

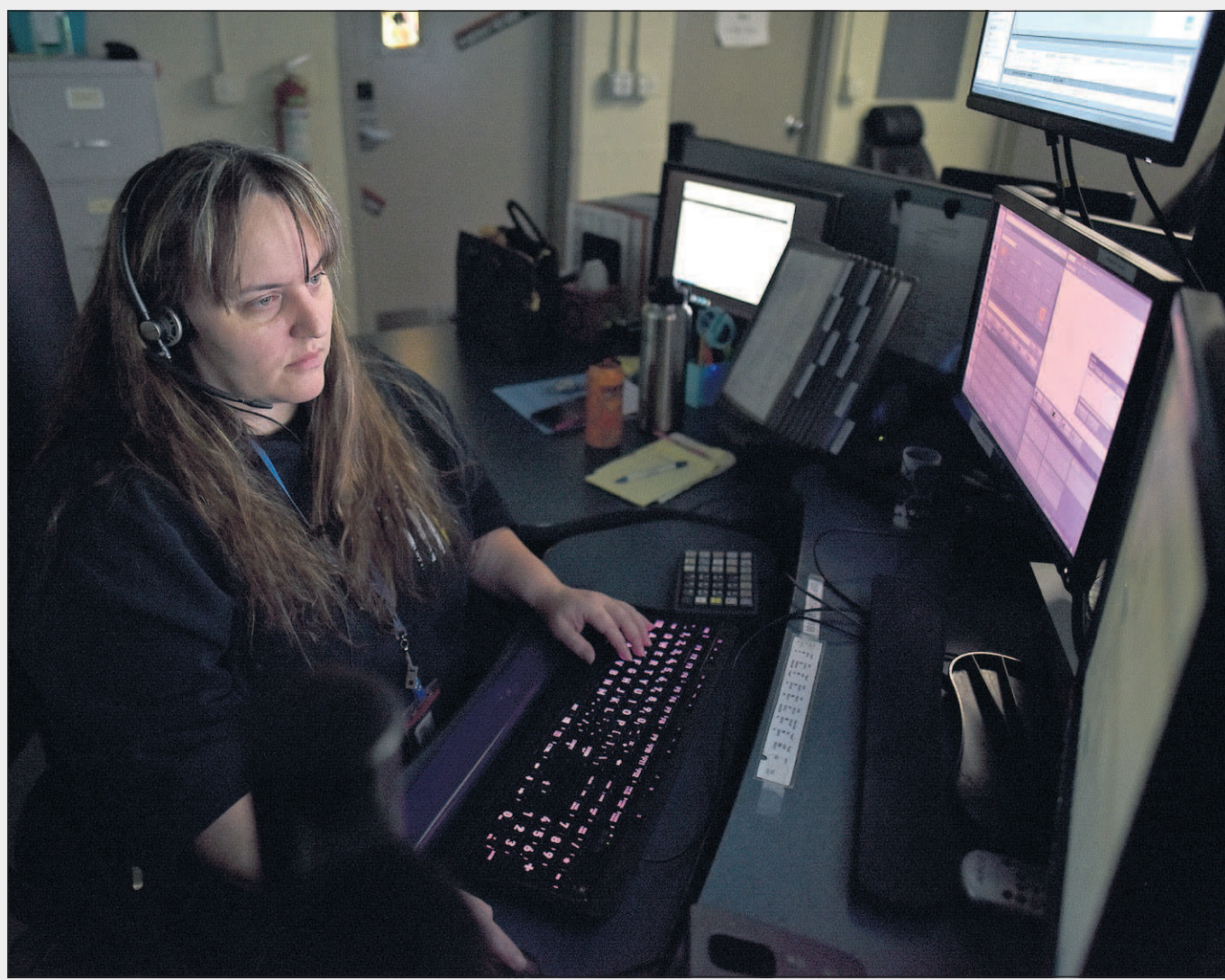
# THE DAILY ASTORIAN

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ONE DOLLAR

## CROSSED WIRES



Jennifer Peden monitors multiple computer screens at Astoria 911 Dispatch.

Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

### Cannon Beach emergency responders look to fix spotty radio communications

By **BRENNA VISSER**  
*The Daily Astorian*

**C**ANNON BEACH — For emergency responders in Cannon Beach, being able to communicate with dispatch over the radio while on a call in certain parts of South County is always a gamble.

For years, some areas south of Tillamook Head have earned reputations as perpetual dead zones: Haystack Heights. Sections of Tolovana. Large chunks of the beach. Even parts of downtown.

So far, these gaps have not led to serious incidents, though some situations teeter too close for comfort. Police Chief Jason Schermerhorn remembers one officer's struggle to call for backup in a dead spot near Tolovana during a drunken-driving test on the side of the road.

"That's their lifeline," Schermerhorn said.

Radio communication can be so spotty near Hug Point that Fire Chief Matt Benedict recalls a rescue operation where he was close enough to see his crew and still not able to reach them on the radio.

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**'IT'S A BIG SAFETY ISSUE. IF I'M GOING TO SEND SOME INDIVIDUALS INTO A BURNING HOUSE ON A REPEATED CHANNEL I MAY NOT BE ABLE TO HEAR THEM EVEN IF I'M ABLE TO SEE THEM.'**

Matt Benedict | fire chief

### ELECTION 2018

## Astoria, Warrenton candidates talk bonds, homelessness and housing

Election forum held in Astoria

By **KATIE FRANKOWICZ**  
*The Daily Astorian*

Candidates for city posts in Astoria and Warrenton rarely differed on key issues from homelessness to housing at an election forum in Astoria on Wednesday night.

But they diverged when it came to supporting the Clatsop County Jail bond.

The nine candidates were asked which bonds on the November ballot most benefit the communities they represent: a \$70 million bond to modernize and improve the Astoria School District's buildings; a \$38.5 million bond to



Candidates participate in a forum at Astoria High School.

Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

purchase land and build a new middle school out of the tsunami inundation zone in Warrenton; or the \$20 million bond to relocate the jail from Astoria to the former North Coast Youth Correctional Facility in Warrenton.

"The best way to help keep children out of going to jail in the future is to educate them," said Joan Herman, a planning commissioner running for the downtown Ward 3 seat on the Astoria City Council against state forester Ron Zilli.

Herman was silent on the jail bond but added that if the community doesn't begin to address school infrastructure now, "it's going to cost us a lot more in the long run to try to fix them and it may be a situation where they are at risk more than they already are."

Roger Rocka, a former chamber of commerce director running for the west side Ward 1 seat on the council against hairdresser David Drafall, pri-

oritized the school bond in Astoria. He wondered about the costs of the new jail and how inmates would be transported for court dates from the new facility.

Zilli said jail improvements are needed, but he also prioritized the school bond.

Michael "Sasha" Miller, a community activist running for Astoria mayor against City Councilor Bruce Jones and downtown business owner Dulcye Taylor, was the only candidate to state plainly that he did not support the jail bond.

John Washington, a Hammond resident who is challenging Warrenton Mayor Henry Balensifer, was the only candidate who said voters should support the jail bond, since overcrowding at the jail means lower-level offenders are often released early. Washington also supports the Warrenton school bond, but believes the school district and

city are going about it in the wrong way.

The school bond was the top priority for Balensifer. The mayor said a school built outside of hazard areas will provide citizens with a place to gather during emergencies. Also, he added, the school just needs more space. In September, the Warrenton Grade School welcomed over 700 students, far more than the building was designed to serve.

Lack of housing emerged as central concern for Astoria candidates.

With several hotel proposals in the works, candidates like Herman, Rocka and Drafall want to see zoning changes that open some areas for higher-density housing instead.

Jones, who is deputy director of the Columbia River Maritime Museum, pushed for multiuse development at

## Roscoe, Wev bring different styles

Candidates for county District 3

By **JACK HEFFERNAN**  
*The Daily Astorian*

Their views were similar, but their presentations weren't.

Pamela Wev and Peter Roscoe, the candidates for the Clatsop County commission District 3 seat, participated in an election forum Wednesday night at Astoria High School. Neither candidate offered many specific solutions to issues, relying instead on their distinct experience and governing philosophies.

They are running to represent parts of Astoria, Miles Crossing, Jeffers Garden, Lewis and Clark, Youngs River, Olney, Green Mountain and parts of Walluski.

Wev, a land use planner who once served in former Portland Mayor Vera Katz's administration, mentioned

her government experience. She declared her desire for a more open, deliberative form of county governance.

"I would like to address the issues facing the county commission kind of the same way I've done most of my public service and my parenting. I like to listen," she said. "I'd like to bring a different atmosphere to the county commission."

Roscoe, a former Astoria city councilor and restaurateur, touted his background in local organizations and connections with residents.

"You know, I'm just a guy who grew up here," he said. "I know the ins and outs of so many people in this community that I feel I can represent the community because of that."

Don't waste my experience." One of the questions posed to candidates centered on homelessness.

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Peter Roscoe and Pamela Wev answer questions during the election forum in Astoria.

Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

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