# Boone remembered as chief, teacher, mentor, friend

Boone from Page 1A

to the county following windstorms during the Great Coastal Gale of 2007.

In 2014, Boone helped assemble a Federal Emergency Management Agency grant that allowed the purchase of the department's first new fire apparatus, a custom built 3,000-gallon water tender.

In April 2015, Boone was recognized for his service during the monthly Hamlet community potluck dinner, with about 60 people in attendance.

He was given an antique fire nozzle, polished and mounted on a piece of wood containing a placard engraved with a thank you for dedicating "40 years and counting" to the community.

### 'Part of a team'

Verley met Boone about 14 years ago, when both were on construction jobs, he said.

"I was working on a house and Bill was working on a neighboring house," Verley said. "He walked over and he made a pitch for the fire department."

The centerpiece of Hamlet Fire, the Necanicum fire station, was designed and built under Bill's watch, Verley said.

Boone spent almost every Wednesday at the fire station, taking care of small maintenance items, paperwork, planning drills, and all the details necessary to keep the department running smoothly, Verley said.

"I really enjoyed working with Bill," Verley said. "He was fair and thorough. He really made everyone feel appreciated and he made you feel a part of the team."

Daniels praised Boone's

mutual aid efforts. "As chief of Hamlet, they'd always send people needed. He was running a business. It was a lot for him, but he'd never say no. He'd always be there."

Dale Kamrath, Seaside fire chief from 2007 to 2012, later moved to Hamlet where he served as a firefighter volunteer. He called Boone's efforts "flat-out amazing.

"In the 10 years I've known him, he's always gone out of his way to help anybody, whether it was fire service or personal."

#### Celebration of life

After Boone was diagnosed with cancer in 2016 and unable to actively serve, Verley was named chief and Boone assistant chief, a position he served until early this year.

When Boone first joined the department, there was a strong sense of community in the town.

Some of that was lost over the years, he said, but there has been a resurgence of community spirit, including the reinstatement of potluck dinners, which are held the second Saturday of each month, and holiday events. "There are a million differ-

ent ways to do it, but this is just the way I've chosen," he said in 2015.

Boone specifically said he wasn't interested in a big celebration or a lot of fanfare, Verley said. "He wasn't interested in glory — he was interested in helping his fellow human beings."

Cleve Rooper, Cannon Beach fire chief from 1996 to 2011, remembered Boone as a builder, contractor, carpenter, boat operator, fly fisherman and a really good friend.

"He was a very accomplished man, a very good



COURTESY HAMLET FIRE DEPARTMENT

Bill Boone on the job in Hamlet.

'He wasn't interested in glory

— he was interested in helping
his fellow human beings.... He
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and contributed a lot to the
community. And he died way too
young. He will be sorely missed.'

Hamlet Fire Chief Matt Verley

friend," Rooper said. "He was a great fire chief, community member, a great family man and contributed a lot to the community. And he died way too young. He will be sorely missed."

A memorial dinner for Boone for Hamlet firefighters past and present will be held at an upcoming date.

Boone's family is planning a celebration of life, Verley said.



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY SHELLY CLOOT

Hamlet Fire Chief Bill Boone, third from left, is pictured with the rest of the Hamlet Volunteer Fire Department during a monthly community potluck in 2015.

### LETTERS

## **Letters** from Page 4A

our businesses and current business zones, and being welcoming to the influx of new full time residents moving back to Gearhart while welcoming our seasonal visitors are not mutually exclusive ideas. With a near record amount of nightly rentals still operating in Gearhart and our new citizens finding available housing to make Gearhart their permanent home, we are primed for excellent economic conditions going into the next decade.

Let's all take a deep breath. We've all been through a lot and now it's time to come together and celebrate 100 years of this amazing city next year. I look forward to continue reaching out to folks with different opinions to my own and help promote what we all love about Gearhart. There's nothing we can't solve if we respect each other and work together. Cheers to 100 years of Gearhart, let the celebration and healing process

Matt Brown Gearhart

## Thompson deserves support

I feel compelled to voice my concern over what I see happening in our local government. I was disheartened to learn that Commissioner Scott Lee is calling for the resignation of his colleague, Commissioner Lianne Thompson. As I understand it, Commissioner Thompson has not only lived up to the requirements of her position but also goes above and beyond. Does Ms. Thompson intimidate Mr. Lee?

The Astorian reported that Mr. Lee's call for resignation is based on two factors. First, that Commissioner Thompson placed her hands on another when expressing a point. Personally I have not seen improper behaviors or gestures from her in any setting. Lianne is respectful and caring. Frankly this school yard charge is below the office of Commissioner Lee. Second, Mr. Lee cites the amount of reimbursement is higher than expected. I would expect higher expenses from

one who is so active in their position. I know Lianne to be frugal and environmentally conscious.

Lianne Thompson lives, eats and breathes her role as District 5 Clatsop County Commissioner. If she isn't at an event or meeting, she's on her way to or just leaving one. She's been doing extensive travel for the county, when required. When not so engaged, she's most likely at a city or county event. If her expenses for reimbursement were higher than expected, it's because she does more than is expected.

I have never known
Lianne to be anything but
professional, gracious and
kind. That she is willing to
give so much of herself to our
county and our communities,
makes her invaluable. District
5 is fortunate to have Commissioner Lianne Thompson.
When she is up for reelection
I will vote for her again.
Paula Vetter

Cannon Beach

# Support Lianne Thompson

I live in the Coast Range of Clatsop County where, for the most part, we require few county services. We rely on our volunteers for fire suppression, motor vehicle rescue and traffic control, emergency medical services, removal of downed trees on state and county roads and handling all manner of high winds, flooding and landslides.

We worked hard to see that our representative to the Clatsop County Commission, Lianne Thompson, was duly elected to speak for us as a commissioner about rural housing, jobs and environ-

mental protection.

What's going on? Why does my commissioner have to ask the chairman to stop members of the gallery from repeatedly displaying her campaign T-shirt with an X across it? Where did respect at public meetings go? Why have there been five commissioners (with four-year terms) in our rural district since 2009? Where can I get these disturbing questions answered?

Diane Jette

# Resiliency advocate

It is my pleasure to write this letter of support for Clatsop County Commissioner Lianne Thompson. I know Thompson through her work to support preparedness efforts along the North Coast. She was instrumental in voicing the need and supporting the development of Community Response Emergency Team programs in Clatsop County, including our local

high schools.

Commissioner Thompson attends numerous community meetings to stay in touch and lend support to important coastal issues. She was an active committee member of Seaside School District's successful bond campaign to relocate its schools out of the tsunami inundation zone. She also volunteers with the American Red Cross, emergency ham radio, and the medical reserve corps.

Lianne Thompson strives to strengthen the safety and resilience of those in Clatsop County, and I strongly support her in that effort. **Doug Dougherty** 

Doug Dougher Gearhart

# Unprofessional treatment

I am writing in response to the headline story in which the Clastop County Commission chairman, Scott Lee, calls for the resignation of Commissioner Lianne Thompson ("Lee calls for Thompson's resignation," The Daily Astorian, Oct. 26).

In all my 30-plus years of public service, never have I seen such unprofessional and inappropriate use of power in a locally elected board as that of the Clatsop County Commission for the past few years. I say this from a position of personal knowledge, having served as a Clatsop County commissioner in the late 1980s. I served with two other commissioners under the general law form of governance.

When I was on the board of commissioners, if we didn't agree on something we were at least respectful of each other's right to an opinion or stand on an issue. We did not play out our disagreements in the local newspaper

by calling out each other's transgressions. If a policy was breached, we discussed it like adults, and I do not remember any such public displays of disagreements or chastising one another.

I am baffled as to why, if the county does not intend any disciplinary action, there was a public chiding of Commissioner Thompson at a board meeting. Upon reading the article, it appeared to this reader that she was being criticized for just doing her job. It is incumbent upon commissioners to keep up with the demands of the job of making policy, something I have known Commissioner Thompson to have done since she came on to the county board.

Her longtime work in resilience and emergency preparedness has been an exemplary example of taking the lead on an issue and providing those of us at different levels of government the assurance that this urgent information is being delivered at the local level. Personally, I believe that Commissioner Thompson has done her job in a professional manner, and I am thankful that she has stepped up to serve Clatsop County in this important position.

But to use the forum of a public meeting to basically beat up on a commissioner for travel expenses that exceed other commissioners' use of these funds is unprofessional, especially when there are no sanctions being considered.

The travel budget exists to reimburse expenses and the amount does not seem excessive for the time span described. It seems more like common bullying to me, something we are seeing more and more of these days in public forums.

Finally, one has to wonder just who is going to step up and serve in these elected positions when this type of treatment is so prevalent. The relationships that Commissioner Thompson has built at all levels over the many years that she has worked in the public sector are priceless, and appreciated by those of us lucky enough to have worked with her.

Deborah Boone Oregon State Representative, House District 32

## MEETINGS

Monday, Nov. 27

**Seaside City Council,** 7 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

Tuesday, Nov. 28

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

Tuesday, Dec. 5

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

Seaside Library Board, 4:30 p.m., 1131 Broadway, Seaside. Seaside Planning Commis-

**sion,** 7 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

Wednesday, Dec. 6

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

**Gearhart City Council,** 7 p.m., City Hall, 698 Pacific Way.

Thursday, Dec. 7

Seaside Parks Advisory Committee, 7 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

Monday, Dec. 11

**Seaside City Council,** 7 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

Tuesday, Dec. 12

Seaside School District Board of Directors, 6 p.m., 1801 S. Franklin, Seaside.

Thursday, Dec. 14
Seaside Convention Center

**Commission,** 5 p.m., 415 First Ave.

**Gearhart Planning Commission,** 6 p.m., City Hall, 698 Pacific Way.

Tuesday, Dec. 19

**Seaside Planning Commission,** work session, 7 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

Wednesday, Dec. 20

Seaside Tourism Advisory Committee, 3 p.m., 989 Broadway.

Tuesday, Jan. 2

**Community and Senior Center Commission,** 10:30 a.m., 1225 Avenue A., Seaside.

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

**Seaside Planning Commission,** 7 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.





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