

Nebeker faces Toyooka in county commission race

By NICOLE BALES
The Astorian

There will be another contested race for Clatsop County commissioner in May.

Commissioner Sarah Nebeker will face John Toyooka, of Lum’s Auto Center, for the seat representing District 2, which covers Gearhart, Clatsop Plains and portions of Seaside and Warrenton.

Nebeker was elected in 2012 and reelected in 2016. She served as chairwoman of the Board of Commissioners last year and was chosen vice chairwoman this year.

“I have been doing some form of civic work since I was 16,” Nebeker said in an email. “I hope the voters of District 2 return me for another four years.”

Nebeker, who was married to the late painter, Royal Nebeker, is especially passionate about the arts. She started the Arts Council of Clatsop County, which supports, promotes and advocates for arts and culture.

“We need to grow the arts economic sector, which is a clean segment of our economy that benefits our communities, brings people together and increases the quality of life for all ages,” she said.

Nebeker said she is proud of her work as commissioner, including approving strong, fiscally sound budgets. She is also proud that Clatsop Behavioral Healthcare, the county’s mental health contractor, has been structured to improve patient care. She also helped estab-



Sarah Nebeker John Toyooka

lish the county’s household hazardous waste facility and restore the publication of voters’ pamphlets for all elections.

Nebeker wants to continue working on justice and mental health issues if reelected.

Prior to serving on the board, she spent 25 years on the Planning Commission and helped complete two comprehensive plan updates. She said she also helped prevent the development of beach dunes.

She served as chairwoman on the board of the Gearhart Homeowners Association and increased awareness about emergency preparation. She also formed volunteer groups to manage noxious weeds in her community.

Nebeker attended Clatsop Community College, Linfield College and Portland State University and studied fine arts, social sciences and small business management.

Toyooka serves on the board of the Clatsop Community College Foundation, where he hopes to expand opportunities for people to learn trades like plumbing, electrical work and construction. He also spent nine years serving on the board of Providence Seaside Hospital.

Toyooka said there is not one thing that made him

decide to run for the county commission, but he said he hopes to offer a different approach and viewpoint on policy.

Although he was raised in Portland, Toyooka spent weekends and summers in the county with his grandparents. His grandfather was the county roadmaster.

After graduating high school, he attended the U.S. Naval Academy and then served in the U.S. Marine Corps until 1996. After serving in the military, he moved to the county and met his future wife, Lori Lum. He eventually started working at the Lum’s family business, where his wife is the president and general manager.

“I’m not a politician, I don’t have any political aspirations or goal. I’m only taking this action because I truly love Clatsop County,” Toyooka said. “If there’s anything I can do to help this county for generations to come, that’s what I want to do.”

He said he wants to focus on overall economic development to help businesses grow and flourish and provide the tax base to fund county programs.

“In our area — forestry, farming, fishing, small business — we’re all interconnected. If something happens to one industry, it affects everybody,” he said.

He believes it is important to listen to constituents and represent them accordingly. He pointed to the cap-and-trade bill that has been debated in Salem.

“You can tell that our community is very much against it,” he said. “And

(on) the county commission we have two people (Commissioner Mark Kujala and Commissioner Lianne Thompson) have spoken out, finally, against it, but the other three haven’t ... If you actually look at the pulse of the county and community you serve, by and large, they’re opposed to cap and trade.”

“I just feel that we should have a better representation of what the people of the county wish,” he said.

Nebeker said she has received just as much correspondence in support of the bill as against.

“I think there’s a lot of fear and that’s never good,” she said. “We have to come together and figure this out, not pit one group against another.”

She said she doesn’t know if the bill is the right solution, but said action like cap and trade needs to be taken everywhere to mitigate climate change.

“I always believe there are solutions to problems — whether it’s technology or ideas — but only when people can work together,” Nebeker said. “When they don’t work together ... when people get polarized you cannot get those problems resolved. You have to work together. Both sides have ideas and ways.”

In District 4, which covers eastern Astoria to Westport, Commissioner Kathleen Sullivan is running in her first reelection campaign. Her challenger is Courtney Bangs, a Knappa teacher who opposes cap and trade and has made the legislation an issue in the race.

Seaside man is sentenced to prison for child sex abuse

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ued until she was 14 years old.

A Seaside man was sentenced March 17 to more than six years in prison for child sex abuse.

Joshua Blaze Best, 32, pleaded guilty to sexual abuse in the first degree. His charges and sentence were reduced because of his guilty plea.

Senior Deputy District Attorney Dawn Buzzard, who prosecuted the case, said Best began sexually abusing the victim when she was about 6 years old and that the abuse contin-

“What you did, and what you pled to, will have lifelong affects on your (victim). It is one of the most significant violations of a position of trust and relationship that can happen,” Judge Dawn McIntosh said prior to sentencing.

Best is serving a 10-year sentence in

Wasco County for sodomy in the first degree and sex abuse in the first degree. His new sentence will be served concurrently. Both cases involve the same victim.



Joshua Blaze Best

MEMORIAL

March 9, 2020

REINIKKA, Allen L., 74, of Bellingham, Washington, formerly of Astoria and Seaside, died in Bellingham. Gilies Funeral Home and Cremation Service in Lyndon, Washington, is in charge of the arrangements.

OBITUARY POLICY

The Seaside Signal publishes paid obituaries. The obituary can include a small photo and, for veterans, a flag symbol at no charge. The deadline for all obituaries is 9 a.m. the business day prior. Obituaries may be edited for spelling, proper punctuation and style. Death notices and upcoming services will be published at no charge. Notices must be submitted by 9 a.m. the day of publication. Obituaries and notices may be submitted online at www.dailyastorian.com/forms/obits, by email at ewilson@dailyastorian.com, placed via the funeral home or in person at The Daily Astorian office, 949 Exchange St. in Astoria. For more information, call 503-325-3211, ext. 257.

PUBLIC SAFETY LOGS



March 12

1:23 a.m., 1700 block 12th Avenue: A person is arrested on a warrant.

2:29 a.m., 1000 block S. Holladay: A person is arrested on a warrant.

7:10 a.m., 2100 block S. Franklin: Coyotes reported in the neighborhood. Officers are unable to locate coyotes.

10:12 a.m., 2300 block S. Downing: Caller reports female diving in a neighbor’s trash can. Officer contacts the woman who denies the behavior but says she understands the law and will be moving on.

March 13

1:03 p.m., 400 block N. Prom: Caller reports two people coming and going from a box truck wearing hazmat suits; police advise caller of the giant writing on the side of the truck that says “Installation Spray Foam,” which is why the workers are wearing protective gear. No further action taken.

March 14

5:24 p.m., Avenue C and Roosevelt: An assault is reported.

March 15

9:52 a.m., Avenue A and Holladay: While assisting on a medical call, police find the aided has an outstanding warrant. They were arrested.

11:13 a.m., 400 block S. Holladay: Responding to a call for a welfare check for a person standing outside a local business, the subject told police they were waiting for someone to bring them food who did not show up. The officer bought the subject a sandwich.

March 16

8:17 a.m., Avenue K and the Beach: Police make contact with a subject who dug himself a sandpit to sleep in. Subject cited for unlawful lodging.

11:19 p.m., 1400 block S. Columbia: Caller reports subject in condemned house. Police searched the residence with negative results and the building was re-secured.

March 17

1:31 p.m., Police headquarters: Caller requests welfare check on a car full of children and garbage. Owner took children out of car prior to police arrival.

3:19 p.m., Avenue Q: Caller requests welfare check on occupants of vehicle at the old car wash. Occupants say they ran out of gas and will be moving along.

March 18

12:14 p.m., Police headquarters: A person came in to register as a sex offender.

2:12 p.m., Beach and Avenue S: Police locate unoccupied camp. Public Works is alerted to remove tents. A note was left for the campers.



March 19

11:52 a.m., 2900 block Keepsake Drive: Fraud is reported.

March 12

5:43 a.m., 900 block 14th Avenue: Emergency medical response.

11:54 p.m., 1900 block N. Holladay: Fire alarm.

March 13

3:32 p.m., 800 block Broadway: Emergency medical response.

6:46 p.m., 300 block Broadway: Emergency medical response.

March 14

3:47 p.m., 500 block Broadway: Emergency medical response.

12:10 p.m., 1900 block S. Roosevelt: Fire investigation.

7:24 p.m., 84000 block Frontage Road: Emergency medical response.

March 16

12:58 p.m., 85000 Highway 101: Emergency medical response.

2:35 p.m., 300 block 18th Avenue: Emergency medical response.

March 17

7:08 a.m., Thompson Falls: Grass fire reported.

3:11 p.m., 400 block Avenue A: Emergency medical response.

March 18

12:27 p.m., 400 block Tenth Avenue: Fire investigation.

March 19

6:01 p.m., Pig ‘n Pancake: Emergency medical response.



Multiple violations

An 82-year-old Warrenton man on March 17 at 10:41 a.m., on Highway 101 and West Lake Lane was stopped for failure to stay in his lane. Investigation showed his license suspended and he has no insurance. He was

cited for multiple traffic violations and his vehicle towed by Gary’s Tow and impounded.

Three-car accident

A three-car collision occurred on March 20 at 2:52 p.m., on Highway 101 on Sunset Highway, milepost 26 in Cannon Beach. All three vehicles were moving downhill, northbound when the first driver made a hasty de-

cision to make a left turn into a logging area, the drivers behind her brake hard. The third vehicle bumped the second, which then bumped the first. No injuries were reported, and damage was minimal. All three cars were able to leave the scene. The three drivers were a 43-year-old woman from Portland; a 56-year-old woman from Gearhart; and a 22-year old from Portland.

Reckless driving

Jacob Easton Vasas, 19 from Keizer, was charged with reckless driving on March 20 at 6:58 p.m., on Highway 26 near MP 10. Troopers clocked him doing 105 mph. He was driving a tan Toyota.

Ongoing dispute

Troopers went to Nordmark Drive in Seaside on March 21

to assist county deputies with a verbal disturbance over land rights and illegal parking. The involved parties subjects were interviewed and instructed to move their illegally parked motor home. One subject was trespassed. This is an on-going dispute. The involved parties include a 37-year-old man from Seaside; a 61-year-old man from Seaside; and a 42-year-old woman from North Plains.

Caring for our community

Providence Seaside Hospital is committed to protecting your health and safety. To help reduce the impact of the COVID-19 coronavirus outbreak, here are some of the plans we’ve launched to care for our communities:

- We are following federal, state and local guidelines for personal protective equipment, visitor regulations and safe patient admission, and the transport and treatment of patients who have contracted the virus.
- We are committed to protecting our patients’ privacy and will not acknowledge when we are treating people with COVID-19.

If you think you may have been exposed to the virus, we urge you to call your health care provider or connect to a health care expert through a respected app. Providence Express Care Virtual provides affordable visits with nurse practitioners who can screen, assess, prescribe, and provide recommendations and follow up, all via smartphone, computer or tablet.

Most people who contract this strain of coronavirus will only experience mild symptoms. However, people who are elderly or are chronically ill, or who have compromised immune systems or other health issues should seek medical help if they meet the criteria for COVID-19 exposure.

As a community, we must all take precautions to lessen the spread of the virus. It is extremely important for you to:

- Wash your hands thoroughly and often
- Cover your coughs and sneezes, using the crook of your arm and not your hands
- Avoid touching your face, especially your eyes, nose and mouth
- Avoid crowds
- Avoid shaking hands

Here are resources for up-to-the-minute information about the COVID-19 coronavirus:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: cdc.gov
- Oregon Health Authority: healthoregon.org/coronavirus or call 211
- Providence: Providence.org/oregon
- Express Care: Virtual.Providence.org

Providence.org/northcoast

