

Widdop: 'I will not be bullied into resigning'

Gearhart mayor will face recall election March 26

By KATHERINE LACAZE
EO Media Group

GEARHART — Gearhart Mayor Dianne Widdop's fate will be up to Gearhart voters in a special election as she decided not to resign in light of an effort to recall her from office.

On Wednesday, the Clatsop County Clerk and Elections Department verified 108 petition signatures, more than the 102 required to schedule a recall election. Local resident Harold Gable was the chief petitioner and he submitted 113 total signatures, according to elections technician Sheryl Holcom. The number of signatures was previously reported as 114.

Widdop had five days, or until 5 p.m. today, to submit to the clerk's office either a letter of resignation or a written statement of no more than 200 words to be printed on the ballot for the election. She submitted the letter on Friday.

The clerk's office has not released her official statement of justification, but Widdop informally made a statement last week that she was staying in office.

"I have determined that I will not be bullied into resigning," she said. "The petition signers represent less than 13 percent of Gearhart voters. I believe it is necessary to hold the election and allow all Gearhart voters to have

their say on the issue, just as Patricia Roberts did a few years ago, when as a county commissioner, she was in the same situation."

Some Gearhart residents have started putting up signs in support of Widdop.

The election has been scheduled for March 26. The outcome will be determined by simple majority. Voters will have until 8 p.m. to submit their ballots either through the mail or at one of two drop sites: Gearhart City Hall at 698 Pacific Way in Gearhart or the Clatsop County Elections Office at 820 Exchange St., Suite 220, in Astoria.

For more information, visit <http://bit.ly/1Ao0KSM>



CRINDALYN LYSTER — EO Media Group

The new Westport ferry, the Oscar B, was hanging out on the downtown Astoria waterfront Friday.

Ceremony set for arrival of new ferry Oscar B

CATHLAMET, Wash. — The arrival of the Oscar B, the \$5.7 million ferry replacing the Ferry Wahkiakum on the Columbia River, will be celebrated with a commencement ceremony next month.

Wahkiakum County will host the celebration of the Oscar B, named after former skipper and owner Oscar Bergseng, at 1 p.m. March 14 at the Wahkiakum Ferry Terminal, 785 SR 409, Cathlamet, Wash.

The Oscar B arrived in Astoria Friday after an overseas trek from Whid-

bey Island, Wash., where it was constructed by Nichols Brothers Boat Builders of Freeland, Wash. The new ferry is scheduled to arrive in Westport by Friday, with service possibly starting the following week.

On the Wahkiakum Facebook page Feb. 18, this was shared: "Good News: (U.S. Coast Guard) trials on the Oscar B were completed this morning. The ferry will depart from Langley at 2:00 a.m. tomorrow morning. The skipper said he should be tied up in Astoria by noon Friday."

In preparation of the new ferry's arrival, Legacy Contracting Inc. of Salem is upgrading the ferry landings in Westport and Puget Island.

The Oscar B will carry 23 passenger cars, nearly double the size of the Wahkiakum, which was in service since 1962 operating 365 days per year.

New features will include hydraulic steering, a captain's chair, updated electronics, ADA-accessible restrooms and overall U.S. Coast Guard approval.

Seaside man killed in Highway 26 crash

The Daily Astorian

A Seaside man died in a crash Friday when a 2010 Toyota Camry he was a passenger in struck a tree on U.S. Highway 26.

At about 9:30 a.m. Friday, the silver Toyota Camry was traveling eastbound on U.S. Highway 26 near milepost

44.5 in Washington County when it veered off the roadway and into a tree, according to the Oregon State Police.

The cause of the crash is unknown.

The driver and front right passenger were transported via air ambulance to Oregon Health & Science University Hospital in Portland with se-

rious injuries. The right rear passenger, Terry L. Hidy, 56, Seaside, died at the scene.

Both lanes of travel were blocked during while the air ambulance landed.

OSP is being assisted by ODOT, the Washington County Sheriff's Office and the Banks and Forest Grove Fire Departments.

Casino game night fundraiser for kids set

CANNON BEACH—Bring some good luck and good cheer to the Cannon Beach American Legion Hall for the eighth annual Casino Game Night, a fundraiser for the Cannon Beach Preschool and Children's Center.

From 7 to 10 p.m. Feb. 28, the legion building, 1216 S. Hemlock St., will be transformed into a scene from a Reno or Las Vegas casino, with craps, blackjack and roulette offered, said Barb Knop, the center's board president.

Scrip will be available for purchase at the door, no mini-

mum will be required. Players could win merchandise from local businesses and gift certificates from local stores and restaurants.

No skill is necessary; the dealers (center staff, board members and volunteers) will help players learn the rules of the games, she said.

Historically, the fundraiser has brought in an average of \$2,100 every year, according to Knop.

The equipment is donated by the Seaside and Gearhart fire departments and local candy-maker

Brian Taylor and his family, she said.

Community members who want to volunteer that evening may contact Annette Campbell, the center's director, at 503-436-1040.

"We particularly need volunteers who would like to be blackjack dealers," Knop said.

"It's going to be a fun night," said Christy Bisping, the center's development director. "It definitely benefits our center, and we rely very heavily on all the money that we bring in."

Astoria Regatta Association meets Wednesday

The Astoria Regatta Association meets at 6 p.m. Wednesday at Clatsop Community College, in Columbia

Hall, Room 219. The 2015 admiral and grand marshal will be announced. The public is welcome.

The 2015 Astoria Regatta, "Rockin' on the River," takes place Aug. 5 to 9. For information, go to www.astoriaregatta.com

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