

IN BRIEF

Tower work will close Cathedral Tree Trail

An upper section of the Cathedral Tree Trail will be closed on Monday and Tuesday while crews remove a communications tower on Coxcomb Hill.

The roughly 1.5-mile hiking trail runs through coastal forest from Irving Street to the Astoria Column. Construction crews will close a section between the Cathedral Tree itself up to the Column while they decommission the Coxcomb Hill communications site.

The project requires removing the tower, all attached equipment and a Verizon shelter building. There will be overhead work and public access will be restricted from the entire work area.

Hikers walking up from Irving Street will still be able to reach the famed Cathedral Tree, but will not be able to continue up to the Column.

—The Astorian

Burn ban in Pacific County

A burn ban is in effect in Pacific County because of dry conditions.

As of Monday, recorded rainfall in Long Beach was about 21 inches since Jan. 1, down 13.5 inches from the same date in 2018. The precipitation total in Naselle stood at about 28 inches, about 22 inches less than on the same date last year.

All residential burning associated with land clearing is prohibited until further notice.

Recreational campfires are allowed if built in improved fire pits in designated campgrounds. On private land, campfires are permitted with the landowner's permission under restrictions.

—Chinook Observer

Washington ready to ditch time changes

With the stroke of the governor's pen Wednesday, Washington officially became the first West Coast state to ditch the twice-yearly time switch.

But the end of "spring forward-fall back" won't happen until Congress gives the green light to all of the states moving toward year-round daylight saving time.

"This legislation arrives on my desk just in time," joked Democratic Gov. Jay Inslee at the beginning of a bill signing ceremony in the state Capitol.

Washingtonians would no longer have to go through the biannual ritual of resetting their clocks if Congress signs off. However, it looks like it could be a year or two or three before that happens because Congress seems in no hurry to make a needed change in federal statute. Washington state's switch to one year-round time would then happen the following spring.

Inslee's signature puts his state in the vanguard of a loosely coordinated West Coast movement. Similar legislation is moving through the Oregon and California legislatures.

—Northwest News Network

DEATHS

May 9, 2019

HELLIGSO, Donald Lee, 88, of Warrenton, died in Warrenton. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

May 8, 2019

BERG, Lorraine Jean, 89, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary in Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

May 6, 2019

WON, Youngsoon, 75, of Seaside, died in Seaside. Caldwell's Funeral & Cremation Arrangement Center is in charge of the arrangements.

May 5, 2019

WARD, Caroline Gentle, 95, of Gearhart, died in Gearhart. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

ON THE RECORD

Assault

• Around 3:45 p.m. on Wednesday, Tybre Snell, 21, of Warrenton, was arrested by Warrenton police on the 1500 block of S. Main Avenue for fourth-degree assault.

DUI

• Around 12:30 a.m. on Saturday, Amanda David, 21, of Astoria, was arrested by Warrenton police near Ensign Lane and U.S. Highway 101 for driving under the influence of intoxicants. Her blood alcohol content was 0.20%.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

MONDAY

Youngs River Lewis & Clark Water District Board, 6 p.m., 34583 U.S. Highway 101 Business.
Cannon Beach Rural Fire Protection District Board, 6 p.m., Fire-Rescue Main Station, 188 Sunset Ave.
Seaside City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

TUESDAY

Cannon Beach City Council, 5:30 p.m., work session, City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.
Warrenton City Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall, 225 S. Main Ave.
Lewis & Clark Fire Department Board, 7 p.m., main fire station, 34571 U.S. Highway 101 Business.

Colin Murphey/The Astorian
A sailboat heads out of the marina at the Port of Astoria to begin the annual Oregon Offshore yacht race.



SEE MORE PHOTOS OF THE OREGON OFFSHORE YACHT RACE AT DAILYASTORIAN.COM

ASTORIA SCHOOL BOARD

Board candidates tout expertise

Oser, Wintermute square off in election

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Astorian

A contested Astoria School Board race in the May election offers voters the choice between financial and mental health expertise.

David Oser, a retired chief financial officer from regional lender Craft3 who was appointed to the school board in 2016, drew a challenge from Heidi Wintermute, a school psychologist in Washington's Ocean Beach School District.

Oser, 69, has served on the boards of Columbia Memorial Hospital and the Clatsop Community College Foundation. He neared a position on Astoria's budget committee, but said former Mayor Arline LaMear encouraged him to instead apply for the school board.

He helped stump for a \$70 million school bond passed by voters in November to rebuild an academic hall at Astoria Middle School, while modernizing and improving safety at all campuses.

"A lot of the things that



David Oser



Heidi Wintermute

I've done here in town have been because of the expertise I have in finance, business and risk management," Oser said. "I felt I had talents and experiences that not a lot of people had here.

"I want to be able to continue utilizing those skills during the period when the bond proceeds are actually spent."

Wintermute, 41, said she was inspired to run for several reasons, including her 3-year-old son in Shooting Stars Child Development Center.

Being a third-generation Astorian who left and returned, Wintermute said, she felt the need to give back. She also serves on the school district's budget committee.

"I am an educator, and I feel like we don't currently have an educator on the school board, and I feel like I have a lot to offer in that

way," she said.

Both Oser and Wintermute have focused on the need for more counseling and other trauma-informed support to help students, along with more preschool and early learning opportunities.

Oser said he is getting more educated on trauma-informed care, an organizational structure and treatment framework responding to childhood traumas and how they affect learning. There is money in the proposed budget for next year to train the school district on its tenets, he said.

As a school psychologist for 10 years, Wintermute said, she's worked with the most at-risk kids and seen childhood trauma, mental health and the resultant behavioral issues getting worse in schools.

"I think making sure that we are helping our kids' basic needs are being met is super-important, making sure that we have small class sizes so that teachers can teach and have the mental health support staff that they need so kids can get what they need in school is big, huge right now," she said. "I think that's a big challenge, because you

have to finance all of that."

Educators around the state are lobbying for the passage of the Student Success Act, a gross receipts tax expected to add around \$1 billion a year in K-12 funding, including an estimated \$1.4 million in Astoria. Oser and Wintermute are both in support.

Despite his four children being grown and finished with school, Oser touted his involvement in school events. His wife, Patsy Oser, is a retired librarian who reads regularly to classes at John Jacob Astor Elementary School.

"On our school board, it's important that there be people with kids in the district, and we do have that," he said. "But it's not like every member has to have kids in the district."

Asked why she challenged Oser, Wintermute said that he's a good guy, but that they are two totally different candidates.

"It really depends on what the voter wants," she said. "He does have more experience than I do in the financial world, but I have a lot more experience in the mental health world. So it just depends on what you want."

SUNSET EMPIRE TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT

Transit district races draw new blood

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Astorian

The May election for the Sunset Empire Transportation District Board has drawn several new candidates hoping to help guide the bus agency's growth.

In Position 1, incumbent Tracy McDonald, a retired paramedic, is facing Larry Taylor, a retired technology worker and former chairman of the Clatsop County Democrats.

McDonald, 68, retired from Medix Ambulance Service, drove for Schwan's Food Service and provided senior on-call transportation for Sunset Empire before joining the board four years ago.

As a driver for Schwan's, McDonald said, he witnessed firsthand people without cars or too old to drive isolated in rural areas, an issue he hoped to help alleviate.

Taylor, 66, recently retired from the technology sector, including a stint at Intel. He ran for Astoria mayor in 2014, losing to Arline LaMear.

"The kinds of things that the board needs in terms of oversight and analysis is really similar to what I did at intel," he said.

In Position 2, retired 911



Debbie Boothe-Schmidt



Lylla Gaebel



Tracy McDonald



Larry Taylor

dispatcher Lylla Gaebel is facing Debbie Boothe-Schmidt, a trial assistant with the Clatsop County District Attorney's Office and co-owner of Phog Bounders Antique Mall in Astoria.

Gaebel, 73, a former Clatsop County commissioner and Warrenton city commissioner, has been on the transportation district's board about six of the past 10 years. Her goal is to ensure public transportation is available for seniors and low-income residents unable to drive, she said.

"As I'm growing older now, I know there's going to come a day when I can't drive anymore, and I want to make sure public transportation is there and available for me," Gaebel said.

Boothe-Schmidt, 64, said she was looking for another volunteer opportunity for when she steps down as president of the local American

Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees union.

"When I started looking at open positions, I was interested in rural law enforcement, but that's a conflict of interest with the DA's office," she said. "I'd like to see more ridership on the buses ... more community outreach if possible."

After temporarily facing the loss of nearly half his operating budget during the recent federal government shutdown, Jeff Hazen, the transit district's executive director, is overseeing an expanding agency buffeted by a state-

wide payroll tax expected to provide an additional \$1.4 million annually.

Candidates are hopeful the district can expand service in rural areas, and that technology such as Wi-Fi on buses and online scheduling can entice more riders.

McDonald hopes to see more investment in on-demand transportation, such as Dial-A-Ride, while focusing on on-time arrivals and clean buses.

Sunset Empire recently experienced a significant data loss that ultimately cost the agency more than \$60,000. Taylor wants to focus on tightening the bus agency's procedures to avoid such situations, while digging into metrics to see where it can best serve riders.

"I think that technology will definitely help," Gaebel said of increasing ridership. "If we had Wi-Fi on the bus, I think that's something people would definitely like to have."

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