

Ballots mailed for school board, regular district elections

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

Ballots will arrive this week for local elections, including the races for Seaside School District board of directors. Brian Taylor, Brian Owen, A.J. Wahl and Michelle Wunderlich are running unopposed in Cannon Beach, Seaside, Gearhart and at-large positions.

Wahl, a Gearhart resident, is candidate for Zone 3 Position 1 seat, vacant after Lori Lum Toyooka announced she would not seek a second term. Wahl



Brian Taylor



Brian Owen



A.J. Wahl



Michelle Wunderlich

is an attorney and mediator for Wahl LLC.

Taylor, the board vice president, has represented Cannon Beach's Zone 2 Position 2 seat since 2013. He is co-owner of Bruce's Candy Kitchen in Cannon

Beach.

Owen, a Seaside resident and chief executive officer for the Seaside Chamber of Commerce, is seeking the Zone 6 Position 2 seat. Owen was named to the board after

Hugh Stelson announced his retirement in October.

Wunderlich, owner of the Seaside Coffee House, represents the at-large Zone 7 Position 1 board seat. She won election to the board in 2017.

Board president Mark Truax, who represents Zone 4 Position 2 in Gearhart, and board members Sondra Gomez and Shannon Swedenborg will be up for reelection in 2023. Swedenborg represents Cannon Beach's Zone 1 Position 1 and Gomez Seaside's Zone 5 Position 1.

Park and Recreation District

Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District Board of Directors race has five competitive races for board positions.

Board president Katha-

rine Parker who represents Position 5, is challenged by Stephen Morrison.

Su Coddington, who represents Position 1, has lived in Seaside for 24 years.

She is challenged by Al Hernandez, also on the ballot for the Position 1 seat.

Bodner faces retired John Huismann for Position 2.

Board vice president and secretary Michael Hinton, who holds Position 3, faces Patrick Duhackek.

Position 4 candidate Erika Marshall Hamer is running against Jackie Evans.

Guidelines: Full-contact indoor sports are allowed this spring

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impact year-end assessments for students in third through eighth grades and 11th grade.

Last year, the Smarter Balanced statewide assessment was waived because of COVID. The state Department of Education requested another waiver

for this school year, but it was denied.

This year the department plans to shorten the tests to 60 to 80 minutes and reduce the number of tests students need to take. Third through fifth grade students will take one assessment instead of two, and students in seventh, eighth and 11th grade will take

two assessments instead of three.

Opt-out and parent-requested exemption processes still apply, and parents may also choose to have their elementary-aged students take both assessments.

The Clatsop County COVID Vaccine Task Force is holding biweekly listen-

ing sessions for the public in response to an increasing number of questions regarding vaccinations for teenaged students. The first listening sessions were held April 21 and 22, with more to be planned in the coming weeks. The sessions, which take place virtually via Facebook and Instagram, provide an opportunity for

public health professionals to answer questions and gather feedback from parents, Penrod said.

Updates can be found on the Clatsop County Public Health Department Facebook page and website.

The Oregon School Activities Association changed their metrics to allow for full-contact

indoor sports. According to Roberts, that means there will be seasons for the high school's basketball and wrestling teams this spring. He implored the community to follow spectator guidelines, such as mask-wearing, "in order for these opportunities to continue to present for our students."

School budget: Revenue stream looks positive

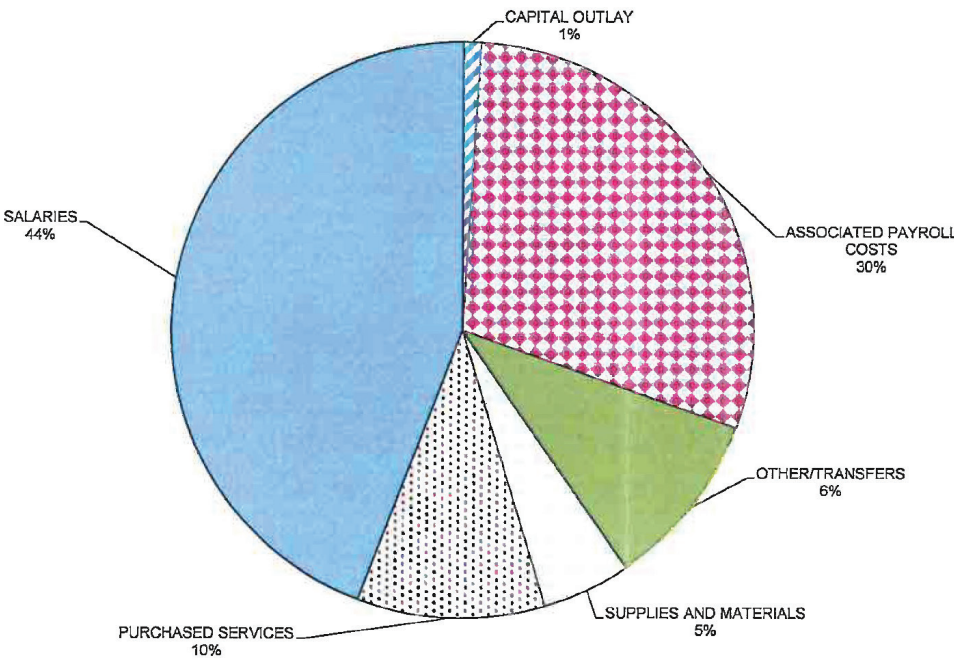
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ful outlook, she said, with strong revenue collections, positive market assets and asset market continuing to gain value and corporate income tax holding steady. These are all positive indicators for the district's local revenue stream.

"There has also been unprecedented amount of federal stimulus pushed out into the economy, which has also really helped and stimulated spending," Hill said.

The budget committee will meet again on May 18 to approve the budget. A public hearing is scheduled for June 15, at which time the new fiscal year budget could be adopted by the board.

2021-2022 Expenditures by Object



Band director Dahlgren to put down baton after nearly two decades

By KATHERINE LACAZE
For Seaside Signal

The school board accepted the resignation of Terry Dahlgren, who has served as band director for Seaside middle and high schools for nearly two decades.

"Our district was extremely fortunate to have him for as long as we have," board president Mark Truax said.

Principal Jeff Roberts agreed, adding that rebuilding the program would "probably be a much easier task" than to find someone who can fill Dahlgren's shoes.

"I don't know that you

try to replace somebody like that," Roberts said. "You empower somebody and hope for the best, but it is a significant loss to this community."

The board reviewed new job descriptions for several key positions in the district, including business manager, food service supervisor, and summer school coordinator.

Justine Hill, who's been the district's business manager for several years, is leaving to serve as city treasurer and water clerk for Gearhart.

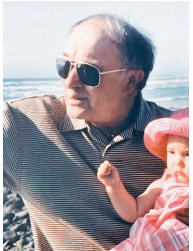
The district also may receive funds for a summer learning program, giving rise to the need for a new summer school coordinator, Superintendent Susan Penrod said.

OBITUARY

Walter G. "Spike" Weber Jr.

Chinook, Washington
July 2, 1939 — April 7, 2021

Walter G. "Spike" Weber Jr. passed from this world peacefully at home on April 7, at the age of 81. His wife, three children, brother and close friends were honored to be by his side, surrounding him with love the last week of his life.



Born in Yakima, Washington to Phyllis Jane and Walter G. Weber Sr. on July 2, 1939, Walt was raised in Kelso, Washington with his younger brother, John.

Many stories have been shared about the two Weber boys exploring the rivers, sloughs and fields of Cowlitz County. Those early childhood days fostered Walt's deep devotion to the outdoors.

Despite a birth injury to his hip that was undetected until walking age, and thanks to his devoted mother Phyllis — who went as far as "camping out" in the lobby of Seattle's Orthopedic Children's Hospital until only the best surgeon would see him— Walt overcame many surgeries and physical challenges to become a great athlete and avid outdoorsman.

After graduating from Kelso High School in 1957, Walt attended the University of Washington, graduating with an accounting degree in 1961.

It was at his graduation party at the UW where Walt met his "Sheri," his future wife.

Sharon Marie Wells immediately caught Walt's very discerning eye. He bravely walked up to her, introduced himself and politely offered her his beer. Sharon smiled at him, then politely asked him to get her a cold one. They married one year later.

Employed as a certified public accountant at Peat, Marwick & Mitchell in Portland in the early 1960s, Walt soon decided a desk job was not for him. With support from his loving wife, they moved to Corvallis so Walt could attend Oregon State University, where he achieved an additional degree in marine biology.

As they started their family, Walt began his dream job as a North Coast Fish and Game Biologist for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. The Webers then moved to Seaside, into a house steps from the ocean.

Walt immersed himself in his work, family and community. Ever the entertainer, he led his family on great outdoor adventures: salmon fishing, clam digging, crabbing, vacationing at the family's Hood

Canal cabin, father/son hunting trips, water-skiing excursions (wow, he was a patient teacher) and camping and road trips to interesting places.

A proud father, he was a big supporter of the Seaside Kids program, and coached his son's Little League teams. He rarely, if ever, missed his kids' extracurricular activities.

When Sheri began her running career in the late 1970s, Walt supportively rode his bike alongside her in his "Sheri's Coach" sweatshirt, and he often brought wildflowers to her from the forests he worked in.

In his community, Walt was the go-to guy when an abandoned seal pup, motherless fawn or other at-risk creature was discovered.

A generous teacher, he always had resources at the ready for anyone interested in learning about the wildlife habitats of the world. In fact, his kids recall him regularly reading the National Geographic to them as their bedtime story!

The Seaside School District honored Walt for his contributions to educational programs, which helped students better understand the Oregon coast's local resources and management.

As an early advocate of recycling, he taught his family the difference one person could make, however small, by doing their part.

As a lifelong learner, Walt had a plethora of interests outside of hunting and fishing. His endeavors included scuba diving, water/snow skiing, Toastmasters, fly-tying, master gardening, wine making, water color painting, cooking, wildlife art and excursions to Alaska and Eastern Oregon for fishing and hunting with his son and good friends.

Once the children were grown, Walt left his post on the Oregon coast in 1988. He and Sheri relocated to the high desert of Bend, where he took on a dual position with the Deschutes National Forest in partnership with ODFW.

As a satisfying coda to his career, he was promoted to district fish and game biologist, Northern Coast Region, which brought Walt and Sheri back to the beautiful coast, settling in the quaint town of Chinook, Washington, on the Long Beach Peninsula. He retired in 1997.

Walt's passionate commitment to and leadership in countless Northwest organizations

that work to protect and restore wildlife habitats will be dearly missed. His advocacy for the rights of area hunters and fishermen was tireless.

Walt co-founded the North Coast Chapter of Ducks Unlimited in the 1980s, was a founding member of Rainland Flycasters Club and, in retirement, was the major driving force in the continuance of ODFW's essential Salmonberry River winter steelhead spawning surveys.

Walt had the wisdom and foresight to continue the collection of this data, which was intrinsic in preserving the future health and spawning habitat of one of the last truly wild steelhead runs in a free-flowing river on the Northern Oregon Coast.

Other organizations that he tirelessly donated his time, energy and resources to include the Native Fish Society, Necanicum Watershed Council, Oregon Trout, American Fisheries Society and Trout Unlimited.

Walt's immense circle of friends speaks to the value he placed on relationships. Rarely did he miss a Kelso High School reunion. He treasured new friendships just as much as those that were steadfast and decades long. He never failed to

ask his kids about those dearest to them, as well.

Those closest to him will miss his crab cocktails, oysters on the half shell, and his smoked duck and salmon hors d'oeuvres. Those lucky enough will also remember sipping a bourbon with him now and again.

Walt is survived and missed by his wife, Sharon; his three children, Lance Weber, Lisa (Paddy) Ryan and Tammy (Dan) Elwess; seven grandchildren, Sharon (Richard) Bracey, Bradley Weber, Jane, Maggie and Patrick Ryan, Meredith (Samuel) Marksberry and Shane Elwess; great-granddaughters, Kendra and Kaylynn; brother John (Bev) Weber; and many much-loved cousins, nieces, nephews, in-laws and friends.

In his memory, please take a long hike in the wilderness and thank him for his contributions toward saving it for future generations.

If you would like to honor him, please feel free to do so by making a contribution in his name to the North Coast Chapter of Ducks Unlimited using this link: bit.ly/NCDucks. The money collected will go toward DU youth programs.

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