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ONE DOLLAR

From kicker to queen



Paige Ideue, Alie Zagata, Samantha Wozniak, Whitney Westerholm, Kyna Lin and Alina Habegger.

Photos by Jeff Ter Har/For The Daily Astorian

Seaside's homecoming queen wears a football helmet

By KATHERINE LACAZE
EO Media Group

SEASIDE — Customarily, high school homecoming queens are crowned wearing decorative dresses, fancy shoes and classy coiffures.

Seaside senior Whitney Westerholm, on the other hand, donned her bright red football jersey, protective gear and cleats when she received the title during halftime of the Seagulls' homecoming game at the end of September.

"I took off my helmet to put on the crown," Westerholm said.

Normally, the 17-year-old placekicker would have headed to the locker room with the rest of Seaside's varsity football players during halftime of the team's conference game against Valley Catholic High School. However, the homecoming ceremony detained her on the field.

Following high school tradition, female members of the homecoming court rode golf carts onto the field to discover who was selected queen, a process accomplished by each opening a personal bag of balloons — red for the queen and blue for the princesses.

Westerholm opened a bag of red balloons, thinking they were meant for a princess. She looked around to see who received the balloons of a different color, only to find out, "Oh, everybody has the blue ones," she said. "It took me by surprise."

While it wasn't a life dream for her to be crowned homecoming queen, "It was kind of cool," she said.

"To be honest, any one of our girls could have gotten it," she added.

For Westerholm — a standout athlete who plays softball, basketball and soccer — playing



Jeff Ter Har/For The Daily Astorian

Seaside placekicker Whitney Westerholm kicks a point-after.

on the football team was not done on a whim. It's something she wanted for numerous years, and that dream finally came true her senior year.

Since she started in August, Westerholm has undergone the same training as her male counterparts. She takes the sport and her participation seriously.

"I don't want it to be a novelty act," she said. "I'm not doing it because I'm making a statement. I'm doing it because I can, and I want to, and they needed me when I started."

So far, Westerholm is responsible for kicking point-after touchdown attempts or PATs, and her teammate and fellow kicker Taylor Barnes handles field-goal attempts and the starting kick-offs.

The PATs are "pretty easy," Westerholm said. "It's 20 yards, and it's not exactly hard, coming from my soccer background."

She hasn't missed one in a game yet.

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Plan of action

In wake of tragedy, Clatsop Community College discusses how to react to crisis

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

With the recent shooting at Umpqua Community College on their minds, students, faculty and staff of Clatsop Community College packed a meeting room Friday to talk about what to do in an emergency.

After a moment of silence for the victims in Roseburg, interim President Gerald Hamilton, Astoria Police Chief Brad Johnston and college staff talked about the college's capabilities, the interplay with police and the need for robust communication.

Run, hide, fight

The best advice is to run, hide and fight — in that order — Johnston said, dropping bags that could carry weapons and keeping phones to communicate with loved ones, the college and authorities.

Police and the Clatsop County Sheriff's Office train together on such situations, Johnston said, and people can expect a response in as little as

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Smith to receive mental health check

Attorneys spar over pace of the case in alleged killer's trial

By DANI PALMER
EO Media Group

Clatsop County Circuit Court Judge Cindee Matyas gave the District Attorney's Office the go-ahead for a mental health evaluation with alleged killer Jessica Smith on Friday.

Smith, 41, of Goldendale, Wash., appeared in court shackled and in a blue jumpsuit. She is accused of aggravated murder and attempted aggravated murder for allegedly drugging and murdering her daughter, Isabella Smith, 2, and attempting to kill her older daughter, Alana Smith, 13, in a Cannon Beach hotel in July 2014.

Smith's attorney William Falls and his co-counsel plan to use a diminished capacity defense, and on Aug. 28, opposed the state's chosen evaluator, Dr. Paul Guastadisegni, because Falls claimed the Portland-based psychologist lacked the proper credentials to do such an examination under new state standards.

"Frankly, this is sandbagging," District Attorney Josh Marquis said.

He said he sent Guastadisegni's background to Falls and co-counsel Lynne Morgan in July, six weeks before the status hearing in August. Falls didn't oppose the proposed evaluator until the morning of that court date.

In response, Marquis said the state took extra steps as a precaution, ensuring Guastadisegni has been temporarily and conditionally certified to do the evaluation.

"The state is entitled to its examination," Matyas told Falls, adding she believes Guastadisegni is appropriate.

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Behavioral counselor helps kids cope

As a teacher in Virginia, Jolene Wolfe said she felt frustrated that the emotional needs of her students were not being met, undermining their education.

"I definitely experienced frustration in having to focus on standards so much, when I could see my students were struggling with more important life issues," she said.

Now Wolfe finds herself based at Warrenton Grade School, providing that behavioral support to some of the most challenging students in the county.

Wolfe, a youth and family clinician from Clatsop Behavioral Healthcare, provides everyday therapy to about 10 students in the consortium classroom, a combined



service of all five Clatsop County school districts taking students who, because of traumas they've experienced, cannot cope with mainstream classrooms.

Wolfe's position is funded through a one-year grant from Greater Oregon Behavioral Health Inc. and is part of Warrenton Grade School's transition to trauma-informed care, a framework for understanding, recognizing and responding to the effects of all types of trauma.

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Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian

Jolene Wolfe is a behavioral support therapist for local school districts, based at Warrenton Grade School.

