

IN BRIEF

Nominees for state Senate seat to be chosen at convention

The slate of nominees to replace state Sen. Betsy Johnson will be chosen at a convention at the Seaside Civic and Convention Center at 6:30 p.m. on Monday.

Johnson, a Scappoose Democrat, resigned earlier this month from the Senate to focus on her independent campaign for governor.

Precinct committee people for the Democratic Party in Senate District 16 will convene to hear the candidates speak, then vote on their preferences.

The list of candidates will be narrowed down to three to five names that the party will submit to the Oregon Secretary of State on Tuesday.

State rules require that the names be submitted 20 days from the date of the senator's resignation. Johnson stepped down on Dec. 15.

At a date and location to be determined, the county commissioners of Senate District 16 will vote to appoint the district's new Democratic senator to finish out Johnson's term. The district includes Clatsop and Columbia counties, as well as parts of Tillamook, Washington and Multnomah counties.

The commissioners' votes are weighted according to the number of registered voters in their counties.

State rules say the appointment must be made within 30 days of Johnson's official resignation — in this case, by Jan. 14.

The deadline for candidates to file the required paperwork with the Democratic Party of Oregon is noon on Sunday.

New death, virus cases reported in county

Clatsop County has reported another death related to COVID-19.

A 93-year-old woman died on Monday at a local hospital, the county public health department said. She had not been vaccinated against the virus.

No other information was immediately available.

The county has reported the number of virus deaths at 36.

Four patients were hospitalized with COVID-19 as of Tuesday at Columbia Memorial Hospital, and one patient is hospitalized with the virus at Providence Seaside Hospital, personnel from the hospitals reported at a news conference on Wednesday.

The Oregon Health Authority also reported new coronavirus cases for Clatsop County over the past several days.

The health authority reported four new virus cases on Tuesday and 10 cases over the weekend.

The state also reported nine cases on Dec. 23 and nine on Dec. 22.

Since the pandemic began, the county had recorded 2,802 virus cases as of Tuesday.

Astoria accepting applications for seats on local boards

Astoria is accepting applications for seats on several local boards.

Volunteer positions are open on the city's Design Review Commission, Historic Landmarks Commission, Parks Board and budget committee.

Applicants for the Design Review Commission must be design professionals.

Information about the boards, along with applications, can be found on the city's website.

Applications can be submitted to the city manager's office or online by 5 p.m. on Jan. 19. Appointments will be made by the mayor.

— *The Astorian*

DEATHS

Dec. 28, 2021

SHEPARD, Jeffrey Alan, 65, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

Dec. 26, 2021

CARLSON, Charles Bernard, 83, of Seaside, died in Seaside. Caldwell's Funeral & Cremation Arrangement Center of Seaside is in charge of the arrangements.

Dec. 24, 2021

SUMMA, Zachariah Paul, 37, of Warrenton, died in Warrenton. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

Dec. 23, 2021

SMITH, Jerry Alden, 74, of Aloha, died in Seaside. Caldwell's Funeral & Cremation Arrangement Center of Seaside is in charge of the arrangements.

ON THE RECORD

Assault

• Bradley Scott Minder, 42, of Astoria, was arrested on Dec. 23 on Exchange Street in Astoria for assault in the fourth degree.

DUII

• Christine June Lawler, 54, of Astoria, was arrested on Saturday in the area of Nimitz Drive in

Astoria for driving under the influence of intoxicants and reckless driving.

David Allen Hale, 34,

of Astoria, was arrested on Sunday at his residence on Pleasant Avenue in Astoria for an earlier report of him driving under the influence of intoxicants at the Astoria Mini Mart on Marine Drive.

Prominent consultants join Johnson's campaign

By SHANE DIXON
KAVANAUGH
The Oregonian



State Sen. Betsy Johnson is running for governor as an independent.

Two of Oregon's top political consultants have officially signed on to help former state Sen. Betsy Johnson launch an independent bid for governor.

The pair, Dan Lavey and Kevin Looper, more recently worked together on People for Portland, an anonymous, well-funded advocacy campaign pushing local elected leaders to take urgent action on crime, homelessness and other livability issues that have bedeviled the state's largest city.

Lavey told *The Oregonian* on Monday that he and Looper will provide messaging, strategy and advice to Johnson, a moderate Democrat who has garnered substantial financial support from an array of business, civic and political backers.

Filings show she has amassed more than \$3.4 million to date, an amount that far outpaces any of her rivals. The increasingly crowded field include Democrats such as House Speaker Tina Kotek, state Treasurer Tobias Read and former *New York Times* columnist Nicholas Kristof,

while House Minority Leader Christine Drazan, physician Bud Pierce and Sandy Mayor Stan Pulliam are among the Republican contenders.

Johnson resigned earlier this month from the Legislature to focus full-time on her statewide run as an unaffiliated candidate. She represented a swath of Northwest Oregon since 2001 that included Clatsop, Tillamook, Columbia, Multnomah and Washington counties.

Johnson's campaign last week listed payments of \$25,000 to Gallatin Public Affairs and \$50,000 to Wheelhouse Northwest, firms operated by Lavey and Looper, state filings show. The expenditures were first reported by *The Oregon Way*, a website focused on state politics.

Lavey and Looper co-founded People for Port-

land, which placed ads on TV and online and directed a mass emailing campaign to members of the Portland City Council, Multnomah County Board of Commissioners, Metro Council and state lawmakers who represent Portland.

The dark money group disclosed it spent more than \$500,000 in the three months ending Sept. 30, city lobbying reports show.

Lavey has previously worked for independents and Republicans including Chris Dudley and former state and U.S. Sen. Gordon Smith. Looper has worked for progressive causes and Democratic candidates including Gov. Kate Brown.

Lavey said he and Looper officially signed on with the Johnson campaign about mid-October, though he also admitted the pair did extensive polling and consulting work for her over the summer as she weighed whether or not to run for governor.

While neither consultant nor their companies appear in campaign finance filings for Johnson prior to this month, Lavey said the pair received \$200,000 through seven large donations to Johnson listed as "in-kind" contributions

in October.

State records show those donors were: Alexia dePotere-Smith, general counsel for the San Francisco-based Center for Resource Solutions, a nonprofit that claims to promote renewable energy (\$100,000); Pacific Seafood, whose president and CEO, Frank Dulcich, is a longtime Republican donor (\$40,000); Tim Boyle, CEO of Columbia Sportswear (\$25,000); Greg Goodman, one of Portland's largest real estate developers (\$10,000); Jordan Schnitzer, the Portland philanthropist and businessman (\$10,000); Global Companies LLC, a Massachusetts-based energy company (\$10,000); and Columbia Investments Ltd, a Portland real estate firm (\$5,000).

Two of those contributors, Boyle and Schnitzer, are also People for Portland backers, the only individuals thus far to have publicly disclosed their affiliation with the group.

Lavey, however, said his and Looper's work for Johnson is completely separate from their People for Portland effort. "The work we do for our clients is always independent, 100% of the time," he said.

Rideout: Former Astorian reporter will step in

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Rideout's tenure at the community radio station began with a conversation between neighbors.

Before moving to Astoria in 2002, she worked as a freelance journalist for the Associated Press, national publications and local newspapers in Arizona. She also worked as a high school teacher.

When she came to the coast, her new neighbor happened to be Carol Newman, who works for KMUN and told Rideout she might enjoy volunteering at the station. Rideout thought it would be a good opportunity to meet people.

"At the time, they just happened to need someone — desperately — to do a show that they have called 'Bedtime Stories' where you read children's stories on the air. So I could read, and I was alive," she said. "And they put me down in the seat and trained me a little bit, and then I started reading on the air. It was truly terrifying."

She eventually got used to hearing her own voice, and successfully vaulted the transition between written and spoken journalism. She joined KMUN's staff within the year.

Rideout worked as a host for "Morning Edition," and later for "All Things Considered." Eventually, she was hired as a reporter.



Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

Katie Frankowicz will serve as the news director at KMUN.

"It was always really fun," she said. "That kind of work is just very fun stuff."

After developing an interest in the Columbia River Bar Pilots, she began to talk about ship traffic during Morning Edition. That eventually turned into "The Ship Report," which she started in 2003.

"It just sort of grew into the segment that it is now, where I was interviewing people and just sharing marine weather, talking about the maritime environment. I really didn't know whether people were gonna like it or not, but people really did like it," she said. "They really connected with it because we're such a river town here and such a river environment."

Though she is retiring from the news, Rideout will still be producing *The Ship Report*.

Rideout said that some career highlights have been her recent reporting on rural broadband, which she said has been especially challenging for families during the pandemic. She also learned a lot from a collaboration with National Public Radio on a segment about the bar pilots. Another story that sticks with her is an in-depth interview she did with a homeless woman who shared her experience with social services in Astoria.

"I feel very fortunate to have had these 20 years of time that I've been involved with the place," Rideout said. "It's a wonderful organization, and I'm so happy that Katie wants that job because she will do a great job."

Frankowicz will step in on Jan. 17, but is training to make the transition from print to audio with the help

of her predecessor.

Frankowicz worked as a reporter at *The Astorian* for the past 4 1/2 years, covering a range of topics from the environment to local government and education.

She first stepped into *The Astorian*'s newsroom over a decade ago as a Snowden intern from the University of Oregon. She spent the following years doing stints at *The Astorian* and the *Chinook Observer* and working in freelance for publications on the coast and in Portland before returning to the paper.

"I've been in journalism for a pretty long time now," Frankowicz said. "In some aspects it's the same job I've always done, but with new technicalities in terms of how stories are delivered."

Frankowicz said she is happy to stick with reporting locally.

"That's what I'm proud of. It's not any one story. It's the consistent and reliable coverage of things that people care about out here, and that I care about because I also live here," she said. "That has always felt incredibly valuable to me and it's been one of the reasons that I've stuck around at small papers."

At KMUN, she plans on prioritizing original reporting and hopes to expand the station's community coverage.

Child care: Options in the county remain scarce

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"There's no way child care is ever going to be profitable," Citovic said. But she views the service as a utility, similar to a library. It's "never going to be profitable, but it's the right thing to have in your city," she said.

The group behind the idea has grown, Citovic said, and while the concept is still in development, the nonprofit hopes to have a proposal to the city by the end of January.

The day care, run by the Astoria Parks and Recreation Department at the Astoria Recreation Center, has become increasingly tax-

ing on department staff.

The center relies heavily on lower-paid, part-time labor, which has been especially challenging to hire and retain during the coronavirus pandemic.

In November, the day care closed its prekindergarten classroom due to a lack of staff, impacting nine children.

Jonah Dart-McLean, the city's parks director, said he is curious to see the proposal from Clatsop Promise. But even if the city does not find a partnership, there are no plans to discontinue the service, he said.

"We're just trying to look at ways that we can con-

tinue to support child care resources in the area, and then also be able to do the other obligations and items the parks department also offers to the community," Dart-McLean said.

The center opened nearly a decade ago because of the need for child care in the community. The day care still serves as a vital resource as child care options in the county remain scarce. It is also one of the few centers of its size on the North Coast

that provides care for infants.

Through a partnership, Dart-McLean hopes the city can support a child care service by removing common burdens like the cost of rent.

He said the city will work with an entity on whatever other support is needed to start and maintain longevity.

"Because that's really important," Dart-McLean said. "We don't want to start anything that then falls apart and results with people losing care suddenly."

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