



Thompson wins second four-year term

Thompson, Kujala celebrate victories

By Jack Heffernan
The Daily Astorian



Lianne Thompson

Mark Kujala

Commissioner Lianne Thompson and former Warrenton Mayor Mark Kujala and seized victories Tuesday in their races for the Clatsop County Board of Commissioners, while Pamela Wev and Peter Roscoe are set for a November runoff.

Thompson won a second four-year term in District 5, which covers most of South County. Her top priorities are housing, economic development and emergency preparedness.

“Thank you to my boss-

es — the voters in District 5,” Thompson said. “I’m grateful for their support and will continue to work hard to do right by them.”

Thompson has faced sharp criticism from three other commissioners and County Manager Cameron Moore over her travel expenses, behavior toward county staff and view that commissioners should have a more active role in day-to-day county operations. At one point, Lee called for her resignation.

“When I went out and said, ‘(Voters) are at the top of the

organizational chart, you pay the bills, you hold staff accountable for what they paid for,’ they said, ‘Yep, that’s it,’” Thompson said. “Now we’re crystal clear on that.”

Susana Gladwin, a Jewell farmer, challenged Thompson. The candidates served with each other for four years on the county Planning Commission. Gladwin often attends Planning Commission meetings and highlighted housing and forestry policies as two of her core issues.

Ron Brown, running un-

opposed for district attorney, secured a four-year term on Tuesday. The longtime prosecutor has served as District Attorney Josh Marquis’ deputy since 2004. Marquis is retiring after 25 years in office.

Circuit Court Judge Cindee Matyas, also running unopposed, won another six-year term. Matyas has been a judge since 2007.

Voter turnout in Clatsop County was 36 percent.

Commission runoff

Wev — a land use consultant — and Roscoe — a former restaurateur — will compete in

the first commission runoff in a decade after neither reached 50 percent of the vote in District 3. Doug Thompson — a property manager — finished third.

Commissioner Lisa Clement chose not to run for re-election in a district that covers parts of Astoria, Miles Crossing, Jeffers Garden, Lewis and Clark, Youngs River, Olney, Green Mountain and parts of Walluski.

Wev served five years in former Portland Mayor Vera Katz’s administration, while Roscoe served on the Astoria City Council.

Mitchell scores upset for state House seat

Democratic primary to replace Boone

By Edward Stratton
The Daily Astorian

Tiffany Mitchell, a progressive lifted by union and conservation groups, scored an upset victory Tuesday night in the Democratic primary for state House.

Mitchell, a state child welfare worker who moved to Oregon three years ago from Utah, and John Orr, an attorney, were both seen as underdogs next to Tim Josi, a Tillamook County commissioner and former state representative with more name recognition and the backing of industry and many state legislators. The three sought to replace state Rep. Deborah Boone, D-Cannon Beach, who will retire when her seventh term ends in January.

“I think that my message just resonated with voters,” Mitchell said of the strong showing in her first campaign.

She credited volunteers for helping to get her name and message out after filing just before the deadline in March. She said she personally knocked on more than 3,000 doors.

Mitchell will face Republican Vineeta Lower, a teacher, and Independent Brian Halvorsen, a progressive organizer, in the November election. Democrats have long dominated in House District 32, which includes Clatsop and Tillamook counties, along with a small portion of western Washington County.

Some in Clatsop County were concerned Mitchell and Orr would split the county vote and tip the primary to the more conservative Josi, who is from Bay City.

In his concession speech, Orr, who was edging Josi for second place, congratulated Mitchell.

TRAVELING IN STYLE

Jackson Hopkins of Vancouver, Washington, rides a horse provided by Medical Reserve Corps member Bob Wayne at the Coastal Community Festival in Cannon Beach on Saturday, May 12. For more coverage, photos and a personal look at the Blue Barrel Challenge, see p. 4.



BRENNA VISSER/CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

Changes to come for Visitor Information Center funding

Chamber of Commerce could take on more responsibility to fund visitor center

By Brenna Visser
Cannon Beach Gazette

The city and the Cannon Beach Chamber of Commerce are at odds over how to fund the Visitor Information Center.

For the past 30 years, the city has funded operations, which amounts to about

\$160,000 a year. For the first time, the city proposed spending \$40,000, and has asked the chamber to cover the remaining \$120,000 with lodging tax dollars. The change would cut into the chamber’s promotion program, which is financed by the lodging tax.

Paying \$120,000 to operate

the Visitor Information Center would dip into about a third of the chamber’s fund, which is anticipated to have \$385,655 earmarked to promote tourism during the off-season next year. Since 2015, the amount of lodging taxes paid to the city has increased by double digits almost every quarter, in

part because of the team’s marketing efforts, chamber board president Greg Swedenborg said. He argues the change in funding for the Visitor Information Center will substantially influence the ability to do marketing and promotion.

“Paying \$120,000 this year would make us come to a

screaming halt,” Swedenborg said during a budget hearing Wednesday.

The idea to reallocate the funds comes at a time when the city is looking at ways to be more stringent with transfers out of the general fund,

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Bokish watches town grow, returns with a new cafe

Breakfast and lunch spot will replace Bella Espresso

By Brenna Visser
Cannon Beach Gazette

A new internationally-inspired breakfast and lunch spot will be coming to downtown Cannon Beach.

Surfbird Cafe will be replacing Bella Espresso, the Italian-style coffee shop that has operated at 231 N. Hemlock St. for more than 16 years, over Memorial Day weekend.

“I have decided to simplify my life, enjoy family and check things off my bucket list,” former owner James Laurentino said in a statement. “It has been a pleasure owning and operating Bella Espresso for the last 16 years and I am looking forward to just focusing on my first business and love in Cannon Beach: Pizza a’ fetta.”

At the helm of Surfbird Cafe is Josh Bokish, who chose the name to keep the seabird theme in line with his other restaurant, Osprey Cafe in Seaside. After four years in Seaside, Bokish saw the opening in Cannon Beach as an opportunity to expand,

as well as a way return to his Cannon Beach roots.

For Bokish, running a business in Cannon Beach is a family affair. His parents, John and Elizabeth Bokish, operate the fair trade clothing and goods store West of the Moon across the street, and his sister Natalie runs Geppetto’s Toy Shoppe on the same block.

“Growing up we had a house on Monroe Street,” Bokish said. “I’ve gotten to watch the town grow and change a little bit.”

Like Osprey Cafe, lunch and breakfasts will be inspired by Bokish’s years of international travel with his parents, and emulate classic American, Indian, Asian and South American cuisine.

Surfbird Cafe will hold a similar vibe that is found at Osprey Cafe, Bokish said, but with its own twists. Due to limited space, Bokish said the restaurant will start by being counter service only to encourage both to-go orders and a casual, sit-down atmosphere. There will still be a full-service espresso bar for those who have come to rely on this location for their morning coffee.

While the menu isn’t finished yet, Bokish said to look out for a new clam chowder recipe and a breakfast sandwich made with arepas — a type of South American corn flour patty.



BRENNA VISSER/CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

Josh Bokish plans to open Surfbird Cafe around Memorial Day weekend where Bella Espresso operated for more than 16 years.

But some classics will carry over.

“We’re definitely going to carry over the avocado toast, because they were so popular at the Osprey,” Bokish said. “But I always like to keep experimenting and challenging myself to come up with new ideas. I would be bored doing the same thing.”