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CORONAVIRUS

Challengers make gains in college board races

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Astorian

Driven by concerns about an enrollment decline during the coronavirus pandemic and the rollout of a computer software system, challengers made gains on the Clatsop Community College Board in Tuesday's election.

Sara Meyer, a retired business owner who worked with job corps and community action and was elected to the college board in 2019, led challenger Patrick Preston, a retired disabled veterans employment representative, 66% to 34% for Zone 2, Position 2.

But two other incumbents were behind after most of the ballots were counted.

"I am thrilled to have the opportunity to serve four more years," said Meyer, who also served on the college board two decades ago. She thanked voters for their confidence in her.

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Three competitive campaigns for college board were on the ballot in Tuesday's election.

Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian



ELECTION RESULTS

Follow election results online at: bit.ly/3tUmbtz

Incumbents hold edge in park district board races

By R.J. MARX
The Astorian

SEASIDE — After a bruising campaign where challengers second-guessed the decision to purchase the former Broadway Middle School, the Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District Board held their own in Tuesday's election.

Su Coddington, Celeste Bodner, Michael Hinton, Erika Marshall Hamer and Katharine Parker led their challengers after most of the ballots were counted. All but Hinton were appointed to the board after resignations over the past few years amid turmoil and infighting.

The rapid changes on the board and major developments at the park district made this year's election especially significant. Closures as a result of COVID-19 interrupted services in 2020 and led to layoffs or worker furloughs.

When two board members resigned in July, the new board changed direction and pursued the purchase of the middle school, which had closed after the Seaside School District relocated students to a new, bond-financed campus outside the tsunami inundation zone. The park district completed the purchase from the school district in January for \$2.15 million.

The board saw it as an opportunity to

preserve and utilize a landmark space in the heart of Seaside.

They ran as ProgressforSEPRD.com and advocated for the development of the middle school as a community resource, stressing child care, recreation for all and sports tourism.

Self-governance, transparency, improving the board's connection to the community and support for Skyler Archibald, the park district's executive director, were among their goals.

The Facebook group Transparency for SEPRD Taxpayers helped launch a slate of five challengers under the slogan, "It's time for a change."

Al Hernandez, John Huismann, Patrick Duhachek, Jackie Evans and Stephen Morrison saw the middle school purchase as an overreach for an aging building that had little value.

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

Coddington, a nurse, led Hernandez, a retired accountant, 56% to 44% for Position 1.

Bodner, the executive director of FosterClub, led Huismann, a retiree in sales, marketing and management, 60% to 40% for Position 2.

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State clarifies mask guidance

Proof of vaccination required at businesses

By NICOLE BALES
The Astorian

The Oregon Health Authority has updated the state's guidance to protect against the coronavirus, declaring that people no longer need to wear masks outdoors, while those who are fully vaccinated can stop wearing masks in most indoor settings as long as they show proof of vaccination.

The guidance was issued after Gov. Kate Brown's announcement last week that the state would follow the direction of the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

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MORE INSIDE

Knappa school staffer reports virus case • A6



Photos by Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian
ABOVE: Suen Chang opened Milky-Cha on Commercial Street in Astoria. **RIGHT:** Milky-Cha offers a wide range of teas, milks and other drinks with the option to add boba.

College grad comes home with bubble tea

New shop on Commercial Street

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Astorian

Suen Chang's plans after graduating from Portland State University

were thrown into disarray because of the coronavirus pandemic.

After school, she soon returned to Astoria, where she grew up and her parents run Tokyo Teriyaki.

Chang had grown up with bubble tea and missed the

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Knappa seeks \$14M bond for schools

Voters to decide in November

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Astorian

The Knappa School District will ask voters in November to approve a \$14 million bond to fund major capital improvements.

The average bond tax rate is estimated at \$2.20 per \$1,000 of assessed value. The bond would mature in 25 years.

The measure is intended to finance capital costs in the school district, including improvements to infrastructure at the middle school.

The money levied would create new classrooms and a science center at the middle school to replace portable classrooms. The school district plans to create a "learning hub" that would contain library resources, technology and group learning spaces for middle school students.

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