

## IN BRIEF

## Fire causes property damage in Gearhart

GEARHART — A shop and storefront along U.S. Highway 101 and G Street caught fire early Sunday morning.

The Gearhart Volunteer Fire Department responded to a report of a brush fire close to two buildings before 4:30 a.m. No one was hurt and the building was unoccupied, Fire Chief Josh Como said.

The new owners of the property had been cleaning out the lower shop and piling and sorting items, Como said. During the night, the pile caught fire.

Because of the close proximity of the structures and the pile that caught fire, it set the lower shop on fire as well as the storefront alongside the highway. Firefighters were able to stop the fire in the storefront structure and save 90% of that structure and its contents, Como said.

— The Astorian

## DEATHS

July 29, 2022

DeHART, Sharon Lanei, 83, of Warrenton, died in Warrenton. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the

arrangements.

July 23, 2022

KOCH, Ruth Marie, 94, of Seaside, died in Warrenton. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

## MEMORIALS

Friday, Aug. 5

SETALA, Kenneth (Kenny) William — Celebration of life at 1 p.m., Rosburg Hall, 28 Rosburg Community Hall Road in Rosburg, Washington. Bring a dish to share if you wish.

Saturday, Aug. 6

HARPER, William "Bill" Morris Jr. — Celebration of life at 3 p.m., Pier 39 event room in Astoria. Harper, 72, of Astoria, died Sunday, July 17, 2022, in Astoria. Hughes-Ransom Mor-

tuary is in charge of the arrangements.

McCLINTOCK, Ronald James — Celebration of life from 2 to 4:30 p.m., Wickiup Grange Hall, 92683 Svensen Market Road in Svensen.

MENDENHALL, Joel Eric — Graveside service at 1 p.m., Ocean View Cemetery, 575 S.W. 18th St. in Warrenton.

SIMMONS, Paula Mary Gaston — Celebration of life from 12 to 4 p.m., 940 First Ave. in Seaside.

## ON THE RECORD

## Assault

• Samuel Joe Johnson, 32, of Astoria, was arrested on Saturday on two counts of fourth-degree assault and one count of second-degree disorderly conduct, followed by two counts of assaulting a public safety officer and one count of resisting arrest. Johnson allegedly attacked two people at 39th Street and the Astoria Riverwalk on Friday.

• Ryan David Sauvageau, 44, of Astoria, was arrested at 32st Street and the Astoria Riverwalk on Friday for fourth-degree assault and harassment.

• Jamie Louise Scire, 41, of Astoria, was indicted on July 19 for fourth-degree assault

constituting domestic violence.

## Aggravated harassment

• Nathan Yesudas Sathya, 41, of Warrenton, was indicted last week on two counts of aggravated harassment. The crime is alleged to have occurred earlier in July.

## Theft

• Steven Michael Schruder, 54, was arrested on Friday for an alleged second-degree theft that occurred at Costco earlier that day.

## DUI

• Joseph D. Westfall, of Astoria, was arrested on Wednesday at Seventh Street and Nehalem Avenue for driving under the influence of intoxicants and reckless driving.

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

## TUESDAY

**Seaside Community Center Commission**, 10 a.m., Bob Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A.

**Port of Astoria Commission**, 4 p.m., 10 Pier 1, Suite 209.

**Seaside Library Board**, 4:30 p.m., 1131 Broadway.

**Cannon Beach City Council**, 6 p.m., City Hall, 163 E. Gower Ave.

**Seaside Planning Commission**, 6 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

**Seaside Airport Advisory Committee**, 6:15 p.m., Seaside Airport, 2797 U.S. Highway 101.

## WEDNESDAY

**Clatsop County Board of Commissioners**, 10 a.m., work session, (electronic meeting).

**Seaside Improvement Commission**, 6 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

**Gearhart City Council**, 7 p.m., (electronic meeting).

## THURSDAY

**Seaside Parks Advisory Committee**, 6 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

## the Astorian

Established July 1, 1873  
(USPS 035-000)

Published Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday by EO Media Group, 949 Exchange St., PO Box 210, Astoria, OR 97103 Telephone 503-325-3211, 800-781-3211 or Fax 503-325-6573. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Astorian, PO Box 210, Astoria, OR 97103-0210

DailyAstorian.com

MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MEMBER CERTIFIED AUDIT OF CIRCULATIONS, INC.

Circulation phone number:  
800-781-3214

Periodicals postage paid at Astoria, OR

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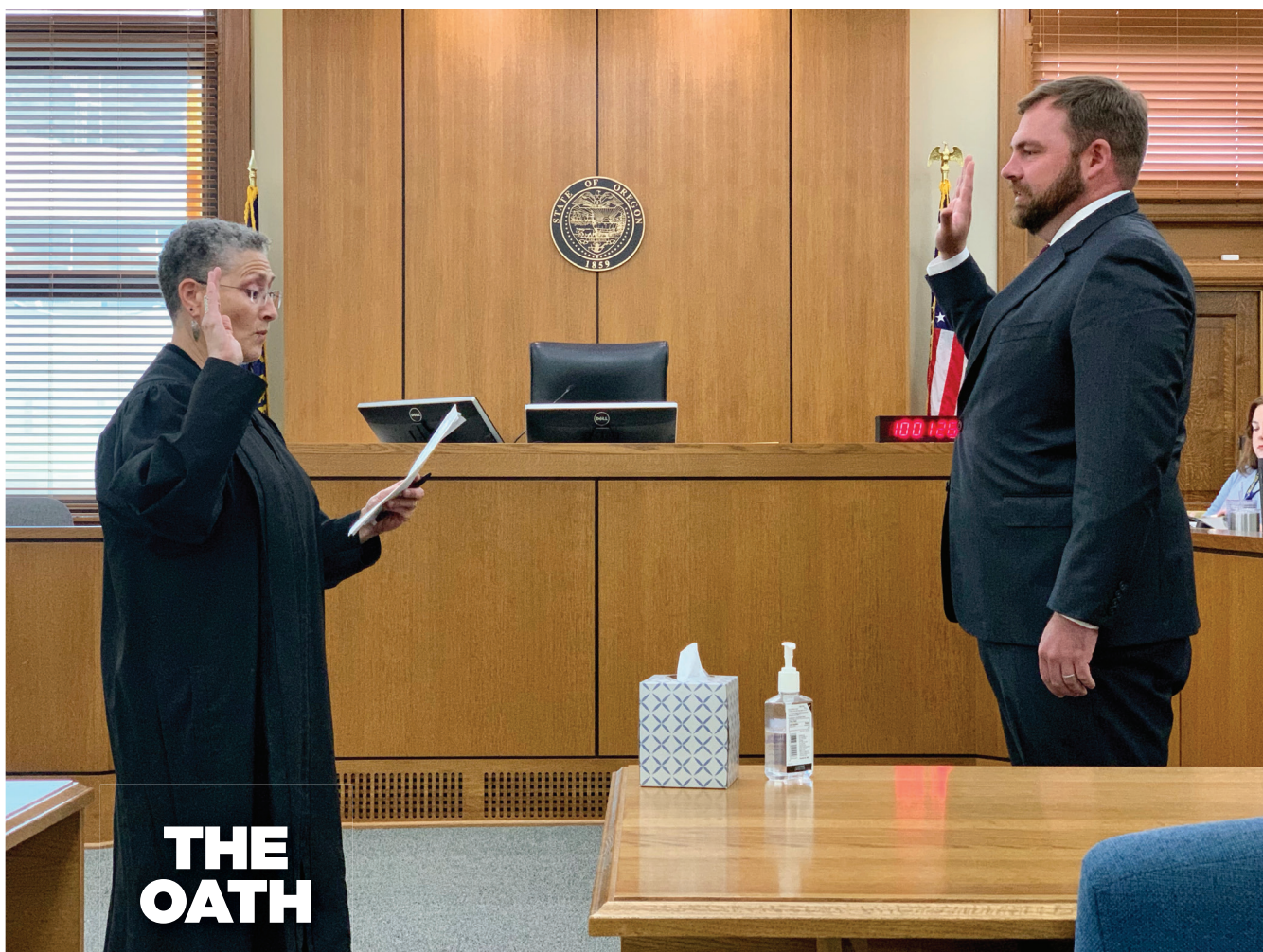
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Erick Bengel/The Astorian

Kirk Wintermute, right, an Astoria defense attorney, was sworn in Friday as a Clatsop County Circuit Court judge. He is filling the vacancy left by Judge Cindee Matyas, left, who retired after more than 15 years on the bench.

## Candidates for governor take stage

## Event sponsored by newspaper publishers

By COREY BUCHANAN  
Oregon Capital Bureau

WELCHES — During the first general election debate in a race for who will become the next governor of Oregon, the three candidates empathized with many Oregonians dissatisfied with where the state is headed.

Each of the three women, however, offered differing solutions to the state's myriad issues during a 90-minute forum that underscored the chasms among their political philosophies and leadership styles.

Republican nominee Christine Drazan, Democratic nominee Tina Kotek and independent Betsy Johnson — who are running neck-and-neck in recent polls — shared the stage Friday afternoon in an event hosted by Pamplin Media Group and sponsored by the Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association at the Mt. Hood Oregon Resort.

The debate was moderated by Mark Garber, the president of Pamplin Media Group, and included questions from local journalists, as well as the opportunity for the candidates to confront each other with their own inquiries.

Drazan, a Canby resident and former state House minority leader, made clear that she views her opponents as leaders of an establishment that has brought Oregon to where it is today. She believes the state needs new solutions to chronic problems such as homelessness, a lack of housing and mental health services and economic insecurity.

"It's a little bit ironic to me to constantly hear my opponents on the stage be (aghast) on how horrible Oregon is on this and that and the other — 'We're 50th (in the country) on this and we have to work on that,'" Drazan said. "They've been in charge. We got here because of their voices. There are not two other people in the state with more power than them besides the governor herself and maybe the Senate president."

Johnson, a Scappoose resident who was a Democratic state senator before resigning to run as a unaffiliated candidate, emphasized that she represents a middle ground between what she described as extremes on her political right and left, noting Drazan's stance against abortion rights and positing that Kotek



Christine Drazan, the Republican candidate for governor, Betsy Johnson, the unaffiliated candidate, and Tina Kotek, the Democratic candidate, held their first debate.

is a part of a progressive left that is responsible for mounting problems.

"Oregonians are distrustful of the radical right and they are terrified of the progressive left. ... What could be more different and impactful than a governor with an allegiance only to Oregonians and not to a party agenda or special interests?" she said.

Kotek, a Portlander who was the House speaker for nine years, framed herself as a candidate who seeks solutions rather than simply rejecting the status quo.

"No matter what the other candidates say today, there are no quick fixes. There are no miracle cures to take on these large challenges. Only hard work is going to allow us to ensure that every part of our state can thrive," she said.

On the issues, Drazan clarified that she considers Joe Biden to be the fairly elected president of the United States — despite efforts from members of her party to sow distrust in the 2020 election results — while also stating that she would maintain the current gun and abortion laws in place in Oregon and expressing opposition to Gov. Kate Brown's executive order directing state agencies to reduce carbon emissions.

Regarding her and her colleagues' decision in 2020 to walk out of the Capitol to combat Democrats' cap-and-trade proposal while she was the House minority leader, Drazan said she may have supported some form of policy incentivizing businesses to reduce emissions — but not in the form proposed by Democrats.

"The need to lead a Republican effort to deny quorum on this was simply because of the intensity of single-party

majority control," she said. Drazan also said she felt the state was focusing too much on housing to address the homelessness crisis, and not enough on other issues, like treating addiction and mental health.

Kotek described the walk-out as a decision to throw in the towel on the issue of addressing climate change and expressed support for the governor's executive order.

Further, she was the only candidate to firmly say she would direct public resources to helping people living in states where abortion is illegal to access that service here. Johnson also emphasized her staunch stance in favor of abortion rights, but felt organizations like Planned Parenthood could support people arriving from other states without governmental funding.

"We are in too big of a moment in our country to say 'no' to women who need access to care," Kotek said. "And I'm the only person in this race who is a champion on this issue, who has believed in access to health care — and that is what abortion is — and that's why I'm backed by Planned Parenthood and Pro-Choice Oregon."

Drazan, meanwhile, said she is pro-life but that her responsibility as governor would be to uphold the laws in place.

Unlike Drazan and Johnson, Kotek said she supports a ballot measure that would require background checks for purchasing firearms, prohibit the sale of large-capacity magazines except for military and law enforcement — and established herself as the candidate in support of gun control measures. She clarified that she's not interested in "taking people's guns away," however, after a quip from Johnson suggesting that intention.

Johnson, meanwhile, castigated Brown and state leadership for Intel's decision to

build a new chip manufacturing facility in Ohio rather than Oregon, saying that she had talked with Intel executives who said state leadership was not receptive to their needs and that she would make sure she consulted regularly with major industry players.

Further, Johnson addressed her decision to vote for the corporate activity tax to add school funding even though she now is against it, saying that she felt schools needed more money at the time but now believes the tax is too big of a burden on businesses and should be altered. Similar to Drazan, Johnson felt that Kotek's leadership has led to "tent cities all over Portland."

"This is a humanitarian crisis and we must never lose sight of the fact that it's inexorably tied to drugs and mental illness in our streets," Johnson said.

In closing remarks, Drazan commented on what she felt was a divisive attitude exuded by Johnson, saying she was tired of being yelled at and adding that she felt Johnson left the Democratic Party when it was politically convenient to do so.

Johnson said choosing Drazan would be moving from one extreme to the other and told voters she does not care whether you voted for Biden or Donald Trump for president.

"I want to recapture the maverick spirit and get us back on track," Johnson said.

Kotek, in her final remarks, talked about how she fell in love with Oregon when she moved here 35 years ago and that she views it as a state of possibility toward what it could become.

"I am sure I know how to work with people and solve problems because I have a track record to show that," she added.

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