

Signal joins AAUW in candidate forum

At a time with civilized discourse (or is that an oxymoron?) is hard to come by, we welcome the opportunity to both meet the candidates and share their thoughts on issues to the community. In Seaside, John “Chappy” Chapman is challenging Mayor Jay Barber for the city’s top spot. Three council seats are headed to the voters, with Tita Montero, Dana Phillips and Steve Wright running unopposed.

While a one-candidate election is a red flag to voter apathy, it can also be a signal that constituents are comfortable and supportive of the actions their representatives have taken.

However, even in noncompetitive races it is important for candidates to provide an audience with their measure of the community, their priorities and their plans for the future.

Already incumbents and challengers alike in Seaside and Gearhart have voiced their concerns for traffic safety, workforce housing and emergency management.

The Signal is honored to be teaming with American Association of University Women this year to present a candidate’s forum at Seaside City Hall on Wednesday, Sept. 19, at Seaside City Hall.

College connection

It makes sense for the Signal to link up with AAUW, a national organization which works to empower women and girls.

Their work is evident in the WINGS conference, a free, annual event since 2001 organized by the Seaside and Astoria chapters of the AAUW, helping women continue their education.

“How many students are working full time?” asked journalist Lisa Nadworny on a recent segment on NPR’s Morning Edition. “Today’s college students aren’t who you think they are.”

Nearly half of all college students attend community colleges; among those at four-year schools, nearly a quarter attend part time and about the same share are 25 or older.

How many need support services? Advisers? Financial aid officers? Child care, parking or commuter options?

“Maybe we need a new definition of nontraditional, considering those qualities are the new normal,” Nadworny suggests.

Locally, that’s where groups like AAUW fill the gap in bringing educational options to those might not have the opportunity. Seaside AAUW has existed as an independent branch since 1943 and today has 50 members. Membership is open to all women and men with at least an associate degree from an accredited college or university or as a community affiliate supporting the organization’s mission.

The group’s scholarship foundation provides thousands of dollars locally for scholarships each year for women returning to school or as the first in her family to attend college.

The WINGS program provides a

SEEN FROM SEASIDE

R.J. MARX

day worth of workshops on anything from math anxiety to financial aid, along with the inspiration from other women who have overcome challenges to achieve their dreams.

The lives of women are permanently enriched by higher education and the support of mentors.

On the ballot

Enter the November election. In Gearhart, a newcomer, Jack Zimmerman, is looking to unseat incumbent Kerry Smith, who was elected to City Council Position 1 in 2014. Paulina Cockrum, who was appointed by Mayor Dianne Widdop to fill the unexpired term of City Councilor John Duncan after Duncan died in 2015, is running unopposed for Position 3.

In Seaside, Mayor Jay Barber faces a challenge from John Chapman, owner of the radio station KSWB Radio Clatsop. Councilors Tita Montero, Dana Phillips and Steve Wright will face the forum audience to invite questions and comments.

The region’s marquee race will bring the two candidates for House District 32, the seat vacated by the retirement of Deborah Boone.

Tiffany Mitchell handily won a competitive primary against challengers John Orr of Astoria and Tim Josi, a Tillamook County commissioner and former state representative. Her message of “fighting to resist” the agenda of Donald Trump resonated with primary voters.

Mitchell continues to campaign throughout the region, including an appearance in Seaside joining North Coast Indivisible in opposing Russian interference in U.S. elections.

Republican Vineeta Lower, a Seaside resident, moved to the Northwest from Delhi, India, where she was born, and grew up in Olympia, Washington. Lower moved to Seaside after accepting a long-term position at Warrenton Grade School teaching eighth-grade language arts.

“We bring in so much revenue for the state, between timber, dairy, tourism industry, and our infrastructure doesn’t support that,” Lower said.

A former employee at the Washington Department of Transportation, Lower said the fatality rates on Highway 30 and Highway 26 are “horrendous.”

Brian Halvorsen, a Rockaway Beach resident, is running as an independent candidate for state House District 32, representing all of Clatsop County, most of Tillamook County and a western portion of Washington County.

Halvorsen told the Astorian he believes the two-party system is broken and neither the Democratic or Republican parties represent the will of the voters. Instead the two major parties are sold to the highest campaign donors. “As an Independent, I won’t be bought by special



MAYOR OF SEASIDE



John Chapman



Jay Barber

VS.

SEASIDE CITY COUNCIL



Tita Montero



Dana Phillips



Steve Wright

GEARHART CITY COUNCIL

Position 1



Jack Zimmerman

VS.



Kerry Smith

Position 3



Paulina Cockrum

Candidate forum in Seaside

Seaside Signal

The Seaside Signal and the Daily Astorian team with American Association of University Women this year to present a Seaside and Gearhart candidate’s forum at Seaside City Hall on Wednesday, Sept. 19, 7 p.m., at Seaside City Hall.

House candidates Tiffany Mitchell, Vineeta Lower and Brian Halvorsen will participate or send a representative.

Candidates participating include

Seaside Mayor Jay Barber and challenger John Chapman; and Seaside city councilors Steve Wright, Tita Montero and Dana Phillips, who are each running unopposed.

In Gearhart, incumbent Kerry Smith will be challenged by Jack Zimmerman for the Position 1 seat. Position 3 office-holder Paulina Cockrum is running unopposed.



interests,” Halvorsen said.

“I think our elected officials should be more responsive to the public,” he added.

To educate, inform and lead is a key goal of the Signal. Our public

officials are our connection to good government.

In a world where our voices in public discourse are more and more diluted, the forum provides an opportunity to participate in our

democratic process.

It’s not just promises we’re looking for from our politicians: It’s reflective answers, persuasive logic and a vision for the future. Let’s help them shape it.

Eve’s travel tips for out-of-town visitors

My childhood friend Claudia was just in town for a visit. We met when we were both in kindergarten. We’re still close in many ways and I went to her wedding, but we hadn’t seen each other in decades. The last time I saw her was 2008 in New York City. Both she and her husband recently retired. Claudia made some bucket list thing for herself to walk on as many beaches as possible, which drew her visit Seaside, Cannon Beach and Gearhart.

I have to say I didn’t really see that much of them during their five day visit. In fairness, I was working a lot of the time. Before they flew out from Philadelphia where they’re presently living, on Facebook Message I sent her links to things I thought they might like to do, like hike Oswald West State Park in Arch Cape. It was clear from our earlier communications that the things I normally do on vacation, i.e. drink coffee, browse bookstores, drink, wasn’t what they like to do, which is to stay active.

After landing at PDX, Claudia and her husband checked into the Ashore after a thrilling drive over the mountain in a rental car. I’d warned of the logging trucks and the elevation. Just before dusk their first night, we traipsed over to The Cove. By the time they left the ‘hood it was after 8 p.m. on a Monday night and I was concerned where they might find some dinner.

VIEW FROM THE PORCH

EVE MARX



The next day they hit Haystack Rock early to catch the low tide. After that, they drove to Manzanita, and after that, hiked Oswald. After that, they had a post hike walk on Arcadia Beach before locating a cozy place to have a beer. I recommended Pelican, Public Coast, Seaside Brewing, Bill’s. I knew they’d be going to Astoria soon and I had beer recommendations there for them as well.

Although I recommended dinners at Pacific Way Cafe and Maggies on the Prom, they didn’t seem inclined to go for anything fancy, so I recommended the U Street Pub. It turned out they liked the U Street Pub so much they ate there twice, relishing the shrimp po’ boy sandwich and the mussels in spicy broth. They told me they had a terrific breakfast one morning at The Osprey Café. One day they went to Astoria where they hit Coffee Girl and toured the museum area where Bumble Bee tuna once ruled. They recorded the sound of sea lions on their phone to play back for their grandson who they FaceTimed with every day. They drove over the bridge into Washington to visit Cape Disap-

pointment. After that they returned to Astoria for a nice dinner at Clemente’s.

The morning before they left down on their way to California, their next destination, we walked on Gearhart beach. We entered the dunes at Pacific Way and first walked south to the estuary and then north to 10th Street. It was a gorgeous day. It was like an advertisement for Pacific Northwest living.

Their last night, they came over and ran a load of wash. I was happy to be able to do it for them because I hate dragging dirty clothes around. They planned a final hike on Tillamook Head and the beach at Hug Point. I was still texting them suggestions what to do and where to eat while they killed time before their flight from Portland to Santa Rosa.

“Can you check your washer and dryer for a sock?” Claudia texted from their room at the airport. There’s always something that gets left behind, I’ve learned. When our friend Carolyn visited in July, she left behind a sock and some bikini underwear. Claudia texted her address in Philadelphia, and the next day, one lonely hiking sock stuffed in an envelope, I went to the post office and mailed it.

“Thanks for sharing so many tips where to go and what to do and where to eat and drink,” Claudia wrote me. “It was really helpful.”

“Just call me your very own personal Trip Advisor,” I texted back. As has been true for so much of my life, I always know the best places.

MEETINGS

SATURDAY, Sept. 15

Seaside Airport Advisory Committee, 10 a.m., Seaside Airport.

Town Hall, 1 to 2 p.m., with Congresswoman Susan Bonamici, Seaside Heights Elementary School, 2000 Spruce Drive, Seaside.

TUESDAY, Sept. 18

Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District, Bob Chisholm Community Center, 5:15 p.m., 1225 Avenue A.,

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

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

WEDNESDAY, Sept. 19

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

Gearhart and Seaside Candidate Forum, presented by AAUW and Seaside Signal, 7 p.m., 989 Broadway.

THURSDAY, Sept. 20

Seaside Tree Board, 4 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.



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