

## Braves rally to beat Seaside

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ONE DOLLAR

## Senator calls for transparency on boatyard

Port to talk about looming closure Tuesday

By EDWARD STRATTON  
The Daily Astorian

The Port of Astoria will discuss the impending closure of the boatyard, an advisory item during Tuesday's Port Commission meeting. The region's foremost politician, state Sen. Betsy

Johnson, said even more is needed. "I think that any change, any significant change of use on the piers should be the subject of a public conversation with ample opportunity for input, and then an on-the-record vote as to what is the Port's plan," Johnson said, who's heard from constituents

and spoken with Executive Director Jim Knight about the boatyard.

The Port has faced withering criticism since the impending closure of the Pier 3 boatyard by April 1 was revealed by an article in the Chinook Observer and later announced by Knight. Many say the Port has disregarded its master plan from 2001, which called for a marine industrial cluster on and around Pier 3 and

has since helped attract several big businesses to the central waterfront. And although the stated reason for the closure is to improve stormwater, many believe it's a veiled attempt to help Astoria Forest Products' more lucrative log-export operation.

### Stormwater

Knight has said the Port has an obligation to close a known source

of copper pollution. In August, it was notified by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality that it would have to adhere to Tier II Corrective Action requirements after two years of sampling revealed unacceptable levels of copper coming from its stormwater drains near piers 1 and 3.

See BOATYARD, Page 10A

## Walker wins Oregon GOP straw poll



KATHERINE LACAZE — EO Media Group

Rep. Greg Walden, R-Ore., 2nd District, was the keynote speaker for the 51st annual Dorchester Conference in Seaside, held Friday through Sunday.

## Dorchester ponders 2016

By KATHERINE LACAZE  
EO Media Group

SEASIDE — About 300 people joined together to deliberate the future of the Oregon Republican Party at the 51st annual Dorchester Conference, which featured speeches from state politicians, a 2016 presidential candidate straw poll and group discussions on several timely issues.

The conference convened Friday night at the Seaside Civic and Convention Center and lasted through Sunday.

The main event was Sunday's presidential straw vote, a conference tradition where attendees selected who tops their candidate list to run for the Republican Party in the 2016 presidential election. The winner of the 2015 Dorchester straw poll was Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker with 39 votes.

Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush



KATHERINE LACAZE — EO Media Group

Attendees at the 51st annual Dorchester Conference in Seaside discuss how the Republican Party can stay relevant in Oregon, one of the four issue discussions featured at the conference. About 300 people, primarily from the Republican Party, attended the conference, held Friday through Sunday.

was the runner-up with 22 votes. Florida Sen. Marco Rubio was third.

Other candidates mentioned were New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie; Ohio Gov. John Kasich; Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul; ; former

Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin; former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee; Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal; Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren; and a few others. Not all conference participants voted in the poll.

A few attendees, during the

open comment session before the vote, suggested Jeb Bush could be a problematic candidate for his last name alone — he is the son of former president George H.W. Bush and the younger brother of former president George W. Bush, who both are widely unpopular with Democrats.

"I feel so strongly we're just shooting ourselves in the foot if we vote for Jeb Bush" in the Republican presidential primaries, said Ginny Brewster, of Happy Valley.

Others felt Bush did a good job as governor of Florida and that having gubernatorial experience is important for the president. He could likely overcome his name's associations, they said.

Supporters of Walker talked of his practiced leadership, his ability to win a governorship in a traditionally blue state and his marketability.

Alison Bruun, president of the Dorchester board of directors, said, no matter who is selected, the Oregon Republicans must get organized, unified and fully support

See CONFERENCE, Page 10A

## Access with a price

Big bills to view public documents discourage public access

By MICHAEL FELBERBAUM  
The Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. — The public's right to see government records is coming at an ever-increasing price, as authorities set fees and hourly charges that often prevent information from flowing.

Though some states have taken steps to limit the fees, many have not:

- In Kansas, Gov. Sam Brownback's office told The Wichita Eagle that it would have to pay \$1,235 to obtain records of emails between his office and a former chief of staff who is now a prominent statehouse lobbyist.

- Mississippi law allows the state to charge hourly for research, redaction and labor, including \$15 an hour simply to have a state employee watch a reporter or private citizen review documents.

- The Associated Press dropped a records request after Oregon State Police demanded \$4,000 for 25 hours of staff time to prepare, review and redact materials related to the investigation of the director of a boxing and martial arts regulatory commission.

- Locally, The Daily Astorian was initially told it would cost \$1,090 for six months of emails between County Manager Scott Somers and six department heads. In the paper's response to the county, they sent a slightly narrowed request and appealed the \$1,090 cost stating it was an onerous charge, having the effect of denying the request. The Astorian received the requested emails on a disk for no charge.

Whether roadblocks are created by authorities to discourage those seeking information, or simply a byproduct of bureaucracy and tighter budgets, greater costs to fulfill freedom of information requests ultimately can interfere with the public's right to know. The costs are a

See ACCESS, Page 7A

## The 'feelings doctor' goes to school

Kids call her the feelings doctor, said Meegan Anderson, a therapist with Clatsop Behavioral Healthcare.

Since January, Anderson has been counseling more than 60 students across the Astoria School District as part of a new effort by CBH and local school districts to put mental health counselors where kids go to class. Anderson's uncovered some startling issues facing children.

"I found that in this area ... we do have kind of a high level of suicidal ideation," Anderson said, adding that self-harm is also prevalent. "Cutting is huge, even at 10 years old."

Within the last week, she said, students have gone to the hospital for evaluation after



exhibiting suicidal tendencies. Within the last month, some have gone to residential treatment. And it's a problem she's seen cross socioeconomic boundaries.

The response when she hears about suicidal thoughts, Anderson said, depends on whether the student has a plan or the means to follow through. She tries to tap into the student's natural coping mechanisms, whether that be sports, art or another activity they like.

"I really think we need a suicide prevention program in place," said Anderson, adding that awareness of the issue among peers is key.

Warrenton Grade School was the first in Clatsop County to invite her in to meet with students during the school day. She said being in a school has lessened the stigma associated with seeing a counselor.

See COUNSELOR, Page 10A



Meegan Anderson counsels more than 60 students throughout the Astoria School District.

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