



Wright enters race for Seaside mayor

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

Steve Wright is the first candidate in the November election to file in Seaside, submitting signatures for a mayoral run. Wright, the City Council president, hopes to replace Jay Barber, who is retiring.

"I've never been a mayor before," Wright said. "Before I came to Seaside, I had never been a city councilor."



Steve Wright

Wright, 68, grew up in Portland. He is married with three children.

He served as chief financial officer of an international grain company, with business, computer and human resources experience. "I dealt a lot with government, and I never thought I would get involved with government."

He and his wife, Patty, bought their house in Seaside in 2012 and moved to the city in 2014 after Wright's retirement.

"I have a real passion for Seaside," he said. "I wish I could have lived here my whole life. I'm at heart, I think, a small-town guy."

Wright served on the city's budget committee and Planning Commission before appointment to Barber's council seat after the death of former mayor Don Larson in 2016. Wright was unopposed for election in 2018.

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State House hopeful Gray canvasses in Seaside

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

Rick Gray came to Seaside this month to collect signatures for a run at the vacant state House District 32 seat. The Cannon Beach resident, a nonaffiliated candidate, will join the field of Logan Laity, a Democrat, and Cyrus Javadi, a Republican, who won their May primaries.



Rick Gray

On Tuesday, he received word he has enough verified signatures to appear on the ballot.

"In all due modesty, I'm pretty well-qualified, both by education and experience," Gray said. "But running without party backing imposes some challenges. You might say I've been building this airplane while I fly it."

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R.J. Marx

Drawing the attention of visitors, a sphere composed of hard driftwood at the Seaside Civic and Convention Center by artist Joshua Blewett.

Art unveiled at the convention center

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal



R.J. Marx

Visitors admire "Deciduous of Drunken Friends," by Jeremy Furnish.



Photographer Dave Schaerer in front of his work at the convention center.

When the Seaside Civic and Convention Center completed its remodel in 2019, one aspect remained to be completed: artwork.

Three years and a pandemic later, the convention center debuted its collection at an open house on July 8 featuring Northwest-themed art in mediums including tapestry, quilts, oil paintings, prints, glass, jewelry and metal.

Commissioned pieces are placed on the exterior of the building, Russ Vandenberg, the convention center's general manager, said. "I really hope you came in with high expectations, because you're going to be really thrilled to get what you're going to see inside the building."

Curator Drea Frost, a Cannon Beach resident, worked with a team of judges to distribute the \$150,000 budgeted for the convention center. Forty-five pieces by 30 artists span work from the past 10 years, including work by Royal Nebeker, the North Coast-based painter who died in 2014.

"I felt it was important to include him because he was so prolific in this area," Frost said.

Dave Schaerer lives in Portland and has a house in Rockaway Beach. He's been chronicling the coast in photographs for 55 years, including collections of razor clamming, sea gulls and what he calls "raindance." Frost saw his work on his website and he has three pieces in the show.

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Smith takes Gearhart oath of office; Gould appointed to council

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

Kerry Smith took the oath of office as mayor on July 6 and Dana Gould was selected to fill his Position 1 seat. Smith fills the role vacated by Paulina Cockrum, who resigned June 2, citing personal reasons.

"I never imagined myself to be in the position of mayor of our city," Smith said after being sworn in. "My original intent in running for city councilor was to help make a positive difference. This is still my main goal."

Vacant seats are filled by appointment by a majority vote of the remaining members of the council. The appointee's term of office begins immediately on appointment and continues through the unexpired term of their predecessor. The Position 1 term expires this year.

City Councilor Reita Fackerell was appointed to fill Smith's former role as council president.

Smith, 68, is a property owner and manager.

He was elected to the council in 2014 and reelected in 2018.

"We have a number of challenging tasks ahead for us, and we all need to work together to make Gearhart a healthy environment for us all," Smith

GREATER SECURITY

Safety remained at top of mind at the July City Council meeting. Councilors approved replacing three city hall doors — front, side and to the police station — for greater security, City Administrator Chad Sweet said.

"These doors need to be replaced regardless of the situation to be more appropriate for exit doors," he said.

The council budgeted up to \$13,000 for the replacement.

said. "To begin with, I would like to thank the many people here who came to me expressing interest in serving. It was a difficult decision to choose among these qualified candidates. Nevertheless, I thank you and I will keep

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Historic mural reaches fundraising goal

'A great story of our history'

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

Donations from the city, the Oregon Coast Visitors Association and benefactors pushed fundraising for a cultural history mural on Broadway in Seaside over its goal of \$20,000.

Funds were raised to repair the 60-foot mural mounted on the Ace Hardware building damaged in November.

The mural, by historical

artist and muralist Roger Cooke, brings the culture and heritage of the Clatsop and Nehalem people to downtown Seaside.

Cooke, a Sandy resident who died in 2012, is best known for his historical depictions of Northwest tribes. On the left of the mural are elders of the tribe. Among vignettes are a man carving a canoe and children playing on the beach.

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