

# Gray: Hopeful has roots in Virginia politics

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Gray, 71, grew up in a political family in Virginia, where his father Frederick Thomas Gray was a legislator and served as state attorney general in the early 1960s.

Rick Gray attended the University of Virginia and went to law school. After receiving his master's degree, he worked with his father for three years in the Legislature, taught and practiced law. He served as secretary to the Commonwealth from 1979 to 1981, resigning in 1981 in solidarity with striking air traffic controllers.

In Virginia, Gray taught history at Midlothian High School in Chesterfield County, William Monroe High School in Greene County and the Appomattox Regional Governor's School in Petersburg.

After several years of caring for his mother, he turned to the West Coast following her death in 2011.

"My best friend had a two-bedroom apartment," he said. "She was getting over a divorce. She said I should come to Cannon Beach because it's a healing place. The rest is history."

He hopes his experience in Virginia will translate to Oregon.

He bypassed a run at city government, which, he said, typically leads to "a bias toward consensus. Nobody wants to step too far outside the circle."

He sees himself as a dis-

senting voice.

"A legislature I understand," Gray said. "I've been around them and legislatures start with a combat and work toward compromise. But in the process, a lot of times, you do get to explore ideas, amendments — there's ways to shape proposals into something that makes sense."

Gray describes himself as "a moderately progressive Republican" of the type popularized by former U.S. Sen. John Warner, a Virginia Republican whose campaign he worked on.

"I thought he was likable," Gray said. "I also liked his approach to things."

He said education was at the top of his agenda, with a need for funding at all levels and additional assistance for students.

"One of the things I learned when I was teaching, all around the country there are way too many kids who have spent five or six years before they graduated from college," he said. "It doesn't bother the college if they have to stay an extra year, because they get another year's worth of money. It really increases the cost of education. That's another year you're paying out and you're not starting to earn it. We should really do an audit of that."

In fighting homelessness, Gray said there is a tendency to push people along. Oregon could learn from other states and cities, citing Houston and Salt Lake City as examples of positive results.



R.J. Marx

Cecil Capoeman in front of "Thunderbird + Killer Whale" at the convention center art unveiling.

# Center: Artists present Northwest-themed work

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Schaerer's work, and that of other artists represented in the show, reflects the nature and the beauty of the area that we live in, Frost said.

"Some folks that come to the convention center come from all over the world, and maybe they won't get a chance to go out and enjoy some of the beautiful spaces, but they will have that here," she said. "It really honors the nature and the beauty of the space that we live in."

Stirling Gorsuch, an Astoria-based printmaker raised in Cannon Beach, said his work was inspired by Japanese wood-block prints from the 19th century. The Seaside High School graduate's work has been shown throughout the North Coast and beyond.

"It's nature-inspired by the forests on the coastline," Gorsuch said. "They're playing with different light, different weather, different seasons."

Cecil Capoeman, based in Hoquiam, Washington,

carved "Dragonfish," based on a Salish tribal legend.

The piece, 60 inches in diameter and 2 inches thick, is carved from yellow cedar and acrylic painting.

"The general story is when, when the thunderstorms are here, that's when the thunderbird comes out from the mountains and hunts the killer whale. And the thunder and lightning you hear is the thunderbird throwing a lightning bolt down and spearing the whale."

Capoeman is the son of artist and Quinault Indian

Nation President Guy Capoeman. In 2019, Guy Capoeman delivered a 10-foot welcome pole that now stands in Cannon Beach.

"He taught me everything I know," Cecil Capoeman said.

Work was selected by a committee of five and Frost.

"We brought an expert in to help us," Vandenberg said. "We gave her our vision, bringing Northwest beauty into the building and encouraged her to use local and regional artists as much as she could."



Dana Gould joins Gearhart City Council. She took the oath of office on July 6 from Mayor Kerry Smith. Center, Austin Tomlinson and Reita Fackerell. At right, Justine Hill.

# Gearhart: Smith, Gould take oath of office

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you all in mind if in the future I am put in a position of making a similar choice."

Originally from Bellingham, Washington, Gould served as a county sheriff's deputy and first responder in Southern California, where she also acted with her county's human resources and health and risk management divisions.

Family ties brought her to Gearhart, where she has lived since 2018.

She said she was "humbled and excited" by the council appointment. "I'm interested in helping if I can help with providing help to the council with a strong background in project management for government entities and buildings, mostly law enforcement-type projects," she said.

After the meeting, she said she was honored by the appointment. "Gearhart is a fabulous little town and as evidenced by the recent Fourth of July parade and street dance, its citizens care deeply for each other," she said. "I see it in social media postings. I see it when community volunteers come together to assume personal responsibility to resolve community problems such as beach cleanup or Ridge Path upkeep. I see it when neighbors greet each other on the street or in their gardens. I believe we all want to retain Gearhart's old world, small-town charm, but we also understand the modern world has delivered some very serious challenges to our doors. I believe it would be a real shame if our community's future successes came at the price of our camaraderie."

Smith's appointment was held in City Hall chambers via Zoom for security rea-



Dana Gould joined Gearhart's City Council this month.

sons after reports of potential gun use at a council meeting.

"Each day, our world has become complicated and convoluted," Smith said. "This is true for a small town like ours, individual states, our country and the entire globe. Much of the fear and hate-mongering and misinformation can be blamed on the internet. Some ideas have simply been fostered by word-of-mouth communication. My wife and I do not use Facebook, Twitter or any of these internet sites. We text our children and email the old-fashioned way for business. This is where I would like to ask you all to take a deep breath and step back as we learn to work together amongst ourselves to move forward."

"Moving on, I believe that the failure of the resiliency bond clearly shows that voters like Gearhart are not interested in what was put forth for their approval," Smith said. "Not every voter had the same reason to vote 'no' and many voters were on the fence. I also believe the majority of voters do feel we need a new fire hall and that is a matter we need to discuss together. I hope to have an informal survey in the near future."

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