

## CCC's original softball coach returns

BY JEREMY MCDONALD  
For the Keizertimes.

If there's one person synonymous with softball at Chemeketa Community College, it's Cassie Belmodis.

In 1999 when the softball program started, Belmodis was the Storm's first head coach. In 2018 as athletic director, Belmodis saw her efforts in finding a permanent home for the team pay off when the program finally received a softball field on the Salem Campus. On February 16, Chemeketa's Board of Education made Belmodis's connection to the field permanent by unanimously voting to rename the home of Storm softball, "Belmodis Field."

Belmodis recently retired from Chemeketa as dean of the Health, Human Performance(HHP), and Athletics department and athletic director.

"It has been a privilege to serve our students, the Board of Ed, Chemeketa, and our middle name, the Salem community, for all these years," Belmodis said.

Board member Ed Dodson, who spent time as one of Belmodis's assistant coaches, made the initial motion to move the naming off the consent agenda to an immediate vote.

"The years I spent with you prior to Chemeketa and the years at Chemeketa, you are truly one of my very, very best friends . . . I'm proud and pleased to know you and be your friend," Dodson said.

Belmodis first started working at Chemeketa in 1985, holding various

positions in the Student Life area before moving over to HHP in 2004. In total, she worked at the college for 37 years until her retirement. As athletic director, Bemodis also oversaw the addition of men's and women's soccer programs in 2008, along with women's cross-country and distance track in 2019.

Not only is she the softball program's first head coach, but Belmodis is also the most successful. In nine seasons at the helm, Belmodis's teams had a 63% win rate, according to the Northwest Athletic Conference (NWAC). She remains the winningest coach in Chemeketa softball history. That success was done with the Storm as nomads with no true home-field advantage, playing at off-campus locations such as Wallace Marine Park and holding practice inside the gymnasium.

The construction of the Storm Athletic Complex in 2018 added permanent on-campus softball and soccer facilities.

On a regional level, Belmodis served as the NWAC's Softball Committee Chair, with the NWAC crediting her for bringing "much-needed stability" to conference softball and championship tournaments. She was named the NWAC's Dutch Trieblasser Outstanding Administrator in 2008 and received the Jim Jackson Outstanding Service Award in 2021.

Storm softball's first home game of the 2022 season at Belmodis Field is currently scheduled for March 30 against Mt. Hood.

## obituary

### Henry "Hank" Albert Hanson

June 15, 1926 – February 19, 2022

Henry "Hank" Hanson died peacefully in his home attended by son, Jeff Hanson and grandson, Nick Richards. Hank arrived on June 15, 1926 in Salem to John Albert and Ellen (Johnson) Hanson. He was born into a large Norwegian immigrant family, of four boys and seven girls, including twin sister, Lena. Hank joined the Navy at 17, and served on an aircraft carrier in the South Pacific during WWII.

Upon returning home he enjoyed a varied career which included: a self-owned commercial janitorial company, which served businesses in downtown Salem; appliance repair; and a self-owned framing company, which he ran with the help of his wife Julie. He also was VP of a government funded building company and worked in Alaska building houses in the 1970s. He finished his career working as the head custodian at John Hopkins Elementary School, Sherwood.

He married Julia Rose McDowell on



HENRY "HANK" ALBERT HANSON

March 10, 1962 and became stepfather to Rod and Gail McDowell. Hank and Julie had two more children Nancy (deceased) and Jeffry. He was predeceased by children Henry "Little Hank," who died in infancy, and Philip, with first wife, Juanita. He leaves behind 15 grandchildren and many great-grandchildren.

Family, friends, hunting, camping, motorcycle rides, and travels were Hank's biggest passions in life. He was known to stop at garage sales to pick up tools and special finds and enjoyed putting on garage sales in more recent years.

No service is planned.

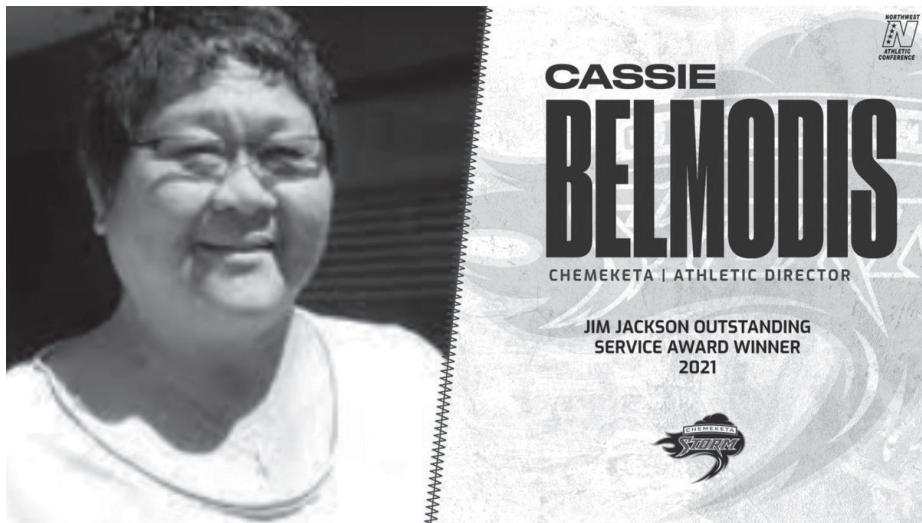
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