

Morley holds lead in Ward 4

Three-vote margin over Hilton

By **EDWARD STRATTON**
The Astorian

Lisa Morley, a behavioral workplace safety consultant, has preserved a slight lead over Tom Hilton, the owner of Hanthorn Crab Co., after more ballots were counted in a close race for Ward 4 on the Astoria City Council.

The ward covers Uppertown east to Alderbrook and Tongue Point.

In the most recent vote count, Morley had 360 votes to Hilton’s 357 — or 29.88% to 29.63%. Hilton had initially led Morley by two votes on Election Day, before Morley went up by two votes last week.

A lead of less than 0.2% would result in an automatic recount.

Joshua Conklin, a local service sector worker, trailed in third with 300 votes, or 24.9%. Brook Boden and Heather Kelez dropped out of the race but remained on the ballot and received more than 15% of

votes cast.

Morley could not immediately be reached for comment. Hilton declined to comment until the final results are certified. The county has until Wednesday to count challenged ballots and until Nov. 23 to certify final results.

City Councilor Tom Brownson defeated challenger Floyd Holcom, the owner of Pier 39, in Ward 2, which covers the South Slope, parts of Uniontown and most of the Port of Astoria’s central waterfront.



Virus: New restrictions begin Wednesday

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Astoria began the school year cautiously, deciding well in advance of the first day to begin with online instruction only.

While staff and a very limited number of students have returned to buildings, district administrators decided that with the governor’s new round of restrictions those students will once again be learning from home. Any staff who are able to will also work from home, according to Hoppes.

Meal deliveries to students will continue. Technology hubs set up at certain schools for students who have no internet access will also still be available.

The school district had begun to offer engagement activities to provide students with in-person, out-of-school interaction out of doors. These will continue as normal.

“I want to recognize and commend how far we have come together throughout this unprecedented time,” Hoppes wrote to parents. “It has required that we work together in new and unique

ways in support of our students and each other, and I know it has not been easy. I am truly humbled by the efforts of our parents and staff.”

Some students will continue to meet in-person at the Knappa School District, but the district will require employees who are able to work from home to do so, according to Superintendent William Fritz.

Students in kindergarten-through-third grade will attend classes in-person, grades four-through-eight will attend classes virtually and grades nine-through-12 will operate under a hybrid model.

In addition, he is asking employees and students to remain in Oregon, Fritz told The Astorian, “due to the need to quarantine upon return, which could impact student learning and district operations.”

The Warrenton-Hammond School District is not making any operational changes in response to Brown’s measures.

The school district had hoped to reopen for in-person classes

across grade levels, but the county’s load of positive coronavirus cases means only kindergarten-through-third grade students are in class. While there is some limited in-person instruction for a few other students, grades four-through-12 are once again online.

“We will monitor the metrics over the Thanksgiving break to determine what, if any, impact changes in those metrics will have on our programming for the rest of the year,” Superintendent Tom Rogozinski said.

At Clatsop Community College, only students enrolled in physical education classes will be able to access Patriot Hall for the next two weeks, and then only for activities tied directly to instruction. The gym and track facilities will be closed to everyone else.

Previously, anyone enrolled in a credit-bearing class, as well as college employees, could exercise in the building.

The college will continue with limited in-person instruction, but most of the classes available are online only.

Meinung: ‘We’re getting back to a place of thankfulness again’

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“I grew up multiculturally my whole life,” she said. “It’s never been an issue with me and my family. We’ve never seen it any other way.”

One constant for Meinung is good food from different cultures.

“When I get together with my mom and my stepdad, it’s always Hispanic food, arepas, carmitas, all that,” she said. “When I’m with my dad, it’s macaroni and cheese and greens. My dad is a chef, and my mom is just a great cook, so I grew up eating all sorts of different foods.”

Raised in Bothell, Washington, her parents separated when she was young, and Meinung split her time between her mom and dad.

“My first job was with McDonald’s and I worked with my dad at the casino working in a deli,” she said.

In years to come, she worked in the back of the house and front of the house, working in the kitchen, hostessing and waiting tables.

At 18, she headed to the Western Culinary Institute in Portland, where she earned her culinary degree. While living in Beaverton and working for Fred Meyer, she met her husband, Matt.

They shared a passion for food, a love for animals and addiction to karaoke.

The couple came to the coast about eight years ago to run the Fred Meyer deli in Warrenton. “I just loved it out here,” she said.

The couple settled first in Seaside then in Gearhart.

Meinung worked at Lisa and John Allen’s Pacific Way Cafe for three years and loved it.

“The drive that they have really inspired me,” she said. “I’ve walked through there a million times and still I would find pictures on the wall and little knickknacks that I hadn’t seen. I could feel their touches all throughout the restaurant.”

She joined Safeway in September 2019.

About six months into her new job, the coronavirus pandemic changed the way people live and shop. In the first month, people were “nicer than ever, and very thankful,” she said.

There was a period where people were anxious, she said, and some angry over virus restrictions.

“A lot of people couldn’t go back to work. They went stir crazy,” Meinung said. “Now, it’s getting back to people being nice again.”

“Luckily I am in an industry where I was able to go to work the whole entire time and I thank everyone for that, it’s amazing that I was able to do that.”

“We’re getting back to a place of thankfulness again,” she said. “I just got my one-year anniversary, and I’m loving every minute of it.”

Her husband joined Safeway’s produce department this spring.

Although most karaoke venues are shut down, Meinung gets her fix when cleaning house or when she and her husband are driving.

“We’re those dorks,” she laughed.

The couple shares their home, with “Duke,” 8, and “Charlie,” 7, a rescue pair from the Clatsop County animal shelter after the death of the dogs’ owner.

“Duke is a Chihuahua and a Jack Russell, and Charlie is a Chihuahua with something we don’t know,” she said.

Meinung would eventually like to open her own food-related business.

The couple hopes to stay in Gearhart and are saving up to buy a house “because we love it here,” she said.

Her advice for shoppers: treat everyone with kindness.

“It doesn’t matter if it’s somebody who’s working there or somebody who’s shopping, just be as nice as you can be,” she said. “You just don’t know what that other person is going through.”

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