

Letters to the Editor

Lack of Leadership

To the editor,
This recall of Mayor Widdop is about her two years as mayor. In these two years, Mrs. Widdop has consistently shown a lack of leadership, disregard for citizens' rights, abuse of power and, often, poor judgment.

Mrs. Widdop refuses to work with the entire City Council, instead working with only two of the other four members. These two share her ideas and agenda and it's obvious this will not change until she is recalled. One of these favored council members surprisingly referred to her actions as "stupid." Gearhart deserves much better from its mayor.

Mrs. Widdop uses the word "we" so she will not be questioned about her unilateral decisions. These unilateral decisions blatantly ignore council protocol. Example: Her self-appointment to represent CEDR and her co-signing of a letter suggesting changes in the way Port of Astoria commissioners are chosen.

Mayor Widdop says she is in City Hall every Wednesday to listen to the concerns of residents. When they do not agree with her or her agenda, she has become verbally abusive. Residents told us they feel she is there only for self-promotion.

Mayor Widdop takes credit for the work of others. Example: She did not ask Sen. Jeff Merkley or Rep. Suzanne Bonamici to come to Gearhart. Checking with their offices, they contacted the city; the same with Larry Galizio, president of Clatsop Community College. He called the city and asked to make a presentation before the City Council.

We have received threats towards our home, our pets and us. We take them seriously. Is this retaliation?

Residents on the east side of U.S. Highway 101 are being ignored. They want and deserve streetlights and attentive, regular street maintenance for starters. They are not getting the services they deserve. Mrs. Widdop has shown no interest in reaching out to these residents. They often expressed frustration and anger when we spoke with them.

In two years as mayor, Mrs. Widdop has accomplished little. A new noise ordinance that is ineffectual. RV and fence ordinances that still, after one year are not in place. There is more. This is just the tip of the iceberg.

These transgressions are not trivial. They are important. They set the tenor of our city. People are unhappy with Mayor Widdop and her divisive behavior. She is not the victim, but the cause.

The three-ring circus masquerading as a city council that you, Mrs. Widdop has created in the past two years needs to play its last performance.

Thank you for your "yes" vote to restore trust in Gearhart's government.

Jane Gable Gearhart

Open and transparent

To the editor,
We have always found Dianne Widdop to be very open and transparent in all her work for the city of Gearhart and the community.

Her weekly "open house" at City Hall each Wednesday morning for any citizen to stop by for a chat and visit is a class act. What a pleasant invitation to say, "Let's talk."

Her interests are directed strictly for the betterment of Gearhart. She carries no baggage, no hidden interests or personal agendas to City Hall. She is well educated, bright, articulate and professional.

Dianne, you and your husband, Bob, are welcome anytime into our home. We are proud to support you as our mayor.

Marty and Jean Gill Gearhart

Adios, my friend



SUBMITTED PHOTO
Frank, the bloodhound

To the editor,
Born April 13, 2009, the handsome black and tan bloodhound named Frank, passed quietly into the arms of his best friend, George Gideon.

He spent the first weeks of his life with his folks in Warrenton, and it was there that he met the love of his life, George. With his droopy, red tinged eyes, foot-long ears and size 12 paws, he was a superb example of doggy handsomeness.

Frank and George went on long trips together, and Frank had five states under his collar by the time he was 3 years old. It was called to his attention at one point that only three states counted because he did love the occasional snooze, and George felt

one should actually be conscious for the state to count.

A life-long carnivore, Frank was by no means a snob about food. His general philosophy was that if he could get it past his voluptuous jowls, it was worth the effort. The only time I ever saw him hesitate to eat something was when someone had given him a large eel. I watched him play with it for some time but never saw him swallow the thing. I found it about three weeks later buried in the back of my van. Frank acted like he'd never seen it, but I think he was lying.



Though not formally educated, Frank was a very smart boy. He could find his water bowl unaided, figure out where the ball was (although he could care less, because he had no intention of running after it or carrying it around in his mouth). He could sit on demand, wag his tail without thinking and drool on cue. When his registration papers came from the American Kennel Club, they sent along a pamphlet on bloodhounds and the first chapter was titled, "Welcome to the Wonderful World of Bloodhounds"; you'll never have a clean house again.

Frank was very good at magic tricks, which he occasionally would demonstrate. By my count, three

whole pies, a couple dozen steaks and a five-pound meat loaf that had been cooling on the counter, had all disappeared. I don't remember them ever reappearing!

Putting all of these achievements aside, Frank's greatest quality was his ability to show me love. Pure and simple, basic and overwhelming love for his pal. That love was gratefully returned in kind.

Frank also had the uncanny ability to make me feel like Einstein, even though my IQ can hover around room temperature. At times, he could also make me feel like a superhero if I got my boots tied correctly the first time.

You see, Frank wasn't just a dog; he wasn't a pet or possession, a conversation piece or a burden. Frank was my friend. I've had some great (human) friends in my life, and they know who they are. Frank knew who I was; it was like he was put on this Earth to make me happy, and he did a magnificent job.

I was hit a bit hard in the recession like a lot of us were, lost some property, stock, file for bankruptcy, no retirement in this lifetime. But through it all, I like to think I handled it well — it's one of life's little tsunamis that you either give up or you survive. This is something that did matter. I mean, who else is going to look at me like I'm a genius or a superhero?

You were my hero, Frankie. It was my great fortune to know you and to love you, and you will live in my heart and in my memories forever. Adios, my friend.

In lieu of milk bones, Frank would want you to take some time each day to give a gentle pat or a loving hug to your friend, and maybe, occasionally leave the room while a meatloaf

is cooling.
A special thanks to Dr. Hasse at Safe Haven Vet Hospital and her staff for their kindness and help at the worst of times. And thank you to Laroy and Katie Smith for their love and support.

George Gideon Seaside

Thank you

To the editor,
Re: "Free conference gave local woman WINGS" (Seaside Signal, Feb. 20): The AAUW of Astoria and Seaside want to say a big thank you to the EO Media Group for publishing Andrew Tonry's story about Nichole Soares, a 2010 WINGS graduate. Her front page story of struggle and triumph resonated with local women who signed up for this year's March 7 WINGS Conference, co-hosted by Clatsop Community College and AAUW.

Designed for Women Interested in Going to School, our all-day free conference was attended by over 50 women this year. They received information on all aspects of returning to school and enjoyed free lunch, child care and educational benefits to help get them started in the process.

One hundred local businesses and individuals donated money and/or door prizes this year, an outstanding contribution to opening the gateway to a promising and productive future for these women. Undoubtedly, the support we received with front page stories in The Daily Astorian, the Seaside Signal and the Cannon Beach Gazette facilitated the largesse from our donors and the enthusiastic turnout of the 2015 women of WINGS. Thank you so much.

Ane McIntyre Gearhart

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