

# Famed local pup shines in Gig Harbor

Justin Much Salem Statesman Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK

One famed Mt. Angel dachshund joined his sister recently by gaining some notoriety of his own.

Meatloaf, who was in the litter of Mt. Angel BB (Beautiful Baby), became an AKC champion on Jan. 14 during the Gig Harbor Kennel Club Show.

Meatloaf and Mt. Angel BB were both born during the Oktoberfest Wiener Dog Races on Sept. 18, 2016, to owner Jacque Keller-McCormick, a dachshund breeder from rural Mt. Angel/Brooks area. The latter dog was adopted by Thornton, Pa. broker Debbie Kiotis and became a show-dog under the tutelage of professional dog handler Margery Good.

Meatloaf was taken in by Michelle Kutzler, an Oregon State University veterinarian and Greater Portland Dachshund Club member who also happened to deliver both pups that day in Mt. Angel.

Mt. Angel BB was celebrated last year for becoming a champion dog-show dachshund before her first birthday. Kutzler notified us in January that Meatloaf joined the ranks at Gig Harbor.



Literally born during the 2016 Mt. Angel wiener dog races, Mt. Angel BB (beautiful baby) went on to become a champion dog-show dachshund before her first birthday. Recently, her brother Meatloaf, became an AKC champion on Jan. 14 during the Gig Harbor Kennel Club Show.  
SPECIAL TO THE APPEAL TRIBUNE

# Oregon to consider new whistleblower protection



An Oregon Department of Transportation weigh station along the I-5 in October. An ODOT employee settled a lawsuit with the state after he says he was fired for pointing out problems. MOLLY J. SMITH/STATESMAN JOURNAL

Tracy Loew Salem Statesman Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Senate Republican Leader Jackie Winters has introduced a bill to expand whistleblower protections in Oregon.

The Salem lawmaker said she was moved to draft the legislation after reading a November story in the Statesman Journal about former Oregon Department of Transportation employee Gerritt Law.

Law, a technician in the Motor Carrier Division, repeatedly informed his superiors about problems he found after taking the job in 2013. He ended up getting fired.

Among his concerns: Employees lacked safety training and were asked to work in dangerous conditions. Equipment costing thousands of dollars was purchased without compatibility testing, and later found to not work. Contracts were being split so the dollar amounts stayed below open-bidding requirements. And contractors were overbilling for work.

Law's complaints eventually triggered multiple investigations that confirmed most of his concerns. But they also led to his firing. The state settled Law's retaliation lawsuit in May 2017

for \$95,000.

Winters said the report made her think about how important it is to ensure that public employees are free to bring forth concerns without fear of retaliation.

Oregon law already prohibits public and private employers from retaliating against employees who report in good faith information the employee believes is a violation of a state or federal law or regulation. That could include sexual harassment, failure to provide required breaks, or unfair trade practices.

Oregon's public-sector whistleblower law also protects public employees from retaliation for disclosing any information the employee reasonably believes is evidence of mismanagement, gross misuse or waste of public resources or funds, abuse of authority, or a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety.

Winters' bill, HB 1599, allows state-employee whistleblowers to remain anonymous, and sets up a complaint reporting procedure.

It requires the Oregon Department of Justice to establish a mandatory, uniform whistleblowing training program for all supervisors and employees, and

produce a manual describing whistleblowing rules and employee rights.

And it directs the state Bureau of Labor and Industries to study whistleblowing activities in Oregon and produce a report and recommendations.

"We know there isn't any real systematic way of training. We don't have a manual put together that says, 'Here state employees, here are your rights,'" Winters said.

The bill will be considered during the 35-day legislative session that begins Feb. 5.

Winters praised Law, saying she hopes he knows his efforts were not in vain.

"He wanted to make sure, not only that we weren't wasting dollars, but that what we were doing was within the rules and regulations that we promulgate," Winters said. "When you have a good employee, I believe that employee should be encouraged, not discouraged."

"I'm sure there was a lot of risk that he took," she said. "I want others to know they can do that without feeling what he felt."

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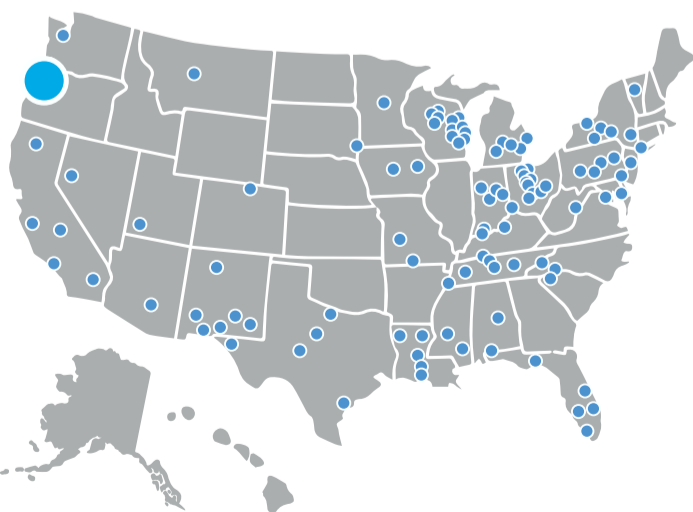
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Kennedy's Kalysa Kleinschmit grimaces after failing to get the ball before it went out of bounds against Regis on Jan. 31. BILL POEHLER/STATESMAN JOURNAL

## Title

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member of Kennedy's starting five – Carley, Kleinschmit, Arritola, Molly Jaeger and Kaylin Cantu – is the team's leading scorer.

There have been nights a reserve, sophomore Ibeth Gomez, has been the leading scorer.

This Trojans have become impossible for opposing coaches to game plan against.

"Our goal, as well, was to develop a big, deep bench because (the state tournament in) Pendleton is three days of hard basketball and you see a lot of teams, they play awesome on the first day and then slowly start going downhill because they run out of gas because they only have five players or six players," Kerry Hall said.

"We said we have to have more than five players who could play. We did that with (the 2016 team), and we have developed that again."

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