

To Mom, serving our communities for 45 years

Forty-five years. That's an awfully long time for anything. Longer than 16,000 days and more than 390,000 hours. Longer than Tom Brady's life and 270 times longer than his most recent retirement. Longer than this author has been alive.

On April 1, Joell England Archibald will be retiring from a 45-year career as a dedicated health care professional that served in numerous roles and communities.

Joell is my mom, and not just any mom, but the type of mom



Lynn and Joell Archibald. Joell will be retiring from the Oregon Health Authority where she has worked the last nine years as an innovator agent.



SKY BOX
SKYLER ARCHIBALD

that mastered all the responsibilities of raising six kids while being a working professional with many job requirements and daily challenges.

Joell will be retiring from the Oregon Health Authority where she has worked the last nine years as an innovator agent. Her role was dynamic, involving communities across the northwest portion of the state and, as you can imagine, looks significantly different after the last two years of dealing with COVID.

There were days where she would have meetings in Yamhill, Tillamook and Clatsop Counties and this was before the shifting of

things to an online setting. Joell has developed in-depth relationships with those communities she served and gone to great lengths to elevate the public health voice and initiatives needed to improve the lives of those communities.

But the last decade only begins to tell the story of a lifetime of service in a healthcare setting. Joell

worked in Lincoln, Clatsop and Wahkiakum (across the river) Counties as the Director of Health and Human Services and prior to that, in public health positions for Clatsop County and Columbia Memorial Hospital.

Before our family moved here, we lived in Puyallup, Washington, and some of my memories from

that part of life were accompanying mom during the fulfillment of her career; she owned and operated a small business start up called "The Warming Touch" focused on providing in-home perinatal nursing services, specifically to babies suffering from jaundice shortly after birth.

How comforting it was years later when one of my own children was born with jaundice to have the expertise of Joell to guide us through that process.

Even before that, Joell served our country and bettered her career through enrollment as an active-duty US Army Nurse and a reserve officer. Shortly after she married my father (who retired in 2021), they were shipped around the country from Washington, D.C., to San Antonio and finishing up at Fort Lewis in Washington state.

Somehow during that time, she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing and a Master of Business Administration degree, with the timing coinciding with what was surely the most challenging part of her professional career and personal life, six children born in the span of 10 years including a set of twins and an ornery and picky eating fourth child (this author).

Your presumption that her 45-year career has been one defined by movement, direction and purpose would be precisely accurate.

However impressive as that

professional resume is, it's impossible, for me at least to note any of her career accomplishments before her impact on me as my mother.

Mom never missed anything that was significant to me: athletic contests, choir concerts, plays, speeches. And that goes for my siblings too. She also never missed opportunities to ensure that I was on the right path and believe me, I gave plenty of opportunities for corrective feedback.

Somehow, we ate dinner together as a family every night it seemed. The clothes and house were always clean, lunch was made or provided and I was always where I needed to be after school, thanks to her and the juggling of an average of 14 trips daily to and from various gyms, fields and schools.

She continues to be a presence in my life and in the life of her 16 grandchildren.

It sounds hyperbolic and cliché to say, but she was (and still is) a superwoman!

April 1 may mark the end of her professional career but I anticipate that her next endeavors will continue to be themed by a clear motive and purpose.

Her impact stretches far beyond my family as I know she'll be missed in those communities that she served. I'm hopeful that she'll find as much value in her future endeavors — volunteerism, service, grandma duties and just relaxing — as she did in her professional career.

Now is the time to come together

There is widespread agreement among Gearhart residents that we need a new fire station. We may not see eye-to-eye regarding the station cost and location. \$14.5 million seems like a big number, and if I had to foot the entire bill myself, I couldn't.

Fortunately, we live in a community where citizens band together to accomplish things that

construction costs and bond interest rates have gone up. The city is now quoting a range of \$1.15 to \$1.21 per \$1,000 of assessed value for the new bond.

Why is there now a range and not a single bond rate? Because our bond advisor provided an alternative bond structure which would ease the impact of the tax increase by evening out the tax payments.

This would be achieved by having a smaller initial tax increase for the fire/police station bond during the first three years (while the water bond No. 1 is still in effect) and then increasing the rate to \$1.21 in year 4, not in year 1. This scenario would also result in a slightly smaller tax reduction after both water bonds are paid off. (A more complete description and a spreadsheet tax calculator are available on the city's website.)

The focus on the total construction cost distracts us from how the bond will affect us as individual homeowners and taxpayers. It also confuses cost with value. For example, based on my home's assessed value and depending on which bond scenario the city chooses, my annual taxes will go up by about \$250 or \$350 (less than a dollar a day) for the first three years, then they will go down. The city understands that any tax increase can be difficult for some and is already exploring the possibility of a tax assistance program for low/moderate income households.

I am confident the majority of Gearhart residents appreciate the dedication of our heroic first responders and their families. We cannot afford any further delays in providing them with a modern and safe fire/police station. The longer we delay, the more it is going to cost all of us.

Please join with me in voting "yes" on Measure 4-213 by May 17.

Spend tax dollars wisely; vote no

Taxpayers, registered to vote in Clatsop County, have a unique opportunity to encourage its leadership to prioritize community needs and vote no for Measure 4-213.

Currently Gearhart City Council seems to lack vision for what local government could provide all its citizens.

GUEST COLUMN

JOY SIGLER



Someone said, "Without vision, the people perish." Perhaps a city that continually outsources so many amenities that our elderly and young population presently need could use some vision?

Gearhart has an aging population that must travel to Seaside for most services. While caring for a family member January 2017 to November 2019 we gratefully utilized services provided at Seaside's Bob Chisholm Community Center.

Meals on Wheels offered nutritious and socially valuable meals times and skilled fitness instructors provided an array of classes designed for multigenerational ages to increase and maintain fitness.

While these services were free or by donation, there are many other classes and facilities that demand a fee, higher for residents outside the recreation district. Presently Gearhart boasts of no community hall or gathering place, fitness center or library. Gearhart has chosen multiple times to opt out of participating in the Sunset Park and Recreation district.

While the Gearhart tax base assets are enviable to many other cities, donations were required to finish a trail on the famed Ridge Path and donations again were required to create a play structure at the Trail's End Gallery location, previously the location of Gearhart's first grade school. At this writing that play structure has yet to materialize.

It is troublesome that this city council voted to limit all bicycle use on its Ridge Path, reducing overall recreation use, while simultaneously demanding its taxpayers to fund, at the tune of \$14.5 million, a fitness center, showers, locker rooms for men and woman, commercial kitchen, and gathering space to be used exclusively 24/7 for 29 individuals, three of whom live in north Seaside and 10 live in the rural fire district.

Would these first responders object to sharing those very valuable assets with the taxpayers who are funding them and currently have zero amenities of their own? I choose to believe they would not mind sharing and would applaud seeing a multi-use community space in central Gearhart for gatherings and recreation where we could create some sort of commonality.

Can Gearhart ever be known for kindness rather than our very fractured reputation? Voting No is not a vote against our firemen but a plea to spend our tax dollars wisely and with consideration.

Voting no will alert this council and city manager that they are squandering an excellent opportunity to be a self-sufficient city. They must do better for its citizens and we must be deliberate in educating them to have a vision that creates community for both sides of the highway while enabling the Gearhart Volunteer Fire Department to perform efficiently. Be an educator and please vote no.

GUEST COLUMN

BRENT WARREN



benefit all of us and would be impossible on our own. When \$14.5 million is shared among all property owners and the debt is amortized over 20 years, the number becomes much more manageable.

Many in our community are dedicated to providing our firefighters and police the facility they need now and into the future. Some opposed to these efforts have said, "The city will add an additional \$1.213 per assessed \$1,000 of your home's assessed market value..." and "The property tax rate per \$1,000 of home valuation has moved from \$1.05 to a new upward range of \$1.15 to \$2.28. Wow!"

The Clatsop County tax assessor determines "real market value" and then applies a percentage to calculate an "assessed value."

Assessed value is the actual number used for calculating property taxes. Last year, the city was quoting \$1.05 per \$1,000 for the fire/police station bond.

Due to the unsuccessful legal challenge to the bond title language last fall (when interest rates were at an all-time low) the process was delayed by seven months. The city did the responsible thing and asked our construction consulting firm and bond advisor to provide updated figures. Not surprisingly, both



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Vote yes to support Gearhart firefighters

I am writing to ask my fellow Gearhart community members to vote yes on Measure 4-213. The measure does ask a lot from us. But in my opinion funding a new fire and police station that replaces the present inadequate one that is in an inundation zone gives back to the livability and safety of our community more than it asks of us in funding.

A new building is expensive but putting it off will cost more. The return on our investment is money well spent for our community's present and future. I am thankful our city leaders are being proactive so as not to have to be scrambling to provide unprepared for emergency disaster services.

"Keep Gearhart, Gearhart" is a phrase often heard in our community. While it means different things to different people, I hope you will vote yes on Measure 4-213 to provide our wonderful, selfless, and hard-working safety officers and volunteers the

space and equipment they deservedly need to provide for the everyday lifesaving services Gearhart needs to be Gearhart.

Chris Bell
Gearhart

Are county commissioners working for you?

The Clatsop County Board of Commissioners proposes to revamp the county's land use code to bury their violations of issuing permits for short-term rentals, commercial enterprises, in neighborhoods where STRs are not a permitted use. This sweeping change affects all residential zones in unincorporated Clatsop County, granting the county authority to issue unlimited STR permits in any residential area, whether or not the neighborhood can accommodate the ensuing infrastructural strains.

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PUBLIC MEETINGS

WEDNESDAY, April 6

Seaside Improvement Commission, 6 p.m., 989 Broadway.

Gearhart City Council, 7 p.m., www.cityofgearhart.com.

THURSDAY, April 7

Seaside Parks Advisory Committee, 6 p.m., 989 Broadway.

MONDAY, April 11

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

THURSDAY, April 14

Seaside Convention Center Commission, 5 p.m., 415 First Ave., Seaside.

TUESDAY, April 19

Community Emergency Response Team, 5 p.m., 989 Broadway.

Seaside Planning Commission, work session, 6 p.m., 989 Broadway.

Seaside School District, 6 p.m., https://www.seaside.k12.or.us/

Contact local agencies for latest meeting information and attendance guidelines.

MONDAY, March 28

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

TUESDAY, March 29

Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District Board of Directors, workshop, 4:30 p.m.; regular meeting, 5:15 p.m., 1225 Ave. A.

Gearhart City Council work session, 6 p.m., www.cityofgearhart.com.

MONDAY, April 4

Seaside Housing Task Force, 6 p.m., 989 Broadway.

TUESDAY, April 5

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

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

Seaside Planning Commission, 6 p.m., 989 Broadway.



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