

IN BRIEF

Police investigate shooting on state Highway 202

Police are investigating a shooting that occurred Sunday evening on state Highway 202.

A woman had reportedly parked her car on the side of the highway near Olney at around 7:30 p.m. to take a nap.

Police say another driver stopped next to her car and started shooting into the car. At least three shots were fired.

Police investigate vandalism in Astoria

Astoria police are investigating vandalism involving the same vehicle description.

Police said that on Friday an oatmeal-like substance was thrown on two patrol vehicles from a silver station wagon.

Officers on Sunday found a broken window at Clatsop County Circuit Court. Video footage shows a vehicle matching the same description was involved.

On Sunday evening, the vehicle sideswiped a parked sheriff's vehicle on Duane Street by the jail.

Astoria resumes fitness classes

The Astoria Aquatic Center is bringing back fitness classes May 19.

Classes will be offered Monday through Saturday, with start times between 7:30 a.m. and noon. Parks will use a reservation system, capping classes at eight people and charging daily drop-in rates. Participants are required to wear masks, keep 6 feet apart and follow coronavirus screening protocols.

"We're fortunate that our recreation coordinator Peter von Payens has such an extensive background in fitness instruction," Terra Patterson, recreation coordinator for parks, said in a statement. "We look forward to Peter sharing his love of fitness with the community."

Payens teaches yoga, Pilates, weight training, kickboxing and other exercises, Patterson said, and has been learning more about cycling for spin classes.

— *The Astorian*

Oregon to get sixth seat in Congress

Following a decade of robust population growth, Oregon will receive a new congressional seat for the first time in 40 years, the U.S. Census Bureau announced on Monday.

According to the 2020 census, the state's resident population was more than 4.2 million as of April 1, 2020. That's a 10.6% increase over the 3.8 million that officials calculated a decade before.

— *Oregon Public Broadcasting*

MEMORIAL

Saturday, May 1

NYBERG, Hazel — Celebration of life at 1 p.m., Wickiup Grange, 92683 Svensen Market Road.

ON THE RECORD

Strangulation

• Jason Andrew Terrill, 31, of Gearhart, was arraigned Friday on charges of strangulation and assault in the fourth degree.

Assault

• Paul Lee Roebuck, 48, was arrested Sunday near Maritime Memorial Park in Astoria for assault in the fourth degree.

Disorderly conduct

• Johnny Rafael Gregory Valencia, 37, of Seaside, was arrested on Saturday at 10th Street and Marine Drive in Astoria for disorderly conduct in second degree, felon in possession of a restricted weapon, possession of

methamphetamine and a probation violation.

DUI

• Janel Wysel, 35, of Oregon City, was arrested Saturday at Home Depot in Warrenton for driving under the influence of intoxicants, unlawful possession of heroin, unlawful possession of cocaine and unlawful possession of methamphetamine.

• Jesus A. Martinez Amezcua, 21, of Seaside, was arrested Friday on U.S. Highway 101 in Seaside for DUI.

• Francisco Suco Sargento Dias, 46, of Astoria, was arrested Friday on state Highway 202 in Astoria for DUI.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

TUESDAY

Prairie Cemetery Association of Knappa, 1 p.m., annual meeting, 92892 Knappa Dock Road.

Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District Board of Directors, 5:15 p.m., 1225 Avenue A, Seaside.

Astoria Budget Committee, 6 p.m., City Hall, 1095 Duane St.

Warrenton City Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall, 225 S. Main Ave.

WEDNESDAY

Astoria Parks Board, 6:45 a.m., City Hall, 1095 Duane St.

Clatsop County Budget Committee, 4 p.m., (electronic meeting).

Clatsop County Board of Commissioners, 6 p.m., (electronic meeting).

THURSDAY

Clatsop County Recreational Lands Planning Advisory Committee, 1 p.m., (electronic meeting).

the Astorian

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Candidate residency at issue in park district board race

Hernandez insists candidacy is valid

By R.J. MARX
The Astorian

SEASIDE — A candidate for the Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District's board could win the election in May but be unable to serve.

A conflict between a mailing address and voter registration may put Al Hernandez, who is challenging incumbent Su Coddington for Position 1, out of the running.

"We have been informed that he does not live at the address in Seaside but rather at his home in Gearhart,"

Clatsop County Clerk Tracee Krevanko said. "Since he provided the Seaside address on his filing form we accepted it as it is within the district. His home in Gearhart is not within the SEPRD."

Hernandez said he has lived on Edgewood Street in Seaside for some time and has voted as a Seaside resident.

"I planned on remodeling my home and decided to purchase a temporary residence in Gearhart to live in during the remodeling work," he said. "Due to COVID and other complications, the remodeling has taken longer than expected. My son

currently resides at the Seaside residence during this process."

Hernandez said he did not know how or where the record of his permanent place of residence changed. He said he was in the process of working to correct records to reflect the reality of his permanent residence.

A retired accounting and financial professional, Hernandez was most recently the financial officer at Sunset Empire Transportation District.

Hernandez will be listed on the May 18 ballot, Krevanko said, as it is too late to reprint ballots.

"If he won, it would be up to the SEPRD to determine if he is ineligible to serve," Krevanko said.

Krevanko said the county has been in contact with Skyler Archibald, the park district's executive director, and the Oregon Secretary of State's Office, which oversees elections, regarding the residency issue.

The park district's board would fill the vacancy if Hernandez is elected but ruled ineligible.

"My permanent residence is within the boundaries of the district," Hernandez said. "I am eligible to be elected to a position on the SEPRD board. Anyone voting for me can be confident that they are casting a valid vote."

Park district: Candidates will take part in forum

Continued from Page A1

The incumbents — Celeste Bodner, Su Coddington, Michael Hinton, Erika Marshall Hamer and Katharine Parker — are running as part of "ProgressforSEPRD.com," with support for the development of the former Broadway Middle School as a community resource.

They present a list of commitments, including improved self-governance, board transparency, improving the board's connection to community feedback, supervision and support for the park district's executive director, Skyler Archibald.

"We continue to engage with everyone as we expand community access with expanded indoor recreation, our scholarship programs and sensible cost recovery," Hinton wrote in a letter to the Seaside Signal on the group's behalf.

Challengers Huismann, Patrick Duhachek, Jackie Evans, Al Hernandez and Stephen Morrison say the park district's board has not listened to residents.

They stress "foresight, insight and oversight" in their campaign material, along with fiscal responsibility and a voice for taxpayers.

The challengers have the support of Transparency for SEPRD Taxpayers, a Facebook group that challenged the middle school purchase from the Seaside School District without a voter referendum. The sale of the school, now called the Sunset Rec-



Celeste Bodner

Su Coddington

Patrick Duhachek

Jackie Evans

Erika Marshall Hamer



Al Hernandez

Michael Hinton

John Huismann

Stephen Morrison

Katharine Parker

reation Center, closed in January for a price of \$2.15 million.

Over the past few years, the park district's board has had to cope with divisions over the district's management and resignations after claims of unbecoming personal behavior.

Coddington, a community volunteer and nurse who was appointed to the board last year, is facing Hernandez, a retired accountant, for Position 1. The election is for a four-year term.

Bodner, the founder and executive director of Foster-Club appointed to the board last year, is facing Huismann, a retired businessman, for Position 2. The election is for a four-year term.

Hinton, a contractor who has served on the board for 19 years, is facing Duhachek, a former U.S. Navy aircraft maintenance officer and private sector project manager and logistics engineer who owns Wheel Fun Rentals, for Position 3. The election is for a four-year term.

Marshall Hamer, the director of global human resources for Mercy Corps appointed to the board last year, is facing Evans, who had management roles at Fred Meyer Jewelers, for Position 4. The election is for a two-year unexpired term.

Parker, the head secretary of Seaside High School appointed to the board

in 2019, is facing Morrison, who retired after management roles at trucking companies, for Position 5. Parker is the board president. The election is for a two-year unexpired term.

Ballots will be mailed starting Wednesday.

The candidates will be interviewed from 10 to 11 a.m. on Wednesday on KMUN.

Candidates will participate at a forum at 7 p.m. on Thursday presented by the Seaside Signal and the American Association of University Women Seaside Chapter that will be broadcast to the public via livestream. The livestream will be available at the park district's YouTube channel.

Lairs: Hope they will inspire future volunteers

Continued from Page A1

scholarship in that field," Liz Lair said. "However, she witnessed what her dad was doing with Gearhart fire and came to the realization that she wanted to help people as a first responder."

When the University of Maine decided to suspend classes due to the coronavirus pandemic, Amy saw an opportunity to make a change in her life path and joined the fire department as intern.

"I pretty much make sure everything's working so that when we go to calls, nothing is missing and we have everything we need," she said.

She learned to drive the firetruck from the previous intern, James Hutchinson, now a fire lieutenant.

"There's a process to learning to drive the apparatus," Josh Lair said. "Drivers must log a certain amount of time behind the wheel before certification. It's really up to each volunteer to commit their time to that. And Amy did that very quickly. You want to learn how to drive as

many apparatus as she can."

She is certified on everything except for the department's Unimog, he added, referring to the department's all-wheel truck.

"We've been on some really basic calls and some pretty intense calls together," he said. "You get a little particularly scared or upset when you see her taking some risks. The firefighter part of me is saying, 'Let's get after it, let's go into it.' But knowing that this is my daughter, there's a different level of concern for me when we're on those calls together."

Amy Lair said she found it comforting to have her father at her side. "I know what to expect and that he knows my abilities," she said. "There's no questions there. But he's a person that I turn to when I think I'm going into a stressful situation for comfort and his experience."

Along with firefighting, Josh Lair is maintenance manager of WorldMark in Seaside.

Amy Lair is a waitress at Mo's in Seaside and coaches

junior varsity softball at Seaside High School.

Of the five daughters — the oldest is 24 and the youngest 7 — daughter No. 4, Delilah, is "very much willing to follow in the footsteps of her big sister," Josh Lair said. "It's pretty cool."

Gearhart is recognized for a high number of women fire volunteers, with seven active with the department. "I think a lot of it has to do with the culture of the fire department," Amy Lair said. "There are a few women that have been on there for a while now. And they make it a safe and comfortable place for other women to want to join."

The Lairs hope their

model will serve as an inspiration to future volunteers.

"It takes a special kind of person to be able to do these things," Josh Lair said. "And we're always looking for those special people to join us. The culture of the Gearhart Fire Department is such that we're welcoming of anybody and everybody who wants to learn how to do this. And if you become an intern like Amy, you can get a fire science degree and become an EMT, and the department pays for all those things for you."

"Being on those calls with her, it just makes me incredibly proud to be her dad and watch her do what she does."

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