

Letters to the Editor

Pay it forward

To the editor,
Dec. 27 was an ordinary winter day in Seaside. I mailed the last of my Christmas cards, then contended with a pedestrian crossing the street against the light.

Afterward, I felt I had been too rude. It was rainy and windy; perhaps he was cold and wet.

Not feeling the Christmas spirit, I parked downtown. Dodging other rude drivers, I walked to Dundees for hot coffee and something to eat. The service was rather slow as it was lunchtime and lots of people were in town.

As I was finishing my chili burger, the server, a pleasant young woman, informed me that she was buying my lunch so don't wait for the check. Since we were strangers, I asked her why. She replied that she was passing on the spirit of the season, what had been done for her. She thought me to be a nice man. I remembered the frightened pedestrian and knew otherwise.

Nevertheless, I left Dundees a hundred pounds lighter convinced that the Christmas spirit still lives in our lovely town.

Thank you young woman! A happy New Year to you and yours. I will pass on what I have been given.

Dennis Allwein
Seaside

What agenda?

To the editor,
The guest column by Harold Gable on the editorial page of the Dec. 22 *Daily Astorian* stands out as unique ("Petitioner rebuts Mayor Widdop's claims") (ed. note: Gable's piece also appeared as a letter to the editor in the Dec. 26 *Seaside Signal*). Never before, as far as I can recall, has any Gearhart citizen been elevated to the rank of guest columnist — which is all the more reason to respond, since it seems to cry out for a response.

The column, which urgently seeks signatures for Gable's recall petition, asks us to picture a "mayor who has only her agenda." He does not specify what agenda he means, but we ordinary citizens know what her agenda has been over the past 20 years.

We remember Widdop standing up against the commercial interests that tried to "sewer up" the city; we remember her brave stand against closing the Hager Avenue access to Little Beach; we remember her fierce opposition to building condos on the golf course; and we remember that she resigned her own position to protest the attempted harassment of local elected officials by the state of Oregon.

We remember those, and so many other cases in which Widdop has had the courage to stand alone and raise her voice on behalf of our Comprehensive Plan and the quality of life in Gearhart. Without her presence on the council over the years, Gearhart may well have become just another faceless, overdeveloped, overcommercialized suburb of Seaside.

Throughout its history as a city, Gearhart mayors have walked among the people and discussed issues, and no previous mayor has ever been known to withhold his or her own opinion. But Widdop has broken all precedent in openness — with her weekly "coffee and cookies" sessions, she has given all citizens a platform for their agendas.

As for her own opinion, being mayor does not abrogate her constitutional right to express it, nor does the free expression of her opinion violate anyone else's constitutional right. If she has offended, she has duly apologized.

I've never known her to prevaricate. Her explanation of what happened in the Linda Goldfarb/Kevin Willett case seems simple and straightforward enough to ring true to reality. In my opinion, that explanation should have been accepted, and that should have been the end of it.

It now remains for her handful of opponents to either back off or justify in detail why they are pursuing her recall. It will not do to make covert allusion to "Widdop's own personal bias against a single Gearhart resident." We ordinary citizens are not privy to this piece of gossip, and do not understand why, if there's really an issue here, it's not being discussed in full detail. And please, let us know why any of us should "fear retaliation."

The campaign to bring down a mayor who has, for so many years, served the city so well cannot be based on whispered innuendo.

Bill Berg
Gearhart

Obituaries

Geraldine Fettig

Sept. 8, 1933 — Dec. 18, 2014



GERALDINE FETTIG

Geraldine Claire (Yeager) Fettig, born to parents Joseph and Berl (Plowman) Yeager, grew up in Portland and attended Grant High School. She later graduated from the University of Oregon, where she studied business, played the violin and served as president of her sorority, Kappa Kappa Gamma.

In 1955, Gerry married Richard P. Fettig, and they welcomed their first son, Dick Jr., in 1958 while living in military housing in South Carolina, where Dick served in the U.S. Army. Shortly thereafter, they returned to Portland and joined the family hotel business. Sons John

and Chuck followed in 1959 and 1960, respectively.

Gerry's last 25 years were filled with the love of friends; international travel; wildflower hikes; Gearhart;

the Multnomah Athletic Club; and her greatest passion, her eight grandchildren, whose activities and accomplishments were a constant delight.

Gerry is survived by her devoted husband of 59 years, Dick; sons, Dick Jr., John and Chuck; their wives; and eight grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to OHSU/Doernbecher Children's Hospital Foundation at www.OHSU.edu or Be the Match (The National Bone Marrow Donor Registry) at www.bethematch.org

A memorial service has been held.



Dennis Michael 'Mike' O'Brien

Feb. 9, 1935 — Dec. 25, 2014



Dennis Michael "Mike" O'Brien, 79, of Cannon Beach, Ore., died Dec. 25, 2014, at Nehalem Valley Care Center in Wheeler, Ore.

He was born on Feb 9, 1935, in Cusick, Wash., to Harry and Beatrice O'Brien. He graduated from Newport High School in Newport, Wash., in 1953.

He served in the U.S. Army and was honorably discharged in 1959.

Mr. O'Brien is sur-

vived by Darlene, his wife of nearly 51 years; his children, Kevin and Shannon; stepchildren, Randy, Loreen and Rick; four grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

A private burial of his ashes is planned in Newport, Wash.

Ocean View Funeral & Cremation Service of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements, and an online guest book may be signed at www.OceanViewAstoria.com



DENNIS MICHAEL O'BRIEN

Births

Joel Mark Harris

Dec. 4, 2014

HARRIS, David and Kathryn of Cannon Beach, a boy, Joel Mark Harris, born at Providence Seaside Hospital. Grandparents are Leslie and Rebecca Clawson of

Centennial, Colo.; Scott and Pam Harris of Murrieta, Calif.; and Bill and Ruth Boylan of Temecula, Calif.

Thomas James Shaw

Dec. 2, 2014

SHAW, Mikey Shaw and Katie Loomis, of Astoria, a boy, Thomas James Shaw, born at Providence Seaside Hospital. Siblings are 6-year-old Madalyn Aiken and

3-year-old Michael Shaw. Grandparents are Joanne Dunn, of Astoria; Becky Worrell, of Astoria; Fred Loomis, of Rainier; and Ben and Shirley Turman, of Astoria.

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Providence welcomes a new cardiologist.



Masud Ahmad, M.D., FACC, FSCAI
Cardiologist

Providence is growing to better serve north coast families and communities. Heart specialist Masud Ahmad, M.D., is joining Robert Morse, D.O., and the cardiology team on the north coast. Welcome, Dr. Ahmad!

Board certified in cardiovascular disease and interventional cardiology, Dr. Ahmad divides his time between Providence St. Vincent Heart Clinic-Cardiology and Providence Medical Group-Seaside. He speaks English, Arabic, Hindi and Urdu. When not seeing patients, Dr. Ahmad enjoys traveling, biking and spending time at home in Arch Cape.

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