

Phillips chooses not to run for reelection in Seaside

Montero seeks another term

By R.J. MARX
The Astorian

SEASIDE — City Councilor Dana Phillips, who serves as the at-large councilor for Ward 3 and Ward 4, will not run for another four-year term in November.

“I truly love this community and feel good about all that we as a council have brought to fruition during my time on the council, but it is time for me to step aside,” she said.

Phillips, a former president of the Seaside Chamber of Commerce, has decades of volunteerism and promoting education. She was elected to the City Council in 2010 and reelected in 2014 and 2018.

Samuel M. Condron, also known as Seamus McVey, has announced his intention to run for Phillips’ council seat. McVey facilitates a recovery clinic working with people who are struggling with addiction, mental illness and homelessness.

City Councilor Tita Montero intends to run for reelection in Ward 2. She was elected in 2010 and reelected in 2014 and 2018.

City Councilor Steve Wright, who represents Ward 1, is running for mayor.

Wright, who serves as president of the board of the Seaside Museum & Historical Society, was appointed to the City Council in 2016 and elected in 2018.

The filing deadline is Aug. 30.

Cannon Beach: Candidates boast plenty of experience

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get kind of an inside scoop on what is affecting each person that brings up a topic and a reason why they’re concerned.”

If she is reelected, Risley said she wants to spend more time promoting the arts and coming up with creative solutions to address affordable and workforce housing.

Risley has also served as a planning commissioner for the city and Clatsop County. She sat on the city’s parks and community services committee and was appointed twice by the governor to serve on the state Parks and Recreation Commission.

“I really enjoy public service and Cannon Beach is closest to my heart, of course, so that’s why I’m running,” Risley said.

Kerr has served two terms on the city’s Planning Commission and sits on the board of the Clatsop County Cultural Coalition and Friends of Haystack Rock. She is also part of the city’s short-term rental task force.

Kerr spent over 20 years as a public defender and trial lawyer in Seattle before moving to Cannon Beach. Before her career in law, she taught dance at Portland State University and operated a modern dance company in Anchorage, Alaska.

Kerr still practices law and has worked with non-profits, including the North Coast Land Conservancy. She also has a metalsmithing studio where she makes jewelry that she sells through a couple of galleries.

Kerr said she loves Cannon Beach and the quality of living in a small town, but she is also concerned about the direction the city could easily take.

“I feel very strongly about certain issues that I know are going to arise in the city over the coming years,” she said. “And the big thing is, I’m really willing to do the work.”

Her priorities include protecting the natural environment and quality of life and providing middle and workforce housing for families.

“I’d like to see it be a community for a wider diversity of people than just

wealthy people who are able to afford luxury homes,” Kerr said. “I think that if we tightened up some of our ordinances, we could make sure that there’s some kind of a way to ensure that some of our land is used for middle housing and workforce housing and not just going for building huge mega mansions.”

Hayes, who launched Explorer Media Group in 1998, has lived in the city for 25 years, working closely with local businesses and publishing the visitor guides for Seaside and Cannon Beach.

He has served on the founding board of Friends of Haystack Rock and as president of the Cannon Beach Arts Association. He also spent nearly a decade on the board of the Oregon Coast Visitors Association.

“Maybe more than anything else, I feel like I’m familiar with the challenges, opportunities and solutions for managing the impacts of tourism,” Hayes said. “And at this point, I’m just in a position in my life where I’m beginning to scale back my business and I feel like it’s a time that I can serve.”

“I feel like I can bring the balanced solutions to improve livability for residents, steward our environment and maintain a thriving economy that supports those things.”

Hayes said livability issues, such as seasonal overcrowding and parking, need to be addressed. He said there is also a need for expanded trails and connecting the city by bike.

Housing solutions that increase diversity, including workforce housing, need to be supported, he said.

Knop, a retired teacher, is active as a volunteer in several community groups.

Ostrander manages Sea Breeze Court, a hotel owned and operated by his wife’s family.

He is a volunteer firefighter for the Cannon Beach Rural Fire Protection District and serves on the board of the Cannon Beach Chamber of Commerce.

Ostrander describes himself as an avid birder and a steward for the environment who has held jobs for Texas and Florida working with native plants and habitat.



Surfsand Resort

The Surfsand Resort in Cannon Beach has a new owner.

Surfsand: Property has 95 rooms

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place in fall 2023 and winter 2024. No property closures are scheduled, and we anticipate minimal disruptions to guests.”

The Vancouver, Washington, hospitality group purchased the Cannery Pier Hotel & Spa in Astoria in 2019 and runs the Best West-

ern Agate Beach in Newport. Both underwent multimillion-dollar renovations after Vesta purchased them.

Takach said that they kept every existing staff member at Surfsand who wanted to stay and plan to add three more positions.

“We paid an incentive bonus for the hourly staff to continue for the summer and

offered an incentive for the management team to stay for a year,” he said. “Hopefully, they will all stay and build their career with our company.”

The Surfsand property has 95 rooms.

“The revenues and profit stream reported by the previous owners made the property a competitive acquisi-

tion, and we’re thrilled to add the Surfsand Resort to our portfolio,” Takach said.

Vesta also announced that Linh DePledge, the general manager at Cannery Pier, has been promoted to director of brand and communications for Vesta’s three coastal hotels. She will be staying in her position at the Cannery Pier until a replacement is chosen.

Summer camp: ‘It has changed our lives’

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But it’s also a place where campers can be themselves without getting sent home, practice boundaries and learn how to self-regulate their emotions.

“We’re going to show them that it’s OK to have your moment. It’s OK to be emotional, and then come back from it and move on to your activity,” founder Brandi Lindstrom said. “This is a safe space to do that.”

This is the first year Lindstrom has put on the summer camp, which is being funded by a \$150,000 grant from the Oregon Association of Education Service Districts.

A mother of two children with autism, she also remembers her son being sent home from summer camp because of behavioral problems.

“We were told he couldn’t

PARENTS AND SUPPORT WORKERS ARE ALLOWED TO ATTEND.

go to camp because he was inappropriate for their setting,” she said. “And so I thought these kids deserve to go to summer camp just as much as the other kids.”

Parents and support workers are allowed to attend.

The summer camp operates over different weeks, each with its own theme. Luella Kruczek, one of the campers, said she had lots of fun both weeks, playing cornhole as well as making wind chimes and pet rocks with googly eyes.

This is much more than just a summer camp, Lindstrom said. She’s building a community that wasn’t there when she needed support after her son was diagnosed.

“They say it takes a vil-

lage,” she said. “We’re building that village, within our own county, of families who experience autism and developmental disabilities so that they can be supportive of each other and build each other up in those times.”

The parents have a book club where they can share their experiences and discuss books concerning developmental disabilities.

The camp has also created peer support for the campers. Max Miller, who has been home-schooled, said he can’t wait to go to high school after making friends at camp who will go to school with him. When he had previously attended school in person, he said he was bullied.

“Now that I actually got

friends and I can trust people there, it’s like I won’t be alone for when I first start there,” he said.

Shelly Miller said she thinks the program is going to be a lifesaver in a community where finding services can be difficult.

“If this is just the beginning — it’s just like my life has changed. I can’t even describe to you how much it has changed our lives,” she said. “My children are finally included.”

Lindstrom said there are still spots open for science week, which runs from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. from Aug. 24 through Aug. 26. Anyone in the county affected by autism, developmental disabilities or other emotional and behavioral challenges can attend a barbecue behind the Warrenton Community Center from 6 to 8 p.m. on Aug. 31.

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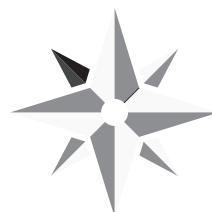
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