) Law & Order: S.V.U. "Inheritance" |
| 53 | FOOD | (53) Guy's Game "Not Going to Budget-It!" | | Guy's Game "Daring Kitchen Duos" | | Guy's Game "Budget Bonanza" | | Guy's Grocery Games (N) | | Guy's Game "Culinary Saved My Life" | | Guy's Grocery Games "Friend or Foe" | Guy's Grocery Games "Friend or Foe" |
| 54 | HGTV | (54) Buying and Selling "More Is More" | | Buying and Selling | | Property Brothers | | Property Brothers (N) | | House Hunters (N) | House Hunters (N) | Flipping Virgins (N) | Flipping Virgins (N) |
| 56 | FX | (56) (5:00) *** Fast & Furious 6 (13, Act) | | Paul Walker, Dwayne Johnson, Vin Diesel. | | *** Furious 7 (2015, Action) | | Paul Walker, Jason Statham, Vin Diesel. | | | | Fast & Furious 6 (13, Action) | Vin Diesel. |
| 57 | CNN | (57) Cuomo Prime Time | | CNN Tonight With Don Lemon | | CNN Tonight With Don Lemon | | Anderson Cooper 360 | | Cuomo Prime Time | | CNN Tonight With Don Lemon | CNN Tonight With Don Lemon |
| 58 | FNC | (58) Hannity | | The Ingraham Angle | | Fox News @ Night | | Tucker Carlson Tonight | | Hannity | | The Ingraham Angle | The Ingraham Angle |
| 61 | CNBC | (61) Shark Tank | | Shark Tank | | Shark Tank | | The Car Chasers | The Car Chasers | The Car Chasers | The Car Chasers | Paid Program | Paid Program |
| 63 | BRV | (63) Real Housewives "Life Is a Cabaret" | | Real Housewives "Reunion, Part 1" 1/3 | | Real Housewives "Reunion, Part 2" (N) | | Dallas "The Badger of Beaver Creek" (N) | | Real Housewives "Reunion, Part 2" 2/3 | | Watch What | Real Wives Dallas |
| 64 | TCM | (64) (5:00) The Big Sleep Humphrey Bogart. | | *** Key Largo (48, Drama) | Lauren Bacall, Edward G. Robinson, Humphrey Bogart. | | | Gift of Love (1958, Drama) | Robert Stack, Evelyn Rudie, Lauren Bacall. | | | Bright Leaf (1950, Drama) | Gary Cooper. |
| 65 | SYFY | (65) (4:30) Escape Plan Sylvester Stallone. | | *** Rush Hour (1998, Action) | Chris Tucker, Tom Wilkinson, Jackie Chan. | | | (05) *** Rush Hour 3 (2007, Action) | Jackie Chan, Roman Polanski, Chris Tucker. | | | (05) AVPR: Aliens vs. Predator - Req... | (05) AVPR: Aliens vs. Predator - Req... |
| 62 | RFD | (62) Dude Ranch | Cowboy (N) | Women's Rodeo | Equestrian Nation | Total Team Roping | Rural Eve. News | ReMastered | Cowboy TV | Dude Ranch | Cowboy Moments | Product Showcase | Product Showcase |

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