

# County: ‘It has been a divisive couple of years’

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“That’s a significant advantage,” he said.

Commissioner Lianne Thompson would like the board to hold work sessions to define its goals on certain county issues before beginning the hiring process, she said.

“We’ve had a lot of turnover. I’d like to pause and define our mission,” Thompson said. “I want us to define what we are as a governing body before searching for somebody.”

### New board chair

Kujala and Wev will replace Commissioners Scott Lee and Lisa Clement. Over the next few weeks, they will gather some basics about the county’s budget and decision-making processes. They will also meet with county department heads, local elected officials and organizations.

Lee served as the board’s chairman, and the first order of business for the commissioners is to select a new chair to replace him.

Nebeker, Thompson and

Kujala have expressed interest. Nebeker has served on the board since 2013 and is currently the vice chair. Thompson has served on the board since 2015, and previously nominated herself in 2017 when the current commission met for the first time. Kujala is a former Warrenton mayor.

“It remains to be seen how that will all play out,” Nebeker said.

Thompson, Wev and Sullivan have been involved with Clatsop County Democrats. All three have expressed a desire for more oversight of the county manager and staff, one of the major wedge points on the current commission.

Thompson hopes the new arrangement on the board will help her collect a majority of votes, she said.

“We’ll see,” Thompson said. “I am more optimistic than last time.”

### ‘Not having much fun’

Commissioners have criticized Thompson in the past couple of years for her travel expenses and behavior with county staff. When Moore

apologized for skipping a meeting earlier this year, he cited clashes with Thompson and Sullivan as a reason for his absence.

“Listen, if I was having fun, I would do it a couple more years. I’m just not having much fun right now,” Moore said when asked why he decided to retire. “I’ll let you draw your own conclusions on that.”

As commissioners begin searching for Moore’s replacement, the new board will also look to prove that it can work better together.

“I think we can do better,” Nebeker said. “It has been a divisive couple of years, and I’d like commissioners to find common ground.”

Thompson, for her part, will continue to push the board to hold more big-picture discussions, she said.

“We don’t agree on what’s the role of a county commissioner,” Thompson said. “Once that’s done, decisions will be easier.”

So, is the commission’s turmoil history?

“I can only hope,” Wev said.



Photos by Eve Marx/For The Daily Astorian

Chic industrial style sets a luxury tone at Salon on Broadway.

# Salon: ‘I take the healing and beautifying arts very seriously’

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He enrolled in Paul Mitchell, The School, in Salt Lake City to seriously study hair care, graduating as a cosmetologist in 2011.

Eight years ago, French followed his mother, Mary French-Peterson, to the Oregon Coast. For a time he ran the hair salon at Necanicum Village. He had a salon in Astoria. Then he found out about space available in the newly renovated Westport Winery building and a bell went off.

“I knew right away this was where I wanted to be,” French said.

The salon focuses on spe-

cialized, premium services.

“Conditioning, hair color, precision haircuts, broken hair bonding and cuticle services are the foundation of industry-leading hair care,” French said. “Our advanced skin care uses state-of-the-art micro current, microdermabrasion, photon therapy, ultrasonic cavitation, radio and high frequency rejuvenation, and chemical peels. Our truly exceptional nail care includes detailed manicures, pedicures, and shellac nails.

“If you don’t know what treatment you need, we’re here to guide you.”

Salon on Broadway is a unique space. While it has a modern, industrial feel, at the

same time it feels more like a spa than a hair salon. There is a relaxing private room for the specialized facials. And then there’s the energy work. French is a resource for his clients in chakra care, quantum healing and hypnotherapy.

French and Witt are also ambassadors for Westport Winery. The winery is about to launch its Westport Winery Seaside Retreat, offering golf, accommodations for small groups, spa and hair treatments, and of course wine.

Meanwhile, French says the salon business is a calling for him. “I take the healing and beautifying arts very seriously,” he said.



A relaxing room for clinical facials is one of the special features at Salon on Broadway.

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