

**ELECTION LETTERS**

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was coordinator for Monroe County Emergency Management for 22 years. My entire 42-year professional experience has been in law enforcement and emergency management. My first-hand experience confirms a resilient facility with functional communication systems and other critical equipment are absolutely essential in any emergency. It does not matter if the emergency is fire, airplane crash, hurricane, earthquake, terrorism, war, tsunami or pandemic. Without the right tools and equipment, even the most dedicated first responder will be unable to do his or her job.

Gearhart is going to spend millions on a new facility, shouldn't it be in the safest location possible?

We understand the desire to continue the tradition of a Fourth of July parade and hot dogs downtown, but neither of those require a police/fire station downtown.

I hear a few people saying the federal government and military will come and save us when disaster strikes. Yes, they will come, but not immediately. The military will likely have other primary missions and may only turn their attention to Gearhart after that mission is completed. Our community needs to be prepared to function for weeks on its own and be able to communicate with the outside world. Without the right facility and equipment, this can't happen.

Support the necessary infrastructure to keep the citizens and first responders of Gearhart safe. Vote yes on Measure 4-213.

**Scott Callahan  
Gearhart**

**Energy follows intent**

Early Clatsop native people created the Ridge Path in Gearhart. Marshall Kinney, who platted the town, incorporated it into the town plan in 1890 for future generations to enjoy. This brings me to reflect on the future of our new fire station. We are about to vote on something that is more important than first meets the eye. We are attempting to create a safety net to protect and help future generations, not only for the town of Gearhart, but also for the surrounding area.

I find such hope and reassurance in the positive energy and dedication that the Firehouse Committee and City Council have shown to make this a reality. It has been at least 16 years in the planning. Now that we've reached a critical juncture in this process, let's not forget that there is a lot of power in positive energy coupled with intent. Thank you.

**Diane Speakman  
Gearhart**

**Support our first responders, vote 'yes'**

Most people are familiar with borrowing money to buy a car or home. Before shopping, many of us go to a bank to get "pre-approved" to find out how much we can borrow. Are we required to spend the full amount we are approved for? No.

The city of Gearhart is required to get voter approval to take on large debt. Does voting "Yes" on Measure 4-213 automatically create \$14.5 million in debt? No. The ballot measure is essentially a "pre-approval" from the voters which allows the City to borrow up to a maximum of \$14.5 million. Once the city has voter approval, it can borrow by issuing a single bond or by issuing multiple bonds of different amounts up to the maximum approved amount.

Your "yes" vote allows us to move forward on this vital project for the benefit of our first responders and our whole commu-

nity. Without this funding, we cannot pursue the next steps in the process: like getting architectural plans and specifications, which are necessary before we can get competitive bids from construction firms. The approval of Measure 4-213 also allows us to clearly demonstrate the community's support for the project which better enables us to pursue grants and donations reducing the need for bond financing.

Vote 'yes' on Measure 4-213. Support our first responders.

**Brent Warren  
Gearhart**

**New firehouse site comes with environmental consequences**

The Gearhart Fire Station proposal on Highlands Lane is a disaster waiting to happen. The environmental issues with fish and wildlife, wetlands, protection of the Clatsop Plains aquifer, and septic systems impact have not been addressed.

In 2004, the Neacoxie Creek Watershed Commission fish-seined Neacoxie Creek at the G Street culvert. We found three3 salmon smolt. The rearing habitat extends all the way to Del Rey Beach culvert. From Shamrock Pines north, Neacoxie Creek is part of the Neacoxie Wildlife Corridor. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, NOAA Fisheries, and the Department of State Lands will have to be involved in this land-use process.

In 1977, Clatsop County and the Department of Environmental Quality published a report called "Carrying Capacity of the Clatsop Plains Sand-Dune Aquifer." High density residential development from septic systems will result in excessive nitrate-nitrogen through dilution in the sand-dune aquifer. The stream-flow pattern of this underground aquifer shows from Neacoxie Creek at the Highlands southwest direction, the groundwater discharges directly on Gearhart's drinking water well fields.

To protect this natural resource, Clatsop County zoned rural land with a 1 acre lot size minimum. The Highlands property is zoned rural agricultural, 2-acre lot size. Clatsop County Comprehensive Plan, Goal 11 states that public water service is only allowed if it is not used as a justification to increase existing levels of allowed rural development.

In 2008, Gearhart received a partial water right permit from the Oregon Water Resources Department. The endangered salmon, saltwater intrusion, water quality and quantity concerns led to the decision to limit groundwater pumping during the summer months. Seaside and Warrenton supply our backup water.

The Northwest Coastal Water Supply Task Force was formed with the cities of Astoria, Warrenton, Youngs River Lewis and Clark water district, Gearhart, and Seaside to develop a regional water plan.

A May 2009 report shows a projected year 2050 water shortage for Gearhart is 54.2 million gallons, Warrenton 55.3 million gallons, Seaside 366.6 million gallons. Gearhart refused to participate any further, leaving the other partners unable to move forward.

Warrenton can no longer provide water on the Clatsop Plains. From this report, Gearhart does not have enough water to supply this fire station/housing development without impacting the city's future water resources.

Please vote no on the fire bond measure.

**Deanna Mancill  
Gearhart**

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**NEWS NOTES**

**Morse is engineering graduate, named to dean's list**

Rachel Morse, from Gearhart, was named to the Milwaukee School of Engineering's dean's list with high honors for the 2022 winter quarter. Morse graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing.

Undergraduate students who have earned at least 30 credits and have a cumulative GPA of 3.20 or higher (out of 4.0) are on the dean's list. Students who have maintained a 3.70 or higher receive high honors.



**Arbor Day in Seaside**

Dale McDowell

From left, Boy Scout Rylee McCollum, Scoutmaster Stan Gandy, David Kautz, Scout Dashel Neher, city arborist Pam Fleming and Bill Barnes, a member of the Seaside Tree Advisory Committee at the Arbor Day celebration at the Seaside Museum & Historical Society on April 9.

**Sou'Wester Garden Club to meet**

Sou'Wester Garden Club will meet April 27 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Bob Chisholm Community Center at 1225 Avenue A in Seaside. The program features a native plants presentation by Hope Stanton of Aldervale Native Plants, Nehalem.

**North Coast Big Band benefit**

Music from the Big Band Era to the present is featured on the Sunday, May 1 concert, by the North Coast Big Band at the Charlene Larsen Perform-

ing Arts Center in Astoria. Featured favorite local jazz musicians, include Dave Drury, Brian Bergman, Judy Shatto, Terry Dahlgren, Jesse Strauch and Scott Cuthbert. Doors open at 3:30 p.m.

Tickets are available at partners-forthe-pac.org or 503-338-9132. The concert is a benefit for Partners for the PAC. The North Coast Big Band is dedicated to preserving big band music of the jazz era.

For additional information call Lee Stromquist at 503-861-1328.



**Judy Shatto of the North Coast Big Band.**

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