

## New year, different story?

Clatsop County commissioners hope to find 'common ground'

By JACK HEFFERNAN The Daily Astorian

t's unknown who will fill two key Clatsop County leadership posts in the new year. But the jockeying has already begun for one of them.

After welcoming newly elected colleagues Mark Kujala and Pamela Wev in January, Clatsop County commissioners will appoint a new board chair before setting out to hire a permanent county manager.

They hope to pivot away from the private and public clashes that have beset the commission in the past year

"These are going to be big items," Commissioner Kathleen Sullivan said. "I think every board starts out optimistic, and that's how I'm going



Sarah Nebeker



Kathleen Sullivan



Lianne **Thompson** 



Mark Kujala



**Pamela** Wev



to be."

Sullivan's comments largely reflect the mood of the new commission in the transition period after election season. Careful not to offer predictions about how they will gel, commissioners expressed a desire in interviews with The Daily Astorian for more open, collaborative conversations as they steer the county in a new direction.

## **New county manager**

October, commissioners appointed county Budget and Finance Director Monica Steele as the interim county manager when Clatsop County Manager Cameron Moore retires Jan 4.

Whoever is selected on a permanent basis will become the 10th county manager in under two decades.

"Other than the budget, this is the most important thing we will do this year as far as I see," Commissioner Sarah Nebeker said.

Moore, hired in 2016, said last year that he identified Steele early in his tenure as a potential replacement. Since confirming her interest, Steele has become a more recognizable face in the county, assuming the role of assistant county manager in 2017. Now, Steele will have an oppor-

"It is most likely that I will," she

tunity to apply for the top job.

Kujala is looking forward to working with the other commissioners in an open hiring process that casts a wide net, he said. He likes Steele's experience in county leadership and with the budget, he added.

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## Partners open new salon in Seaside

Business located in newly renovated Westport Winery

**By EVE MARX** For The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — The words "Brazilian Blow Out" and "Moroccan Oil" may not have a lot of meaning to you, unless you've been exposed to hair care a person might take for granted at a sophisticated city hair salon. Now a new salon in Seaside is offering these products and lux-

urious hair treatments. satisfaction "Customer is guaranteed," said Kegan French, who along with his

partner, Will Witt, just opened Salon on Broadway, located at 810 Broadway in Seaside. "If you don't like it, we'll switch it out for you at no cost. We stand by our work and our products 100 percent."

French was born in Germany and grew up in Utah on an Air Force base. He comes from a family of doctors and other medical professionals and was expected to follow that path. Instead, while still a college student, he became a stagehand and wardrobe tech-



nician in Salt Lake City.

"I worked with Rascal Flatts, Gwen Stefani, Cirque de Soleil," French said. "I worked with Faith Hill and Tim McGrath. I worked with Ozzy Osborne. I worked with Korn. My life was all glitz and glamour and gradually I began to realize I wanted to make everyone feel like a star."



Eve Marx/For The Daily Astorian See SALON, Page 4A Kegan French, left, and Will Witt of Salon on Broadway.

