

# Wind, rain and hail greet softball tourney

By GARY HENLEY  
The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — Six softball teams battled wind, rain, cold and hail all day Monday at Broadway Field, where Seaside's Spring Break Invitational got underway.

The two-day event opened early Monday morning with Estacada's 14-3 win over Warrenton, and concluded Monday night with Astoria's 27-0 victory over Ilwaco.

In between, Scio won a pair of games — 20-3 over Seaside and 7-6 over Estacada; and Astoria defeated Warrenton 7-3 in the big local showdown.

The Lady Fish rallied from 1-0 and 2-1 deficits to beat the Warriors.

Warrenton opened the game with three straight singles to center field from Landree Mieth, Bri Marsch and Allysa Casteel, with Casteel's hit scoring Mieth.

Astoria got out of the inning on an unassisted double play by shortstop Mykka Abrahams.

And Astoria quickly tied the score in the bottom of the first, as Rylee DeMander reached base on the first of eight Warrenton errors, and scored on a two-out base hit to left by Kelsey Wullger.

Mieth had her second base hit in the top of the third and scored on an error to give the Warriors a 2-1 lead, but Astoria answered with three runs in the bottom of the third.

Wullger led off with her second hit, followed by a walk and a hit batter to load the bases.

Sara Lertora drew a bases loaded walk to force in one run, and a Warrenton error allowed two more base runners to score for a 4-2 Astoria lead.

Abi Danen and Libby DiBartolomeo added run-scoring singles in the fourth, and Abrahams gave the Lady Fish



JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian  
Astoria's Caitlyn Hougham, No. 20, scores after a hit by Abi Danen in the fourth inning of the softball game against Warrenton. See more photos online at [www.dailystar.com](http://www.dailystar.com)



JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian  
Warrenton's Niqui Blodgett, No. 11, pitches during the second inning of the softball game against Astoria at Seaside's Broadway Field Monday.



JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian  
Astoria's Abi Danen, No. 33, hits a one drive to score a run in the fourth inning of the softball game against Warrenton.

## SCOREBOARD

### PREP SCHEDULE

#### TODAY

**Baseball** — Astoria at Glencoe Tournament, TBA  
**Softball** — Knappa at Riverside, 10 a.m.; Nyssa vs. Knappa, at Riverside, 3 p.m.; **Seaside Tournament:** Estacada vs. Seaside, 10 a.m.; Scio vs. Astoria, 12:15 p.m.; Ilwaco vs. Seaside, 2:30 p.m.; Ilwaco vs. Warrenton, 4:45 p.m.

#### WEDNESDAY

**Baseball** — Astoria at Glencoe Tournament, TBA;

Seaside vs. North Valley, at Madras Tournament, 11:30 a.m.; Naselle at Warrenton, 4 p.m.  
**Softball** — Naselle at Warrenton, 4 p.m.; Knappa at Heppner, 1:30 p.m.

#### THURSDAY

**Baseball** — Seaside at Madras Tournament, TBA  
**Track** — Pacific League meet, at Ilwaco, TBA

#### FRIDAY

**Baseball** — Seaside at Madras Tournament, TBA; Warrenton at Regis, 1 p.m.

their final run with an RBI single that scored Lertora in the fifth.

Marsch had a single and a double for the Warriors, and freshman Niqui Blodgett had a run-scoring single in the top of the fifth for Warrenton's third run.

DiBartolomeo went the distance on the mound for Astoria, allowing six hits with six strikeouts and three walks.

Danen finished with two hits for the Lady Fish, then belted a home run in the win over Ilwaco.

### Estacada 14, Warrenton 3

Estacada built a 6-1 through two innings, on its way to a 14-3 win over the Warriors in one of Monday's early games.

Warrenton's Landree Mieth drew a leadoff walk, stole second, advanced to third on a fielder's choice hit by Bri Marsch and stole home on a delayed steal, giving the Warriors an early lead.

Warrenton finished with just two hits, by Niqui Blodgett and Alyssa Herrera.

### Scio 20, Seaside 3

Scio took advantage of some early walks to score a 20-3 win over Seaside.

Jetta Ideue, Whitney Westholm, Paige Ideue, Alisa Gonzalez and Katie Hotchkiss had hits for the Gulls.

### Knappa drops a pair

**RIVERSIDE** — The Knappa softball team opened a six-game road swing Monday with two games in the Riverside Tournament.

Pilot Rock edged the Log-

gers 3-1 in the opener, and Weston-McEwen defeated Knappa 13-2 in Game 2.

Logger pitcher Kacie Cameron struck out 13 batters in the first game, allowing six hits and a walk.

McKailyn Rogers had two of Knappa's four hits.

Alyson Olheiser went 2-for-3 in the loss to Weston-McEwen.

### BASEBALL

**Loggers win; Fishermen fall**  
**TOLEDO** — A possible

state championship preview?

Only time will tell, but for now the Knappa Loggers could be the new team to beat in Class 2A baseball, as they knocked off defending 2A state champion Monroe, 11-5, Monday in Toledo.

Knappa's second game with Toledo was postponed.

In Hillsboro, McMinnville defeated Astoria 6-0 in the Glencoe Tournament, which continues today.

# Gunner: Labrador will also serve as a police mascot

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Because citizens nationwide carry medical marijuana cards, and several states have legalized recreational marijuana (with Oregon set to join them July 1, 2015), Gunner and many other K-9 officers of his generation will not be trained to hit on that drug.

After he and Gregory spent two months bonding and working with a trainer from Washington County at different sites, including City Hall and the public works building, Gunner was officially certified through the Pacific Northwest Police Detection Dog Association March 3.

Gunner has been deployed on several calls, though Gregory couldn't comment on them because the cases are pending.

"He's such a good worker," Gregory said. "We really lucked out with him."

### Relationship-builder

In about six months, Gunner will begin his search-and-rescue training with Clatsop County Search and Rescue, Chief Jason Schermerhorn said.

It is "standard practice" to wait a while before adding a new trick to a K-9 officer's repertoire, he said. "You don't want to throw everything on board at once because it can be confusing for the dog."

Once he's certified in that area, Gunner will be able to help officers track down missing residents or hikers lost in the city's forest reserves. This, coupled



ERICK BENGEL — EO Media Group  
Officer Josh Gregory gives some well-deserved love to Gunner, the only narcotics dog in Clatsop County at the moment. Gunner was certified March 3.

his drug-detection skills, will make him a "dual-purpose" dog, Schermerhorn said.

Gunner will also serve as a mascot for the department, and Gregory plans eventually to introduce Gunner to local schools.

A K-9 officer can be a "tool that's used to build relationships with students," making it easier for officers to teach kids about the dangers of drugs,

the importance of being productive citizens and that "police officers are people, too," Clatsop County Sheriff Tom Bergin said.

Before long, Gregory and Gunner may start doing public demonstrations of Gunner's drug-detection skills at different community events — for example, the department's "Coffee with a Cop" outreach meetings.

### Drug dog

Gunner, whose radio call sign is 709, is the only narcotics dog in Clatsop County. Other local law enforcement agencies, including the Clatsop County Interagency Narcotics Team, may use Gunner to find drugs at crime scenes, during highway vehicle stops and in drug-related investigations.

The county Sheriff's Office retired its last narcotics dog, a female Border Collie mix named "Dixie," when her handler, Deputy Officer Tim Guest, moved to the Bend Police Department in late 2013, according to Alan Palmrose, a patrol sergeant with the sheriff's office.

The Sheriff's Office still has a patrol dog, a Belgian Malinois named "Pax," but may soon start gathering funds to restart its narcotics dog program, Bergin said.

"It's terrible that we even have to go down this road, but, unfortunately, there's a lot of drugs in our community," he said.

Jeff Roberts, assistant principal of Seaside High School, said his school relied on Dixie to locate drugs in students' lockers and may rely on Gunner to fill that role. A narcotics dog, he said, is a "tremendous resource" that can "help keep our kids safe."

### "Cash" and costs

Gunner may have passed his narcotics certification test on his first attempt, but Gunner himself represents the department's second attempt to pick the right pup.

Last September and October, Greg-

ory and the Washington County trainer spent about four weeks trying to train a donated 2-year-old Belgian Malinois named "Cash" on drug detection.

As reported in a Daily Astorian story that went viral, however, Cash turned out to be high-strung, afraid of heights, barked at inappropriate moments and ultimately failed to complete the training. He was returned to his original owner, Tami Schultz, of Clatsop County Search and Rescue, in October.

Two months later, the department purchased Gunner from Top Dog Police K-9 Training and Consulting, a company in Modesto, Calif., for \$6,200, an amount that also paid for a one-year warranty on Gunner's health that includes a total refund or replacement should Gunner not work out.

The Cannon Beach Police Department had spent much of 2014 raising funds and lining up community donations for its K-9 officer program.

So far, the department has raised almost \$30,000, according to Schermerhorn. In addition, Dogs Allowed Cannon Beach has pledged to supply free dog food for the life of the program, and Dr. Robert Remensnyder, a veterinarian at Seaside Pet Clinic, said he will administer Gunner's routine check-ups free of charge.

Soon, the department may launch another phase of fundraising because, as equipment is added and training continues, the costs of the K-9 officer program will keep incurring, Schermerhorn said.

# Cough: 'We're at about 190 cases right now'

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would not be back in school until April 2 at the earliest.

With state tests and spring break coming up, the timing to make such a decision is not "perfect," Tobin said. However, it could have been worse: exposure to pertussis could have happened in the middle of the major testing push.

Otherwise, Tobin says it is "business as usual for the most part" at the high school.

To ask questions about this, call the health department at 642-9343 or, if after hours, call the non-emergency dispatch line, 642-9397, and ask for the public health nurse on call.

Last year, there were no reported cases of whooping cough in Pacific County, according to the Washington Department of Health, but pertussis has been on the upswing in the state since 2012.

At this time last year, DOH recorded 30 cases. The number is much higher this year.

"We're at about 190 cases right now," said Katie Wolt, health educator with DOH.

"With people traveling, with spring break happening, we've seen an uptick," Wolt said. She added that after state wrestling competitions they also will usually see an increase in the number of diagnosed cases.

## FAQS

Here is a question-and-answer format briefing on the disease from the Washington State Department of Health:

**What is whooping cough (also known as pertussis)?**

Whooping cough spreads easily and is caused by bacteria. It spreads by coughing and sneezing and mainly affects the respiratory system (the organs that help you breathe).

**How serious is whooping cough?**

Whooping cough is very serious, especially for babies and young kids. Whooping cough can cause pneumonia, seizures, brain damage, and death. About half of babies younger than one year of age who get whooping cough are hospitalized.

**What are the symptoms of whooping cough?**

The symptoms differ depending on your age. Babies and young kids can have severe coughing spells that make it hard to eat, drink, breathe, or sleep. Some babies may turn blue because they can't catch their breath. Older kids and adults may have a bad cough, a runny nose, and a fever.

**How soon do symptoms appear?**

Symptoms usually start 5 to 21 days after exposure to whooping cough (average is 7 to 10 days after exposure).

**How is whooping cough treated?**

Whooping cough is generally treated with antibiotics. It's important to start treatment as soon as possible to slow the spread of the disease. Early treatment may also make the symptoms less severe.

**How is whooping cough prevented?**

Getting vaccinated is the best way to prevent whooping cough. Using good health manners also helps slow the spread of whooping cough and many other diseases—wash your hands, cover your cough, and stay home when you're sick.

**Are some people at higher risk from whooping cough?**

People at greatest risk from whooping cough include:

- Infants under one year old.
- Pregnant women (especially in the third trimester).
- People with asthma could potentially have more serious symptoms if they get whooping cough.

**Can I spread whooping cough even if I don't have a bad cough?**

Yes. You can have whooping cough without realizing it and infect others. That's why it's important to get vaccinated. It's especially important if you know you'll be around babies or pregnant women.

**What if I was exposed to someone who**

**has whooping cough?**

Call your doctor, nurse, or clinic as soon as possible. You may be given antibiotics that can stop you from getting the disease. Try to stay away from other people until treated (or until another diagnosis for the cough proves it's not contagious).

**What should I do if I think someone in my family has whooping cough?**

If you think you or one of your family members has whooping cough, call your doctor, nurse, or clinic. Try to stay away from other people until the illness is treated (or another diagnosis for the cough proves it's not contagious).

**How should employers handle employees returning to work who have had whooping cough?**

Employers should talk with their Human Resources Office to understand their company policies, procedures, and labor agreements. Employers should not share individual employee health information with others.

**What's the best cleaning method to prevent spreading whooping cough?**

While pertussis bacteria can live on a surface or object for several days, most people don't get whooping cough from contact with surfaces or objects. They get it from close contact with people who have whooping cough.