

Harbor Commission Stands Alone in Conducting an Election

August 27, 2024





No incumbents seek re-election

The Crescent City-Del Norte County Harbor Commission will go it alone as the sole local election, this November.

Long-term commissioners Wes White, Brian Stone and current Harbor president/ commissioner Harry Adams chose not to file for re-election, a disturbing but not surprising inaction of the long-troubled, financially strapped Agency. The candidate filing period was extended an additional three days to accommodate late candidate submissions. Five candidates have filed papers for the three open vacancies. The Triplicate is offering each of the candidates the opportunity to render an abbreviated candidate statement on why each is running and sharing key issues facing the Crescent City Harbor. The candidates are:

John Evans

“As a dedicated Del Norte Republican and corrections officer, my mission is to uphold the principles of fiscal responsibility of limited government, ensuring the prosperity of our community’s economic lifeline: The (Crescent City) Harbor. I will prioritize efficient management of resources, maintaining a clean and secure harbor that benefits business and residents and preserving one of the last industries remaining in Del Norte.

My focus will be fostering further development of the Harbor, transforming it into a hub of pride for Del Norters and providing an inviting destination for visitors to the Pacific Northwest. Together, we can help keep our Harbor thriving and safeguarding it for the enjoyment of future generations.”

Annie Nehmer

“As a vessel owner and commercial fisherman and registered nurse, deeply rooted in our Harbor community, I bring a fierce commitment, a strong advocacy and firsthand experience to the role of Harbor Commissioner.

Over the last three years, I have actively participated in harbor meetings, gaining valuable insight into the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. I’m prepared to tackle the complex issues facing the Crescent City Harbor Commission head-on. I will work tirelessly to support our local fishing industry, safeguard our marine resources and foster a vibrant and sustainable Harbor economy.”

Linda Sutter

“As a candidate for Harbor Commissioner, I bring a proven track record for making impactful changes and championing the interests of our community. My experience includes successfully addressing critical issues that directly affect our local Harbor and its stakeholders. I played a pivotal role in dissolving the Tri-Agency, an initiative that threatens to end sport and commercial fishing by initiating a lawsuit in Del Norte County, I safeguarded the livelihoods of local fisherman and helped preserve our valuable fishing industry. I submitted a complaint to the Grand Jury that led to the validation of mismanagement of funds through the improper use of harbor credit cards.”

Devon Morgante

“19 years ago, my wife and I moved to Crescent City from Antartica. We raised two beautiful children; we owned and operated Vita Cucina Bakery Crescent Foods for the last nine years. I’m a graduate of the Culinary Institute of America with 30 years in hospitality and culinary arts. I support small business opportunities. My one word description of the Harbor is potential. It’s a diamond in the rough. The more the Harbor supports the community, the more the community will support the harbor. I will support programs like Port to Plate where local fishermen have a place to sell directly to the community. I will use my education and experience to utilize the harbor’s potential, all for the betterment of the Harbor and the community.”

Dan Schmidt

“The Harbor Commission needs help, now! As a trial attorney and journalist, I believe I have the temperament, skill set and experience to help set a different course for the harbor. The Harbor is currently on a path to failure. Such an outcome would destroy the commercial fishing industry and result in a loss of hundreds of jobs and many businesses that represent a lifetime of work. The harbor was once and can be the economic pearl of Del Norte with new jobs and economic opportunity.

The Harbor must restore professionalism and civility in the manner in which Harbor business is conducted, especially among colleague commissioners. Commission meetings are ‘out of order.’ We must bring the budget under control. It is leaking in faster than we can bail it out. We must freeze all discretionary spending until the public knows where each dollar comes from, where every dollar goes and why it is being spent.”

The election for Harbor Commission is Tuesday, November 5.