

IN BRIEF

Three people injured after assault in Seaside

Seaside police are investigating an assault Wednesday that left three men injured.

Two Seaside men, Christopher Boyer, 35, and Gary Gobin, 40, were arrested on multiple charges, including assault in the first degree, assault in the second degree, burglary in the first degree and unlawful use of a weapon.

Police responded to a disturbance on Spruce Drive at about 12:30 a.m. and found the three men were assaulted with a machete and other weapons.

One of the suspects reportedly knows the residence and the initial victim. Police do not believe it was a random act and are not searching for any other suspects.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the Seaside Police Department at 503-738-6311.

County adds ballot drop boxes for November election

Clatsop County has installed seven 24-hour ballot drop boxes around the county for the November election.

The boxes will be located outside of the county clerk’s office in Astoria, Cannon Beach City Hall, Gearhart City Hall, Seaside City Hall, Warrenton City Hall, Knappa High School and Jewell School.

Ballots will go out to registered voters beginning Wednesday. Ballots must be received by 8 p.m. on Election Day.

The last day to register to vote is Tuesday. For more election information, visit the county’s website.

Household hazardous waste project to receive state recognition

Clatsop County’s household hazardous waste collection facility is being recognized Monday by the state.

The Oregon Public Health Association will award the county the Champion for Healthy Environments Award at its annual conference.

The collection facility, located on Williamsport Road next to the Recology Western Oregon waste transfer station in Astoria, is designed to receive and handle toxic, flammable and otherwise hazardous products.

Since opening in January, the facility has taken in more than 100,000 pounds of materials, including paints and flammable liquids.

The next collection day is Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, visit the county’s website.

— The Astorian

DEATHS

Oct. 6, 2020 JOHNSON, Dorothy Ann, 97, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Caldwell’s Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements. RECECONI, Grace V., 92, of Ilwaco, Washington, died in Longview, Washington. Columbia Funeral Service of Longview is in charge of the arrangements.	Oct. 5, 2020 BOWERS, Mark Howard, 62, of Astoria, died in Warrenton. Caldwell’s Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements. DORVINEN, Esther Eleanor, 92, of Astoria (Svensen), died in Astoria. Caldwell’s Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.
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ON THE RECORD

Theft • Travis Richard West-erlund, 34, of Astoria, was indicted Tuesday for theft in the first degree, four counts of theft in the second degree, criminal mischief in the second degree and six counts of violation of commercial fishing laws with culpable mental state.	Criminal trespass • Joel Seda, 37, was arrested Monday on S.E. Second Street in Warren-ton for criminal trespass in the second degree. DUII • Dayne Keith Her-ring, 53, of Astoria, was arrested Saturday on W. Marine Drive and Port-way Street in Astoria for driving under the influ-ence of intoxicants.
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PUBLIC MEETINGS

THURSDAY
Warrenton Planning Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall, 225 S. Main Ave.
Gearhart Planning Commission, 6 p.m., Gearhart fire-house, 670 Pacific Way.

WARRENTON

Three candidates vie for open seat

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Astorian

WARRENTON — City Commissioner Pam Ackley’s decision not to run for another term in November left an opening for a new-comer in the region’s fast-est-growing city.

Gerald Poe, who has served on sev-eral city boards, said he got in the race for Position 1 to avoid less experienced candidates serving above him. Brandon Williams and Allen Berry, who have not been involved in city politics, are critics of local government.

Poe, a merchant sailor for Washing-ton State Ferries and a former logger and fisherman, has served on the city’s Urban Renewal Advisory Commit-tee, budget com-mittee and Ham-mond Marina task force over the past five years. He said he was contacted by Ackley, who asked if he knew anyone interested in running.

“At the time, I didn’t think I’d get involved,” he said. “But when the time got closer ... and I checked who was running, I thought, ‘Well, wait a minute. Here I’ve been involved all these years, and these two guys are going to sit over me and my volunteer positions?’

“I just felt like I have enough whiskers where I could go ahead and step in.”



Allen Berry



Gerald Poe



Brandon Williams

Ackley, who has endorsed Poe, said it takes at least a year to get up to speed on city ordinances, zoning rules and other issues to make informed decisions as a commissioner.

“He has the experi-ence it takes to know what issues face the city and his career in not only ferry services with the Washing-ton State (Ferries), but past fishing and logging in our com-munity,” she said. “The other two can-didates do not have these credentials to my knowledge.”

Williams, a local contractor who has been in Clatsop County since he was 5, is active with the local Republican Party.

He has staked his campaign focus on the U.S. Consti-tution, small copies of which he carries around to hand out.

“That’s the rule of law there,” he said at a recent conser-vative flag-waving rally. “And codes and ordi-nances, rules and regula-tions, those aren’t laws. And what our governor has done to us, and what city officials in this area have done to us, is not acceptable.”

A City Commission cam-paign has been on Williams’ mind for some time because of local officials not listen-ing to constituents, he said. Williams has referred to face masks during the coro-navirus pandemic as muz-



zles and called restricting in-person classes at schools because of the virus “one of the worst things we could have ever done.”

Williams had domestic violence-related convictions for menacing in 2015 and 2017. “Behaviors that hap-pened in the past with indi-viduals ... as we get older, we learn from our mistakes, and we grow from our mis-takes,” he said.

Williams criticized Poe’s wife for support-ing Black Lives Matter on social media, calling the group a terrorist organiza-tion “wanting to destroy the nuclear family” and “push-ing a Marxist agenda.” He accused Poe of approaching people around Warrenton and Hammond and defam-ing him.

Berry, who moved to the North Coast 11 years ago from New Mexico, said he wants to give back to the community that has helped him go from homelessness to a married homeowner. A retired electrician originally from Texas, Berry relocated to be closer to his father in Olney but said disagree-ments with his stepmother forced him out onto the streets in Astoria.

“I ended up in the Asto-

ria Rescue Mission, pulling myself together,” he said. “Life kept going, and I kept pushing forward, come to the Lord and found me an awesome woman and got married.”

Berry said he didn’t get into politics until about four years ago, becoming wor-ried about the future for his family. He has made news recently over a firewood stand he runs along Ridge Road near the entrance to Fort Stevens State Park.

Neighbors have com-plain-ed of noise and other issues with the business. In response, the county Board of Commissioners backed a moratorium on businesses operating in county rights of way.

Berry has accused the county of harassing him at the behest of neighbors who don’t like him.

The Southern native has also drawn attention for fly-ing a Confederate flag and a flag supporting Presi-dent Donald Trump on his property.

Berry gave kudos to Mayor Henry Balensifer and Commissioner Mark Baldwin, but called Com-missioner Rick Newton and Commissioner Tom Dyer “yes” men.

He said he wants to be an outsider voice providing equal treatment to all citizens and providing better rep-resentation for Hammond.

“I’m here for the small guy,” he said. “I’m moti-vated for the community, equal rights for everybody. Just because you know somebody high don’t mean you get your way.”

GEARHART

Fire station, school are key issues for City Council candidates

By R.J. MARX
The Astorian

GEARHART — Issues in the races for Position 2 and Position 4 on the City Council coalesce on a proposed new site for the fire station and the potential purchase of the former Gearhart Ele-mentary School.

Emergency preparedness, investing in the area and pre-serving Gearhart’s charac-ter are also important to the candidates.

City Councilor Reita Fackerell, who was appointed to Position 2 in December 2018, will face opposition from Bob Shortman.

City Councilor Dan Jesse, who was first elected in Posi-tion 4 in 2012, is running for a third term. He faces chal-lenger Jack Zimmerman.

Position 2



Reita Fackerell Bob Shortman

Fackerell seeks a sus-tainable future in the areas of finance and livability. Improving, maintaining and adding new park space is another priority.

“I feel that Gearhart is special to those who live

here,” she said. “There is an ambiance and history that we all embrace. I hope to continue that heritage and encourage the kindness we feel to all who call Gearhart their home.”

Fackerell is on the board of the South County Food Bank. She served as direc-tor of the Seaside Public Library until her retirement in 2012.

“My proudest accom-plishment as a councilor did not occur during a coun-cil meeting, a budget meet-ing or as a member of the dune vegetation commit-tee,” Fackerell said. “It hap-pened walking around Gear-hart and listening to those who had issues with Gear-hart. I have listened to those concerned with Little Beach issues, riparian viola-tions and budget concerns. Every person I talked to has valid points and I was glad I listened.”

Shortman said he believes the council is not pursuing the Gearhart school prop-erty vigorously enough. He also wants a review of sites besides High Point for a fire station.

“My reason for running is I believe the council is not pursuing the school prop-erty and are already fund-ing explorations into High Point,” he said.

Shortman is a two-time mayoral candidate who has served on the budget com-mittee. He retired from his

contracting business and manages family properties.

He said he will offer a business perspective and sees a need for better com-munication and transpar-ency between the council and citizens.

“Gearhart is dear to our hearts and a wonderful place to live,” Shortman said. “I hope to preserve and make it a better place for future generations.”

Position 4



Dan Jesse Jack Zimmerman

Jesse said he hopes to bring the new fire station proposal before voters.

“I am not sure how the vote will go, but I believe the voters should have a choice as to whether or not they feel we should upgrade our fire station and its location,” he said.

Jesse’s career in pub-lic service began with the Seaside Civic and Conven-tion Center and the Seaside Improvement Commission before he and his wife, Julie, moved to Gearhart, where he served on the Planning Com-mission before being elected to City Council.

Jesse is president of Dan-iel Jesse Construction Inc. and is trained as a commer-cial photographer.

“Emergency preparedness is my first and most import-ant priority,” he said. “I ran originally eight years ago on

this platform, well before the idea was mainstream in our area.”

He pointed to progress with Clatsop County’s Com-munity Emergency Response Team, a city storage cache, ham radio repeater and residents who prioritize preparedness.

Jesse said it is important to have someone on the council who looks at issues from the point of view of those who live east of Neacoxie Creek.

Zimmerman said he hopes the City Council won’t pur-sue the High Point location for a new fire station.

In his 2018 run for coun-cil, he sought a refocus of the existing facilities, creat-ing a repurposed fire station meeting modern-day stan-dards for a rural volunteer fire department.

Zimmerman worked in the energy industry in a series of managerial posi-tions before retiring. He has owned and developed prop-erty in western Colorado.

“The ability to effectively communicate to our Gear-hart residents is boundless and it would be my goal to persuade council that for-mal messaging at all levels of operation is not an elec-tive but an obligation — an obligation required to estab-lish and keep City Council’s credibility,” he said.

He said Jesse and other councilors “are fearful of taking on hard and inde-pendent positions due to the perceived need to protect their business and longtime relationships.”

Zimmerman also said Jesse and other councilors “place an inordinate amount of dependency” on City Administrator Chad Sweet.

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