

Recount: The food tax was a divisive issue for the city

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LaBonte had come under a state ethics probe earlier this year related to the city's use of a design company she and her husband own to make signs during the coronavirus pandemic. The state found LaBonte should have informed the city of a potential conflict of interest in writing ahead of any transaction with Cannon Beach Design Co. LaBonte was fined \$1,000. City Manager Bruce St. Denis has called the violation a technicality.

But the implications are big for Nofield.

"Frankly, I feel like the integrity of the election should be questioned," he said. Given how contentious the tax proposal has been, he doesn't know why a city official did not seek guidance

from the county elections division before opening the ballot box.

St. Denis said voters had not been able to access the ballot box at City Hall over a weekend in October and had stuck their ballots into a crack in the access door. City officials worried the ballots could be damaged by heavy rainfall that weekend. They did not have a way to reach county elections staff outside of normal business hours, so they decided to unlock the box with a key provided by the county and put the ballots inside the drop box.

St. Denis was present with LaBonte when the drop box was opened. St. Denis notified city councilors, the city attorney and the Oregon Secretary of State's Office and later discussed the matter with county elections officials.

"The county noted that the city was correct to have two persons present when the box was opened and stated the city did not violate any rules," St. Denis wrote in an email to the City Council explaining what had happened.

The food tax was a divisive issue for the city.

Many people who testified at City Council meetings against the tax said they supported finding a new source of revenue for the fire district. However, they did not trust the city and questioned the timing of the tax as businesses continued to reel from the upheaval caused by the pandemic and related supply chain issues.

If the tax still passes following the recount, it will not begin to appear on customers' bills until July.

Brown: Will focus on sustainability, outreach

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Brown graduated with a degree in forest management from Oregon State University, and worked at the Washington State Department of Natural Resources, then spent six years at Campbell Global out of Cathlamet.

Morgans hopes Brown will bring a fresh perspective to management. He said he admires Brown's ability to connect with the staff and the

community, and to keep up with evolving technology in the field.

"I thought that timing was good, and he will bring a lot to it," Morgans said.

As manager, Brown intends to focus on sustainability and community outreach.

"Mark has led all of us, and as a mentor to me to teach me those things," Brown said.

Brown previously worked with the Chinook Indian

Nation to increase access to the land which occupies their ancestral territory, and is especially interested in building upon that relationship.

"We're fostering every relationship we have. I think, as a forester, we're the biggest environmentalists there are," Brown said. "I want my daughters' kids' kids to be able to recreate, manage and reap the benefits that we get right now, from these managed forests."

Musician: Plays around four shows a week

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"All the musicians on the coast, I don't know if they put up with me or are just good to me but they are really good to me," she said.

Gaidosh makes an effort to give back to the community that took her in so graciously.

She leads a club in Knappa through 4-H, the youth development program. She tries to help with the food bank and does fundraisers when her time allows. If not, she is likely hiking or hanging out with her grandchildren.

At 73, Gaidosh has no plans to slow down, even

after a recent cancer diagnosis. She plays around four shows a week. By 2022, she wants to raise that number to five, if not more.

"Sometimes I'm tired but do I want to sit at home and watch soap operas and be in a walker? No, I don't," she said. "Thank God, I'm not."

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