

County seeks support for Special Diabetes Program

By KYLE SPURR
The Daily Astorian

The Clatsop County Board of Commissioners approved a letter Wednesday to U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) for his support extending the federal Special Diabetes Program, which supports research into diabetes cures.

The letter, penned by Chairman Scott Lee, asks Wyden to support a multiyear extension of funding for the federal program, rather than the current year-to-year funding approach.

Lee said he was contacted by a local individual, concerned about the future funding of the program, who requested the county's support.

"There is a lot of uncertainty (with funding)," Lee said. "We want to remove the uncertainty."

The program supports research into a cure for Type 1 diabetes, as well as effective treatment and prevention strategies for Alaskan Native and American Indian populations, the letter states.

From 2006 to 2012, the prevalence rate of diabetes

in Clatsop County rose from 7.1 percent to 9 percent, according to the county.

In Oregon, the letter states, the rate rose from 6.8 percent to 7.2 percent. The cost of treating people with diabetes and related complications is estimated to be \$3 billion in 2012 in direct and indirect costs to the state's health system. That cost was \$2 billion in 2006.

"This program is an initiative of great value to citizens of Clatsop County," Lee wrote in the letter.

The current year-to-year funding of the program makes

it difficult for researchers, who are working to allow diabetics to live healthier, longer lives, with fewer complications, Lee said.

A multiyear authorization would ensure clinical trials can continue in an uninterrupted fashion.

"With the growing impact of diabetes on our communities and our economy, it is critical that we continue to support federal research into treatments and potential cures for this disease," Lee stated in the letter.

Wyden has shown support to the program in the past, and

the Board of Commissioners hopes his support continues, according to the letter.

In other business:
• The Board of Commissioners officially approved the annexation of Cannon Beach into the Oregon State University Extension Service District. Cannon Beach was the only entity in Clatsop County not a part of the service district.

• Cindy Johnsen and Rob-in Risley were appointed to the Clatsop County Planning Commission. Johnsen's term ends June 30, 2016 and Risley's term ends June 30, 2018.



Scott Lee

GOP candidates and constituents chow down

EO Media Group

SOUTH BEND, Wash. — The annual Lincoln Dinner was all about big helpings and small government.

Pacific County Republicans gathered Saturday at the Willapa Harbor Community Center for an evening of fellowship, fundraising, and Reagan-themed silent auction items.

At the previous week's annual crab dinner, area Democrats betrayed a collective weakness for hybrid cars, suspenders and sassy lapel badges. Area Republicans, while more elegantly dressed than the Democrats, appeared to have made an exception in the doctrine of fiscal conservatism especially for sales on costume jewelry.

After joining together in an a capella rendition of the national anthem, guests sat down to a hearty dinner of

fried oysters, beef, cheesy potato casserole, tasty salads and enormous, flaky pies.

While the county's Republicans ate, local, state and national figures shared their perspectives on the state of the party.

Pacific County Republican vice-chair Aaragon Markwell opened with a speed titled, "Why I'm a Republican." Markwell, a local pastor and staunch social conservative, explained his belief that the pro-life movement is "very pro-woman," and that anti-gay-marriage movement helps to fight poverty. America, he said, needs "less of the 'Little g' — government, and more of the 'Big G' — God."

But he acknowledged that other Republicans might only agree with "85 percent" of his views.

"That makes us allies," Markwell said, "We have a big tent."

Next up was King County businessman and Port Commissioner Bill Bryant, a moderate Republican who is considering a run for governor.

In a speech that was heavy on charm and light on specific policy points, Bryant lectured on similarities between two of his heroes, Teddy Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln, before turning to a talk about his values. State leaders need to expand opportunities for affordable education, do a better job of supporting the middle class and unify supporters behind common goals, Bryant said.

"It's not enough to have big ideas," Bryant said. "You have to build coalitions of people to create that reality."

The evening's keynote speaker, U.S. Congresswoman Jaime Herrera-Beutler, opened her speech with an update on her toddler daughter, Abigail Rose, who was diagnosed with Potter's Syn-

drome, a rare condition that has historically been fatal in 100 percent of cases.

"That little girl continues to be a miracle," Herrera-Beutler said.

The congresswoman went to provide an update on policies she's currently focusing on. She pledged to continue advocating for local ports, fighting for Second Amendment firearms rights and pushing for a balanced budget. Currently, she said, she is hopeful that a new email privacy act with bipartisan support will be passed into law. Herrera-Beutler closed by thanking Pacific county Republicans for their support. In a largely "blue" county, she said, active participation from the right is essential.

"It's a Democratic county," Herrera-Beutler laughed. "I look at this room and I think, 'These are the few, the mighty.'"

Gearhart mayor recall election results expected to be in tonight

By The Daily Astorian

The Clatsop County Clerk and Elections Department received just over half of the ballots from eligible Gearhart voters for the special election for the recall of Mayor Dianne Widdop.

As of this morning, at total of 464 ballots, or 50.16 percent, were received out of 925 eligible voters.

Ballots must be delivered to an official drop site or the clerk's office in Astoria no later than 8 p.m. to-

day. The clerk's office will be open until 8 p.m. Ballots must be delivered to one of two official drop sites: Gearhart City Hall, 698 Pacific Way or the clerk's office, 820 Exchange St., Astoria. Postmarks will not be considered.

Gearhart voters first received ballots on March 9.

Results of the recall election can be found after 8 tonight on The Daily Astorian's website, www.dailyastorian.com and the county's elections division webpage www.co.clatsop.or.us

Pacific County undersheriff fired

By NATALIE ST. JOHN
EO Media Group

SOUTH BEND, Wash. — Pacific County Undersheriff Todd Fosse has been fired.

Monday evening, Sheriff Scott Johnson confirmed in a phone interview that the undersheriff, whom Johnson appointed after being elected in November 2010, was dismissed earlier Monday.

"We have separated employment," a weary-sounding Johnson said.

Johnson said he was not at liberty to discuss most aspects of Fosse's termination, but added that Fosse is not suspected of any crimes or other serious forms of misconduct.

When asked if Fosse was in any way implicated in the

separate misconduct investigation into former deputy Vance Johnson, whose criminal trial commenced the same day, Johnson said the two personnel issues were unrelated.

"There are a number of issues, and that's kind of all I can say. I can say he's not under investigation for anything. There's nothing we're looking into or anything," Johnson said.

When Fosse became undersheriff, he replaced former Undersheriff Ron Clark, who stayed on at PCSO as a deputy. A lifelong Pacific County resident, Fosse had served as a PCSO deputy from 1976 until 1988. He subsequently ran an insurance business in Raymond and volunteered as a reserve officer with the South Bend



Former undersheriff
Todd Fosse

Police Department between 1994 and his appointment as undersheriff on Jan. 1, 2011. At the time, Johnson described him as a devoted community servant with strong business skills.

Monday, Johnson said that he has no plan for re-

placing Fosse at the moment, but hopes to appoint a new undersheriff as quickly as possible.

"I would like to fill it internally but I'll also be looking externally as well," Johnson said. "I'm looking at all options. We're so small I have to make sure it's a perfect fit for us."

Johnson described it as "a very, very difficult day," and said reaching the decision to dismiss his longtime ally and former campaign manager had been "heartbreaking."

"I really truly very much appreciate his service, loyalty and dedication to the job," Johnson said.

The sheriff's office has been struggling with funding and staffing issues, with significant attrition in the patrol ranks.

Rep. Bonamici and staff to participate in statewide beach cleanup

SEASIDE — Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici and her staff will join other volunteers at the Turnaround in Seaside at 10 a.m. Saturday for the annual SOLVE Spring Oregon Beach Cleanup, a statewide effort to keep Oregon's beaches healthy.

SOLVE is organizing volunteers to work at nearly 50 locations along the coast collecting trash and other debris that could

harm marine life.

"Oregon's coastline is a destination and we need to keep it clean and healthy," Bonamici said. "Healthy beaches are not only good for tourism, but are critical to Oregon's marine ecosystems that thousands rely on to earn a living. I look forward to joining volunteers who are dedicating their time to helping keep our beaches and coastal communities clean."

On the record

Menacing

• At 4:57 p.m. Saturday, Oregon State Police responded to a reported conflict over careless driving on a beach in Seaside where a driver brandished a firearm during a heated exchange and drove away from the scene. Seaside Police, Gearhart Police and the Clatsop County Sheriff's Office assisted in finding the suspect on U.S. Highway 101 in Gearhart. The driver, Duwayne Matthew Seymour,

21, Milwaukie, was arrested for menacing, pointing a firearm at another person, driving under the influence of intoxicants and reckless driving. A 9 mm pistol and 12 gauge shotgun were seized as evidence. Seymour's blood alcohol content was measured at 0.12 percent, according to OSP.

Theft

• At 9:33 a.m. Tuesday, Warrenton Police cited Paul Hyde,

63, Hammond, with third-degree theft after Hyde reportedly stole beer and cheese from the Main Street Market the day before, as seen on the store's video footage, according to police.

Criminal trespass

• At 1:41 p.m. Tuesday, Warrenton Police cited Titus Cooper, 24, transient, for second-degree criminal trespass at Walgreens, where he was previously trespassed from.

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Barbie is retiring

Barbie Jenkins has been an optician for the past 20 years here in Astoria. She started her career with Dr. Kumpula in 1994, continued on as it became North Coast Vision Center, and since 2011 has been vital in helping Coastal Eye Care become the thriving clinic it is today! As the practice changed hands several times over the years Barbie has remained the constant force. She has been dedicated to her patients for all this time with her compassionate ways and steadfast service. **Barbie will be greatly missed.**

Come help us celebrate!

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