

# the Astorian

150TH YEAR, NO. 22

WEEKEND EDITION // SATURDAY, AUGUST 20, 2022

\$1.50

## County hires emergency management director

Gibbs served in Multnomah County

By ERICK BENGEL  
*The Astorian*

Clatsop County has hired an emergency management director.

Justin Gibbs recently served as interim division chief of planning at Multnomah County's Emergency Management Planning Section.

At Clatsop County, he will be responsible for leading emergency management — a new county department that until recently was a county office.

Earlier this year, the county said the director position would be funded by money shifted from an emergency management coordinator role, a long-vacant job.

Housed at Camp Rilea Armed Forces Training Center, the county's emergency management responds to floods, fires, windstorms and other natural hazards and disasters,

often collaborating with local jurisdictions and organizations, such as cities, schools and fire districts.

During the coronavirus pandemic, emergency management helped distribute personal protective equipment and played a role in setting up mass vaccination clinics, the county said.

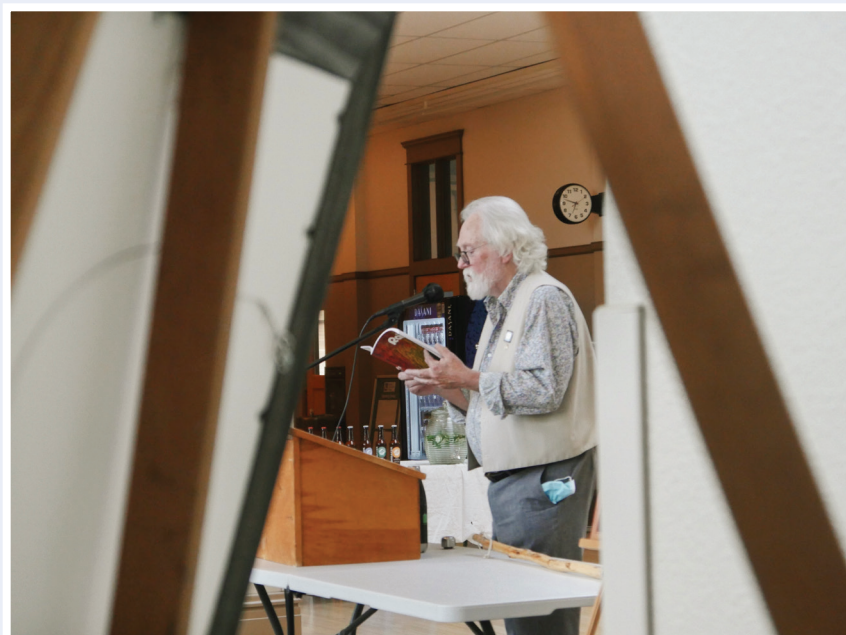
The department also prepares the region for the looming Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake and tsunami.

"My focus will be to develop strong relationships with the cities to ensure they are supported across all phases of emergency management, as well as concurrently making sure that Clatsop County is operationally ready to respond to disasters that will inevitably impact unincorporated areas of the jurisdiction," Gibbs said in a statement.

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Justin Gibbs



## READING 'RAIN'

ABOVE: A reading and reception for Rain Magazine was held Wednesday night at Clatsop Community College. The event marked the 52nd edition of the literary and arts publication.

LEFT: Author Robert Michael Pyle reads a passage from one of his four poetry contributions to this year's edition.

See more photos online at [DailyAstorian.com](http://DailyAstorian.com)

Photos by Lissa Brewer/The Astorian

## Dog owner loses appeal over city euthanasia order

Pit bull killed a cat in June

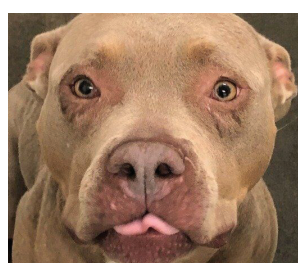
By ALEXIS WEISEND  
*The Astorian*

A Circuit Court judge has upheld the city's euthanasia order of a pit bull who killed a cat in June.

James Mayer, the dog's owner, still hopes the city will somehow spare Layla and allow him to take his pet back to Multnomah County, where Mayer lives.

"This was not a malicious act akin to murder that deserves punishment," he said in a statement to The Astorian. "Capital punishment for something like this is too extreme and not based in logic."

Judge Beau Peterson sided in favor of the city on Wednesday after Mayer



Layla, a pit bull, was impounded by the city after killing a cat.

appealed a Municipal Court ruling that upheld the city's euthanasia order.

In June, Layla, who was staying in Astoria with Mayer's girlfriend while she was working at Columbia Memorial Hospital, got loose and killed a cat named Jack. Layla was chasing another cat before being caught and taken to Clatsop County Animal Shelter.

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ABOVE: Author James Dott reads from a poem. RIGHT: Lauren Mallett, a poet and teacher, reads from "Hardly The Bridge," a poem featured in the magazine.



## Gray sees state House campaign as path to a third party

Motivated to address risks from climate change

By ERICK BENGEL  
*The Astorian*

A Cannon Beach resident running for state House District 32 hopes that — win or lose — his campaign shows that a viable third political party is possible.

In July, Frederick "Rick" T. Gray Jr. successfully petitioned his way onto the November ballot as a nonaffiliated candidate.

He is running against two Tillamook residents: Democrat Logan Laity, a community organizer, and Republican Cyrus Javadi, a dentist.

The North Coast district is open because state Rep. Suzanne Weber, a

Tillamook Republican, chose not to run for reelection so she could campaign for state Senate District 16. Betsy Johnson, a former Democrat, resigned from the Senate seat last year to focus on her campaign for governor as a nonaffiliated candidate.

Originally from Virginia, Gray served as secretary of the commonwealth from 1978 to 1981. He has a law degree from the University of Virginia, taught history in the state's high schools over the decades, toured as a professional actor and wrote a hyperlocal newspaper column.

Gray calls himself a "progressive conservative" — a coinage of former British Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli.

He has campaigned for candidates from both major political parties and wants to begin building a third party for people who do not identify with, or feel represented by, either one.

"I probably would have kept waiting for somebody else to do it except for two things: climate change and the condition of our democracy ... Somebody has to take action now," he said. "And if it's in a little corner of Oregon and it's me, well, there it is."

He chose not to run as a Democrat, he said, because he didn't want to be beholden to, or co-opted by, the party's machinery. He questions the Democrats' leadership abilities and believes the party is too focused on the politics of identity

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'Rick Gray



Kristen Norgaard has moved Kit's Apothecary into the former Abeco building on Commercial Street.

Abbey McDonald/The Astorian

## For Kit's Apothecary, a new look downtown

Businesses move to former Abeco building

By ABBEY McDONALD  
*The Astorian*

Kristen Norgaard says stained glass is her love language.

When the artist walked into the old Abeco Office Systems building on Commercial Street, that's what she saw first. Paired with a working stone fountain in the middle of the room and check-board tile floor, she knew it was the right place to move her businesses.

Norgaard said she had been on the hunt for a new location for Kit's Apothecary, Witches Brew Coffee and Foragers due to flooding issues in her previous 10th Street location.

She connected with the Abeco building owner, William Hicks, for a tour of the space. He had been renovating it for the past five years. She liked what she saw.

"And then he brought me into a back room that's floor to ceiling vintage Rexall drug cabinets," she said. "And I just looked at him and I was like, 'You made my apothecary workroom. What?'"

Behind a labyrinth of clutter

still being cleared out, the cabinets have an abundance of small drawers to home Norgaard's ingredients for crafting skin care, supplements and CBD products. She's especially looking forward to putting a labelmaker to use.

While emptying one of the cabinets a few weeks ago, she jammed her thumb on something heavy in the back.

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