

Friday, Dec. 23**Low Impact Walk**

9:30 a.m., 503-738-7751. This low-impact walking group meets weekly at different locations. Sponsored by the Seaside Branch of American Association of University Women (AAUW).

Kiwanis Tree Sale

3 p.m., Seaside Outlets parking lot, 1111 Roosevelt Drive, Seaside. Need a Christmas tree? Seaside Kiwanis Club's annual tree sale fundraiser is open to 6 p.m. daily at the outlet center.

McDougall

7 p.m., McMenamins Sand Trap, 1157 Marion Ave., Gearhart, 503-717-8150, www.mcmenamins.com, no cover. Fact, fiction and a little in between, McDougall carries on the relevant tradition of oral history and folklore.

Open Mic & Jam

7 p.m., Pacific Pearl Bistro, 111 Broadway, Seaside. All styles welcome at this jam session hosted by the Tim Kelly Blues Band.

"It's A Wonderful Life"

7:30 p.m., Coaster Theatre, 108 Hemlock St., Cannon Beach, 503-436-1242, www.coastertheatre.com, \$15 to \$20, Rated PG. "It's A Wonderful Life" tells the story of how one person can have an impact on the life of others.

Saturday, Dec. 24**Kiwanis Tree Sale**

11 a.m., Seaside Outlets parking lot, 1111 Roosevelt Drive, Seaside.

Christmas Eve Music

1 p.m., Northwest By Northwest Gallery, 232 Spruce St., Cannon Beach, 503-436-0741, www.nwbynwgallery.com. The gallery will host an afternoon of acoustic guitar music with Will and Bobcat Bob playing favorite and seasonal Christmas tunes.

Monday, Dec. 26**Knochlers Pinochle**

1 p.m., Bob Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A, Seaside, 503-738-7393, www.sunsetempire.com, all ages, \$1 per session per person. This is a weekly, regular play card game.

Foods Around the World

5 p.m., multiple venues, Cannon Beach, 503-436-2623, www.cannonbeach.org. Visit the Cannon Beach Chamber for a list of participating Cannon Beach restaurants serving unique foods and beverages from different countries and cultures during this weeklong event, times vary; reservations required.

City Council Meeting

7 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway, Seaside, 503-738-5511, www.cityofseaside.us. The Seaside City Council meets on the second and fourth Mondays of the month.

Tuesday, Dec. 27**TOPS Meeting**

9:15 a.m., North Coast Family Fellowship, 2245 Wahanna Road, Seaside, 509-910-0354. Take Pounds Off Sensibly (TOPS) focuses on healthy lifestyle changes for weight loss.

Whale Watch Week

10 a.m., Ecola State Park, Cannon Beach; Neahkahnie Mountain Historic Marker turnout on Hwy. 101; 541-765-3304, www.oregonstateparks.org. The Whale Watching Spoken Here program places trained volunteers (to Dec. 31) at locations along the coast to help visitors spot migrating Gray whales as they travel from Alaska to the warm lagoons of Baja Mexico.

Wednesday, Dec. 28**Bingo!**

12:30 p.m., Bob Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A, Seaside, 503-738-7393, www.sunsetempire.com. Bingo

play, 10 cents per card, \$2.40 all games.

Overeaters Meeting

3:30 p.m., Seaside Public Library, 1131 Broadway, Seaside, 503-440-4390. Overeaters Anonymous groups seek recovery and support through the Twelve Steps program.

The Coats

7:30 p.m., Coaster Theatre, 108 Hemlock St., Cannon Beach, 503-436-1242, www.coastertheatre.com, \$39. A holiday concert featuring The Coats return offers a night of seamless a cappella arrangements of holiday classics and contemporary favorites.

Thursday, Dec. 29**Ham Radio Breakfast**

8 a.m., Finn's Fish House, 227 Broadway, Seaside, 503-738-9692. Ham radio operators meet every Thursday, venues change the first Thursday of the month.

SDDA Breakfast

8:30 a.m., Pig 'N' Pancake, 323 Broadway, Seaside, 503-717-1914, www.seasideowntown.com. Weekly speakers, discussions and a no-host breakfast.

Kiwanis Club Meeting

Noon, Pig 'N' Pancake, 323 Broadway, Seaside, open to the public, www.facebook.com/pages/Kiwanis-Club-of-Seaside-Ore. Features weekly speakers, discussions and a no-host lunch.

Matinee Thursdays

1 p.m., Bob Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A, Seaside, 503-738-7393, www.sunsetempire.com, free. Enjoy popcorn and a movie on senior matinee Thursdays.

History & Hops

6 p.m., Seaside Brewing Co., 851 Broadway, Seaside, 503-738-7065, www.seasidemuseum.org. At the next History & Hops lecture, retired National Park Service

ranger Tom Wilson will discuss how important salt was to the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery's expedition.

Friday, Dec. 30**Low Impact Walking**

9:30 a.m., 503-738-7751, locations vary.

Coyote Willow

7 p.m., McMenamins Sand Trap, 1157 Marion Ave., Gearhart, 503-717-8150, www.mcmenamins.com, no cover. Coyote Willow's music styles range from folk, blues, rock, gypsy jazz and rockabilly to intriguingly complex instrumentals.

Open Mic & Jam

7 p.m., Pacific Pearl Bistro, 111 Broadway, Seaside.

RJ Marx Trio

7 p.m., WineKraft, 80 10th St., Astoria, 503-468-0206, no cover, 21 +. Saxophonist RJ Marx leads the trio in a repertoire of jazz music with John Orr (guitar) and Dave Gager (drums).

Saturday, Dec. 31**Chris Merrill**

9 p.m., McMenamins Sand Trap, 1157 Marion Ave., Gearhart, 503-717-8150, www.mcmenamins.com, no cover, 21 +. Make it a night to remember and party to live music of rock, soul, pop and rhythm-n-blues performed by Chris Merrill.

Thunder Road Band

9 p.m., American Legion, 1315 Broadway, Seaside, 503-738-5111, www.seasidepost99.org, \$5, 21 +. Ring in the New Year with Thunder Road playing country, classic rock and blues; dinner special served at 5 p.m. for \$20.

Sunday, Jan. 1**First Day Hikes**

9 a.m., Oswald West State Park, Manzanita; 10 a.m., Fort Stevens State

Park, Hammond, 800-551-6949, www.oregonstateparks.org, free. Park rangers or volunteers will lead visitors on a guided First Day Hike at participating state parks New Year's Day, day-use parking fees are waived at participating parks Jan. 1 only; no pets allowed and dress weather appropriate with sturdy shoes.

Monday, Jan. 2**Knochlers Pinochle**

1 p.m., Bob Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A, Seaside, 503-738-7393, all ages, \$1 per session per person.

Tuesday, Jan. 3**TOPS Meeting**

9:15 a.m., North Coast Family Fellowship, 2245 Wahanna Road, Seaside, 509-910-0354.

Senior Karaoke

12:30 p.m., Bob Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A, Seaside, 503-738-3311, www.sunsetempire.com, free. Senior karaoke follows the senior lunch program on the first Tuesday of the month. Time is approximate.

Wednesday, Jan. 4**Bingo!**

12:30 p.m., Bob Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A, Seaside, 503-738-7393.

Overeaters Meeting

3:30 p.m., Seaside Public Library, 1131 Broadway, Seaside, 503-440-4390.

Gearhart City Council

7 p.m., City Hall, 698 Pacific Way, Gearhart, 503-738-5501, www.ci.gearhart.or.us. Regular city council meetings are held monthly on the first Wednesday.

Thursday, Jan. 5**Ham Radio Breakfast**

8 a.m., call for location, Seaside, 503-738-9692.

SDDA Breakfast

8:30 a.m., Pig 'N' Pancake, 323 Broadway, Seaside, 503-717-1914.

Kiwanis Club Meeting

Noon, Pig 'N' Pancake, 323 Broadway, Seaside, open to the public.

Matinee Thursdays

1 p.m., Bob Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A, Seaside, 503-738-7393, free.

Grief Support

2 p.m., Bob Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A, Seaside, 503-338-6230, 18 +. Lower Columbia Hospice provides group support through journaling and discussion.

Friday, Jan. 6**Chamber Breakfast**

8:15 a.m., Finn's Fish House, 227 Broadway, Seaside, 503-738-6391, www.seasidechamber.com. Open to the public, weekly speakers, discussions and a no-host breakfast.

Low Impact Walking

9:30 a.m., 503-738-7751, locations vary.

Open Mic & Jam

7 p.m., Pacific Pearl Bistro, 111 Broadway, Seaside.

RJ Marx Trio

7 p.m., WineKraft, 80 10th St., Astoria, 503-468-0206, no cover, 21 +.

The Columbians

7 p.m., McMenamins Sand Trap, 1157 Marion Ave., Gearhart, 503-717-8150, www.mcmenamins.com, no cover. The Columbians play a mix of acoustic bluegrass and Americana edectic.

Widdop honored at farewell party

'Amazing' service to the city of Gearhart

By R.J. Marx
Seaside Signal

A cross section of residents and officials gathered at McMenamins Gearhart Hotel Thursday, Dec. 15, for a farewell to Dianne Widdop.

Widdop stepped down from office earlier this year after 23 years in city government, serving as mayor since 2012.

"Her 23 years of service has been amazing," Mayor Matt Brown said. "She's put so much time and service for the community. I've gotten an opportunity to work with her on the Planning Commission, it's going to be great to have her still involved in the community, I know she'll be a voice of reason for all of us who live here."

"She's done a fantastic job for the city of Gearhart," Windermere Realty's Craig Weston said. "I give her kudos."

Gearhart City Councilor Paulina Cockrum called Widdop a mentor and said she hopes that council members can continue the "Wednesday Coffee with the Mayor" — a weekly interaction with city residents — to raise issues of concern.

"These are my friends," Widdop said, clearly touched by the outpouring of support from the community.



R.J. MARX/SEASIDE SIGNAL

Bob and Dianne Widdop at the mayor's farewell party on Dec. 15

Going forward, Widdop said, she hopes Mayor Brown and councilors will address the foredunes and the dunes restoration plan.

"To me that has been postponed and ignored for so many years," Widdop said. "It is so important for the health of the dunes."

An educational workshop is scheduled at the Gearhart firehouse in January.

During her time as mayor, Widdop initiated short-term rental regulations, helped improve the Ridge Path and enforced regulation of Neacoxie Creek Barn. She presided over the opening of the city's first water treatment plant.

In 2014, Widdop faced a recall challenge after she was accused of "abuse of leadership."

Voters supported Widdop

in the March 2015 special election, with 64 percent of the electorate opposing the mayor's recall.

"I'm relieved that the negative things are over," she said Thursday. "I've enjoyed it. I have made lifelong friends. I would do it all over again."

City Administrator Chad Sweet said he has worked with Widdop since his start in Gearhart in 2011.

"She's been great, supportive, always there for the staff," Sweet said. "She's always helped us out."

During the 2014 recall election, "she prevailed and she stayed strong," Sweet added. "I'll miss her around City Hall, but I have a feeling she's going to be around helping the city with whatever needs to be done."

Brown takes oath of office

New mayor succeeds Dianne Widdop

By R.J. Marx
Seaside Signal

The Bible was unavailable, but Matt Brown had some handy reading material on which to take his oath as Gearhart mayor — the 1971 classic novel, "Golf in the Kingdom" by Michael Murphy.

The choice was appropriate for the man who recently received the Merchandiser of the Year award from the PGA of America in New York City. Brown, a former Gearhart planning commissioner, is the general manager and PGA golf pro at Highlands Golf Course.

Two returning council members, Dan Jesse and Sue Lorain, also took oaths of office at a City Council meeting Dec. 14.

Brown then convened his first meeting with a light tap of the gavel.

Former Mayor Dianne Widdop was a member of the audience for the first time in four years for an agenda which yielded the reappointment of planning commissioners Carl Anderson and David Smith and a preview of the city's January dune-grass workshop at the firehouse fea-



R.J. MARX/SEASIDE SIGNAL

Matt Brown takes the oath of office as mayor of Gearhart from City Administrator Chad Sweet.

turing a panel of scientists and government officials.

Organizers, led by Gearhart's Margaret Marino, hope the workshop will yield a plan to restore dunes, address tree growth in the dunes and limit invasive species like Scotch broom while protecting snowy plover habitat.

City Administrator Chad

Sweet will moderate the forum.

At the meeting's conclusion, Brown's gavel was less tentative.

"I was a little nervous, but I thought it went well," he said afterward. "It was really good to be working with some of the councilors I worked with on the Planning Commission."




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