

Tanuya recalls Olsen

By KEVAN MOORE

Port of Tanuya voters, by nearly a two-to-one margin, have voted to recall Port Commissioner Cynthia Olsen.

Some 55.6 percent of the 831 registered voters in the district participated in the special, all-mail election. The votes were counted on Tuesday night of this week in Shelton and the results are expected to be certified by Friday, August 26. Of the participating voters, 297 or 64.29 percent voted "yes" to recall Olsen, while only 165 or 35.71 percent voted "no."

Brad Carey, who is a founder and director of the Residents to Preserve the Quality of Life on Hood Canal and is running unopposed for a different position on the port commission this fall, said he was pleased by the results.

"We regret it had to go this far, but we're grateful that the voters of this district went ahead and participated in the process that is afforded to them for removing an official that is not meeting her duties and responsibilities under the law," he said. "We're grateful that they showed up and voted."

The Residents group, which initiated the recall effort against Olsen, was formed in response to a highly controversial public access plan developed and adopted by Olsen and two former commissioners. Carey says his group waited two months following the recall certification in order to allow Olsen the chance to resign and face reelection in the fall.

"It's unfortunate that she chose not to do that, because that decision will probably end up costing the port nearly \$5,000," Carey said, referring to the potential cost of the special recall election.

Carey said the port is also in desperate need of finding an insurance carrier and explaining to the community what role it has as a tax-collecting agency.

"Right now, it's like a business that doesn't do anything or have anything to offer," he said.