

Hard work

While we are truly in a time beyond our experience and abilities to predict, it’s tempting to forget that we have elections coming soon.

I’m urging my neighbors in District 4 to keep Kathleen Sullivan, now Clatsop County commission chairwoman, as their commissioner.

Just as you look for the most experienced doctor when you need surgery, it is not a time to replace her with someone — well-intentioned but inexperienced — on the job of making policy for our county. Kathleen has no large donors or political ax to grind. She is recognized for her personal integrity and hard work as a commissioner.

As we work to climb out of economic crisis, manage public health, support mental health services and look for workers’ housing, we need commissioners who understand those systems and have good working relations with staff and the public.

Kathleen’s life experience as a teacher, housing manager and in the hospitality sector applies locally. She comes from a rural area with a large family, the child of a rural doctor and a homemaker. Claims about any urban-rural divide simply do not fit. She has devoted her time to learning and service.

The commission, when working best, works as a team. We will need all of that teamwork to climb through what is left behind, as we get through both this health threat and the damage done to the economy and our small businesses.

Please District 4 voters, vote to keep Kathleen Sullivan as your representative, for the sake of all of us.

JAN MITCHELL
Astoria

Pro-timber candidate

The timber industry was, is and will be a vital part of Clatsop County’s economy. It is important to preserve timber-related jobs and county revenue derived from timber harvest.

It is also important to know that timber industry executives have initiated a dialogue with conservationists at the state level in anticipation of changes that are coming to Oregon in the way we manage our timber resource.

The solutions in response to the new environment we are entering lie in balanced forest management that acknowledges both the need for productivity and restoration. This is the historic position of the Clatsop County commission, which is being carried forward by Kathleen Sullivan, the chairwoman.

As a freshman commissioner, Sullivan was chosen to represent the county’s values on the Forest Trust Lands Advisory Committee, which makes recommendations to the Oregon Board of Forestry. Beyond that, Sullivan has taken our county’s concerns directly to the board by regularly attending their meetings.

Sullivan’s knowledge of the diversity of timber management opinions is based on her working relationships with individuals within the timber industry, the local Department of Forestry and statewide environmental organizations. She has also taken several of the industry sponsored forest tours.

Her pledge to listen to all voices within the county make Kathleen Sullivan the obvious choice to ensure timber jobs and revenue, while striving for a healthy forest environment.

Reelect Kathleen Sullivan for county commissioner.

ROGER DORBAND
Astoria

A force

Sarah Nebeker has been a force on the Clatsop County Board of Commissioners for seven years. She has been instrumental in countywide actions that reach most of us, or someone we know, and she accomplishes it with both compassion and efficiency.

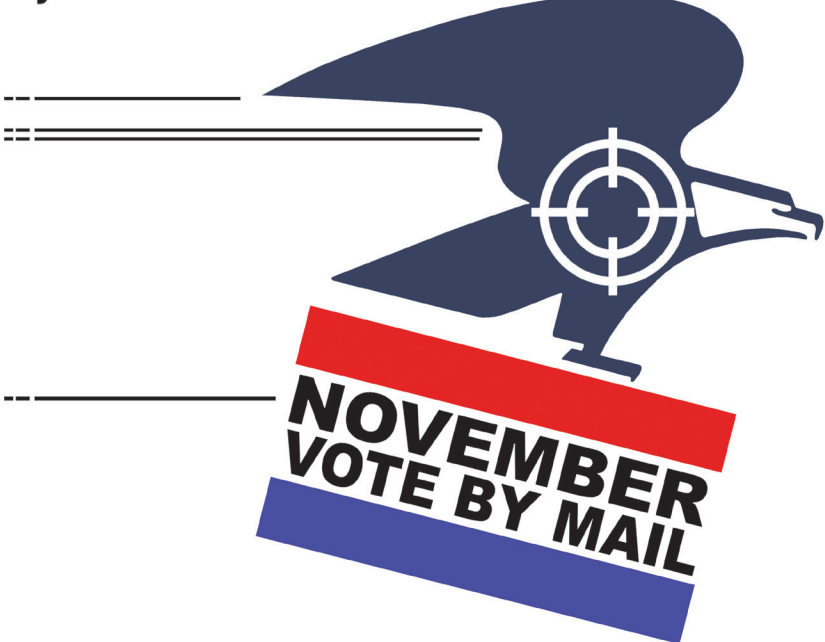
Her attention to gathering and reinforcing facts and data for the county to make decisions is something I admire. Mental health and the justice system is an issue for our communities; I appreciate her training in Sequential Intercept Mapping (SIM) to coordinate justice and health care, and I hope to see something thoughtful grow from that to improve our local services.

I was especially impressed with her taking the lead to form the Arts Council of Clatsop County, and their work in promoting the first study on economic benefits of art in our county. There is now firm evidence that the arts in Clatsop County are an important piece of our economic development, and I had the opportunity to use those figures in grant writing.

The Arts Council also wrote a letter on behalf of Trail’s End Art Association in Gearhart, and it was an important piece for receiving grant funding from the Oregon Cultural Trust to help complete the renovation of the organization’s 1908 school building.

Regardless of where we live in the county, a lot of us watch the actions of the

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county commissioners closely, and I know I appreciate Sarah. I encourage residents of Seaside and Warrenton to consider giving her their vote.

KATHLEEN PAINO
Astoria

Common sense

Thank you to The Astorian for publishing the March 24 column about what the county is doing regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, “We will get through this.”

It was written by Kathleen Sullivan, chairwoman of the Clatsop County commission, and showed her common sense and compassion. I also like the video the county produced with Kathleen, providing advice and encouragement. She hopes to provide this county update every week or so.

We are fortunate to have such a responsible leader during these uncertain times. For Kathleen, the heart of every policy or proposal is how it would affect individuals and communities. It’s just like her to be reaching out to area residents with helpful information and comfort. She knows Clatsop folks have a lot in common, and that we can work together.

We’re lucky we get to reelect Kathleen on May 19. She listens to everyone with all points of view, loves information and ideas, thinks deeply about issues and votes for the long-term good of Clatsop County. She’s a loyal friend and a stellar member of our community.

I’m voting for Kathleen, and hope you will, too.

LAURIE CAPLAN
Astoria

Critical

During this trying time, it is even more critical that we have experienced and knowledgeable elected officials leading us out of this crisis. Coincidentally, we have a very important primary election coming up on May 19. Many of our local positions will be filled during this election, not in November, including two of our Clatsop County commissioners.

Please support Commissioner Sarah Nebeker. Representing much of Warrenton, Clatsop Plains, Gearhart and Seaside, Nebeker has been on the commission for eight years, in leadership positions the last two. Previously, she served on the Gearhart Planning Commission. Her priorities include:

- Make sound financial decisions to live within our budget while maintaining county services;
- Work with partners to grow living-wage jobs for coastal residents;
- Increase affordable and working-wage housing, and productively work with our homeless population; and
- Increase health, mental health and economic outcomes for our children and residents.

As a Clatsop County planning commissioner and 20-year coastal resident, I have

witnessed Nebeker’s commitment and professionalism as Clatsop County commissioner. I ask you to join me in supporting her reelection.

NADIA GARDNER
Arch Cape

Unheard

I support Courtney Bangs for county commissioner, District 4. Courtney is a mom of three kids, a wife, works several jobs and has still found the time to engage in the issues affecting Clatsop County’s working families.

She has researched topics important to us, attended many county meetings and is well read on county policy. She does this because she, like many of us in District 4, have felt unheard and unrepresented in local government. Courtney lives in the heart of the district, in Knappa.

A district where Wauna Mill workers watched their county commissioner support a bill that would put mill jobs at risk and possibly regulate the mill out of business. This is the district where our current commissioner opted out of a state forestry lawsuit, leaving our county without representation.

The current commissioner supports policies that lock up state lands from sustainable forest management, putting forestry workers, truckers, equipment operators, etc., out of work. Where is the support from our commissioner on these issues that deeply affect our district residents?

Our current commissioner invites representatives from highly political and litigious Portland environmental groups to come and provide testimony and advice at county meetings. Those groups have no interest in the success of the people of Clatsop County. They have no business being involved in local issues here.

Please vote for Courtney Bangs this next election. We need a commissioner who will invite District 4 residents to county meetings, and who will stand up for rural Oregonians.

JENNY JOHNSON
Astoria

Lucky

I met Kathleen Sullivan in 2009, when I first moved to Astoria, while working at the Blue Scorchers Bakery & Cafe, a cooperative her sister helped start.

I came to this area at a time when the world was slowing down, expecting a solitary journey as I cared for a dying loved one. What I found, instead, were people who valued community, nature and creativity; people who understood that we are stronger together.

We are lucky to have Kathleen representing us as a Clatsop County commissioner; especially in what will be a difficult road ahead, as we recover again from another recession. She has a balanced and measured temperament. She thinks about problems from a variety of perspectives, listens to everyone and makes principled decisions, even when they are difficult.

Recently, Kathleen has been an active partner in an effort to bring high-speed, reliable internet to District 4. She wants to expand technical and other vocational training opportunities to give more young people, like my daughter, a chance to stay and thrive in the community that they love.

She believes, like I do, that our county depends on a healthy and sustainable working forest — and I trust her to make decisions that will ensure the forest is managed with the interests of recreation, salmon and steelhead habitat, as well as sustainable logging.

She is responsive to the people, not beholden to special interests. This balanced, compassionate leadership is what makes our community so great. It is what makes me proud to raise my daughter here.

TALLIE SPILLER
Astoria

Keep Kathleen

Kathleen Sullivan has done a fantastic job representing our community as a county commissioner the last four years. We are lucky to have such an honest, open-minded and experienced leader willing to continue her service for another four years. She fights for transparency and accountability in our local government. She prioritizes our health and safety, public education and watershed protection.

When I’ve worked with Commissioner Sullivan, I’ve seen her excellent communication skills and her desire to understand what the people of Clatsop County really want and need. She is an excellent listener. She is dedicated to improving this community.

During the recent coronavirus pandemic, Kathleen has remained calm and focused, qualities I value in leadership. She is putting out useful videos each week to provide updates on what the county is doing, offering advice on how to stay healthy and encouragement that we’re all in this together. She has also compiled a list of local resources to help us and our neighbors. These are incredible, tangible, valuable things our leader is doing.

Please, take a look at the commissioner’s experience. See how much she cares. Vote for Kathleen Sullivan for Clatsop County commissioner, District 4. Let’s keep Kathleen.

JENNIFER RASMUSSEN
Astoria

Listener

My vote is for Vineeta Lower. My name is Alan Evans, and I have worked with the homeless for 18 years in several counties in Oregon. When we are working with the vulnerable population, it is important that we hear their stories, find out what their needs are and fight to accomplish their goals.

When I look for the best candidates who will listen to us, the people in need, and help us to accomplish our goals in helping people, a few things come to mind. It seems like every year as people are running for office, candidates usually show up suddenly and seem interested in what we do. After they get into office, we never hear from them again.

This happens every election year. Very seldom do we find a candidate genuinely interested in homelessness. Vineeta Lower is different. She showed up years ago, and I could see a true interest to serve in her eyes. She asked all the important questions, heard the stories of the people we served, listened to the obstacles they face, and what our hopes are to help the most vulnerable people in our communities.

She became a voice to help us accomplish our goals. This is why Vineeta has my vote. She has proven to listen and act with passion. I look forward to her becoming our state representative for House District 32.

ALAN EVANS
Gearhart

Deserve better

I write this to urge the residents of District 4 to elect Courtney Bangs to the Clatsop County commission.

Probably, like a lot of you, I didn’t take the time to research and learn about our county candidates who will represent us. During the past half-year I have been. I’ve looked at voting history, learned about what was at stake, and what we have lost out on. Clatsop County deserves better. We deserve representation that fights to make communities better, and stronger.

I have children and grandchildren living in the Knappa area, and I am thrilled that Courtney has stepped up to take the reins as their voice. I know Courtney has the passion and drive to represent them. Courtney cares about her community, and will listen to concerns and ideas, and will take action.

Please vote for Courtney Bangs as your next Clatsop County commissioner, District 4. You deserve better, and Courtney will deliver.

SHELLY SOLUM
Astoria

