

Sen. Betsy Johnson to run for governor; Suzanne Weber seeks Senate seat

The Columbia Press

Betsy Johnson, Clatsop County's representative in the State Senate, announced late last week that she's seeking the governor's office. And she'll run as an independent.

"With an election for governor fast approaching, Oregonians are eager for a fresh start and new leadership," she wrote on her Facebook page.

"But having to choose between another left-wing liberal promising more of the same or a right-wing Trump apologist – is no choice at all. Oregonians deserve better than the excesses and nonsense of the extreme left and radical right. Oregonians are ready to move to the middle where sensible solutions are found. That's why I have decided to run for governor as an independent leader unaffiliated with any party and loyal only to the people of Oregon."

Johnson, currently serving her fourth term in the Senate, also has served in the House. She has been a member of the Ways and Means Committee, which is responsible for the state budget, since her first session and currently is one of its chairs.

She holds a law degree from Northwestern School of Law at Lewis & Clark College,

Pulitzer winner to read in Astoria

Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Jericho Brown will read his works during a presentation at 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 5, in the Liberty Theatre, 1203 Commercial St., Astoria.

His appearance is sponsored by The Writer's Guild.

Brown received the 2011 National Endowment for the



Johnson



Weber

owns an aviation company and is a licensed commercial pilot.

Since Gov. Kate Brown cannot run due to term limits, the field to replace her is growing.

Johnson joins House Speaker Tina Kotek, State Treasurer Tobias Read, Sandy Mayor Stan Pulliam, New York Times columnist Nicholas Kristof and a number of others.

On Johnson's heels, newly elected state Rep. Suzanne Weber, a Republican from Tillamook, announced she'll seek Johnson's seat in the Senate.

In her announcement, Weber said Johnson has "been a model for me for working in a nonpartisan, independent manner."

They've worked "hand in hand" in addressing the unique challenges on the North Oregon Coast, fighting for constituents, Weber said. "There are no bigger shoes to fill than those of Sen. Betsy Johnson."

Arts Fellowship for Poetry and a Pulitzer Prize for his most recent work, "The Tradition."

Tickets are \$10 to \$65 and available at libertyastoria.showare.com.

Following the reading, Brown will be available to sign books.

Tide Gate Partnership wins state accolades

A collaborative effort to fix Oregon's aging tide gates was honored recently by the State Land Board.

Tide gates keep farm fields, roads, and other areas dry and protected from flooding by letting fresh water out during low tides and preventing water from entering during high tides. Salmon and other migrating fish are able to swim through the tide gates when properly functioning. But improperly functioning tide gates can impact infrastructure, water quality, and wildlife.

Oregon has more than 1,000 tide gates in coastal areas, including Warrenton and other parts of Clatsop County, with many of them in need of repair or replacement in order to function properly.

The Oregon Tide Gate Partnership has brought together a diverse group of interests dedicated to identifying barriers and solutions for updating tide gates.

Partners include coastal counties, watershed boards, conservation groups, farming and ranching associations, tribes, and federal and state agencies. The collaboration is coordinated by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board.

"When tide gates work well, everyone benefits," said Secretary of State Shemia Fagan, who presented the award during the 17th annual Land Board Awards in Salem. "This collaborative effort by many partners helps ensure Oregon's tide gates will keep protecting communities and natural resources."

To date, the partnership has developed an inventory of Oregon's tide gates, established funding and engineering resources for landowners, and created tools to help com-



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Tide gates were removed from Warrenton's Eighth Street Dam in hopes of improving conditions for salmon and other species.

munities prioritize projects. Regulatory agencies also are working to coordinate the permit process for tide gate repairs or replacements.

"Now that those resources are built, it feels like we're finally at the starting line," said Jillian McCarthy, tide gate coordinator with Oregon Watershed Enhancement

Board. "The next year will focus on testing the tools, making refinements, and working together to complete projects on the ground."

The Land Board Awards honor exceptional projects and partners for their contributions to protecting and enhancing Oregon's treasured natural resources.

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