



JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian

Seaside's Sam Hinton chips a shot on the green of the 14th hole of the Fish Invitational at the Astoria Country Club Monday. He was medalist in Thursday's meet against Astoria at Gearhart Golf Links.

## Gulls win the golfers' Clatsop Clash

The Daily Astorian

GEARHART — The Seaside boys golf team improved to 2-0 in Cowapa League play, with a 326-389 victory in golf's version of the Clatsop Clash Thursday at the Gearhart Golf Links.

Seaside's Sam Hinton was medalist with a 75, while teammate Shane Fritter was second with an 80, followed by Aaron Richardson at 81.

Kevin Lacoste had the other counting score for Seaside with a 90, with Josef Barbic rounding out the Gull golfers with a 102.

Will Keeran and Joey Voeller both shot 95 to lead Astoria. Also competing for the Fishermen varsity were Kirk Fausett (98, personal best), Ron Schumacher (101)

and Arthur Clark (102).

Hinton and Richardson played together in the first group and had quite a battle between themselves, at least after Richardson took a 10 on the second hole.

Throwing out that hole, the two went back and forth with the duo recording 23 pars and four birdies between them. Fritter added two more birdies and was tied with Hinton through 13 holes before Hinton birdied the next two holes. Lacoste added a birdie for the Gulls with a two on the 15th.

"We had some troubles out there today," said Seaside coach Jim Poetsch, "but we were still able to put up a decent score. Sam was solid again today. He had his highest score of the year and was still only

3-over-par. Aaron was able to overcome a 10 on the second hole, with the help of two two's, and posted a respectable number."

He added, "It is promising when we have some hiccups on the course and are still able to post a score that would be competitive in any tournament."

### TRACK

**Fishermen win 11 events**  
TILLAMOOK — The Astoria track team competed against a host of smaller schools Tuesday, in an invitational track meet hosted by Tillamook.

Team results were incomplete, as were some individual events.

Astoria athletes won 11 separate events, including nine on the girls' side.

The Lady Fishermen collected victories from freshman Darian Hageman in three different events (pole vault, 10-foot; long jump, 16-11 1/2; triple jump, 35-2 1/2); Natalie Cummings in two events (100 meters, 12.62 seconds; 200 meters, 26.78); Kaylee Mitchell in both the 400 meters (1:00.79) and 800 meters (2:29.94); Kaisa Johnson (1,500 meters, 5:22.70); and the 400-meter relay (Jillian Ketcham, Shrida Sharma, Mitchell and Cummings, 53.10).

Winners for the Astoria boys included Lucas Caruana in two events (800, 2:11.19 seconds; and the 1,500, 4:24.69).

For Knappa, Devin Lewis Allen won the 400 meters (53.52).

## Lady Warriors blank the Cougars, 9-0

By GARY HENLEY  
The Daily Astorian

PORTLAND — The Warrenton Lady Warriors are off to a perfect start in league play, as they opened the Lewis & Clark League softball season with a 9-0 win at Portland Adventist Thursday.

Warrenton pitcher Niqui Blodgett tossed a six-hitter against the Cougars, striking out 10 with no walks.

Landree Miethe led off the game with a single, stole second and eventually scored on a sacrifice fly by Alyssa Casteel, for the only run Warrenton would need.

Rachel Dyer added a two-run single in the fourth, coupled with a sacrifice bunt by Alyssa Herrera that scored Ally Hanna.

Warrenton tacked on four runs in the sixth and one in the seventh.

The Warriors finished with nine hits, led by Dyer (3-for-4) and Miethe (2-for-5, scored twice). Brianna Marsch had two RBIs.

Warrenton hosts Seaside today.

### Clatskanie 7, Astoria 5

CLATSKANIE — In another nonleague softball

contest between the Lewis & Clark League and the Cowapa League, Clatskanie rallied for a 7-5 win over Astoria Thursday.

The Fishermen built a 5-0 lead before the Tigers answered with seven runs over the third and fourth innings.

Clatskanie pitcher Mackenzie Mitchell allowed six hits with six strikeouts and three walks.

She also had three hits at the plate, while teammate Sage Miller was 2-for-4 with a triple.

### BASEBALL

#### Seaside 5, Tillamook 3

TILLAMOOK — Seaside bounced back from Tuesday's 16-5 loss to Tillamook with a 5-3 win over the Cheesemakers Thursday, in Cowapa League baseball action at Tillamook.

Sophomore Brent Walsh pitched a complete game for the Gulls, allowing five hits with 10 strikeouts and one walk. He retired the last 14 batters he faced.

At the plate, Walsh had a key two-out, two-run single in the fifth inning. Scotty Plampin added a double for Seaside, which hosts Warrenton for a single game at noon Saturday.

## SCOREBOARD

### PREP SCHEDULE

#### TODAY

**Baseball** — Horizon Christian at Astoria, 4 p.m.; Faith Bible at Knappa (2), 3 p.m.

**Softball** — Seaside at Warrenton (2), 4 p.m.

#### SATURDAY

**Baseball** — Warrenton at Seaside, Noon

**Softball** — Molalla at Seaside, 4 p.m.

**Track** — Lower Columbia Invitational, TBA; Meet of Champions (at Willamette U.), 10 a.m.; Warrenton at De La Salle, 11:30 a.m.

#### MONDAY

**Girls Golf** — Seaside Invitational, 11 a.m.

**Boys Golf** — Banks Invitational, 1 p.m.

### SOFTBALL

#### HIGH SCHOOLS

**Warrenton 9, P. Adventist 0**  
W: Niqui Blodgett (10 K's, 0 walks). L: Tori Johnson. RBI: Marsch 2, Dyer 2, Casteel, Herrera. 2B: War, Miethe. 3B: PA, Gressele. LOB: Warrenton 7, Portland Adventist 5.  
**Warrenton 100 034 1-9 9 0**  
**P. Adventist 000 000 0-0 6 3**

### BASEBALL

#### HIGH SCHOOLS

**Seaside 5, Tillamook 3**  
Walsh and Quicke; Reeves, Ramage (6) and Harmon. W: Walsh. L: Reeves. 2B: Sea, Plampin; Til, Reeves.  
**Seaside 000 030 2-5 7 0**  
**Tillamook 003 000 0-3 5 1**

## Clerk: It's up to county's insurance to respond to the torts claim notice

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"Ms. Grimes felt torn between the clear direction she had received from the SOS and Mr. Somer's demand that she ignore that direction," Altschul wrote.

The notice claims Kennedy Grimes was unlawfully fired because she insisted on implementing the lawfully required process.

She was officially fired on Dec. 19. Altschul said he first contacted the county on Dec. 15 regarding Kennedy Grimes' employment law claims against the county.

Somers said it is up to the county's insurance agency as to whether or not the county will respond to the torts claim notice.

"I don't know if we will respond. It's up to our insurance agency," Somers said. "We have insurance for these kinds of things. If they want to respond, they will."

An internal investigation completed by Somers in November found that the clerk's office did not follow its established protocol for proofreading the draft ballots before the election.

His findings described an issue with distractions and multitasking. The proofreaders worked individually rather than following the procedure of reading out loud while another proofreader reads along, Somers said.

In response, the torts claim notice states, Kennedy Grimes revised the proofreading process because it was no longer practical with smaller staffing levels and increased workload.

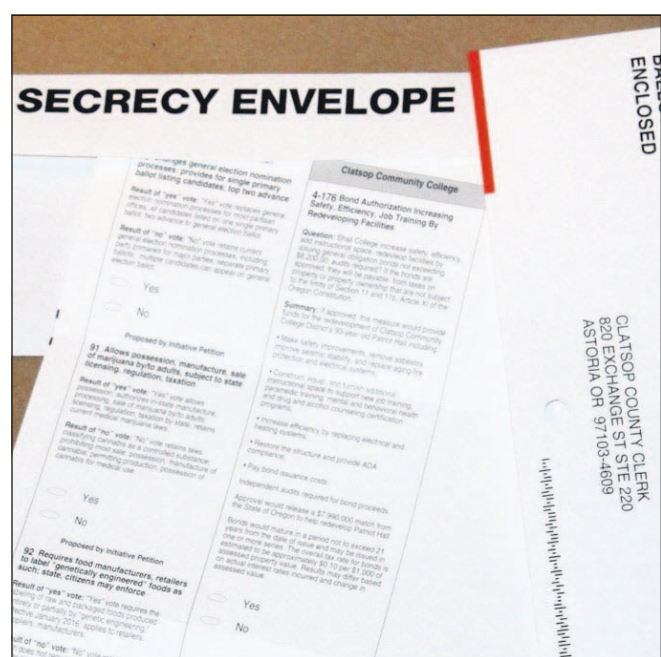
"Notably, Mr. Somers untruthfully stated that Ms. Grimes failed to follow procedures even

though Ms. Grimes had the authority to and did implement updated procedures," Altschul wrote.

Altschul concludes that if there was a failure of leadership and process, it was Somers' failure as "ultimately responsible, and the person accountable."

Kennedy Grimes served as Clatsop County clerk from 2011 to 2012, then returned to the position in June 2013.

Valerie Crafard, former clerk of the Clatsop County Board of Commissioners, was hired as Clatsop County clerk in March.



The Astoria ballot for the South Slope in the November general election.

## Somers: Mill Creek opportunity is one he didn't want to overlook

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"Scott is a really great manager and we would hate to lose him," Clatsop County Board of Commissioner Chairman Scott Lee said. "Someone of his caliber, I can see how other places would want to recruit him. He has done such a great job balancing our budget, and handled controversy really well."

In recent months, Somers had been the focus of complaints in anonymous letters sent to the Board of Commissioners and The Daily Astorian that questioned his management style.

He has admitted a large number of changes have occurred in his time as manager.

Since March 2013, at least six department heads have left the county.

County Clerk Maeve Kennedy Grimes was fired in December after errors were discovered on the general election ballot. In addition, half the county staff were moved to the higher deductible health plans and the Juvenile Detention Center closed, as Somers men-



Clatsop County Manager Scott Somers fields a question from Skip Hauke about getting more manufacturing jobs on the North Coast during an economic forum last year.

tioned in his cover letter.

To put the concerns to bed, Somers proposed a third-party, 360-degree review of himself to the Board

of Commissioners.

The Board of Commissioners hired Kennedy Consulting, a Portland-based firm with over 25 years

experience, in March to conduct the 360 review of Somers.

Hiring Kennedy Consulting will cost the county be-

tween \$10,000 and \$12,000.

If Somers does get hired in Mill Creek, he said, the Board of Commissioners should still pursue the 360

evaluation because it entails a review on county management in general.

"I would recommend continuing to move forward no matter what. It's an overall review of the county and management process," Somers said. "It will be very good information for the commission, the citizens and (county) employees."

Somer's resume lists his address as Hillsboro, although he said, he has an apartment in Astoria where he stays during the week.

With a Master of Public Administration from the University of Arizona, Somers started his public service career in White Bear Lake, Minn., as an assistant to the city manager and then as the assistant city administrator in Savage, Minn., near Minneapolis.

Somers describes the Mill Creek position as an opportunity he did not want to overlook.

"It think, for me, it's kind of a natural progression or evolution in my own professional development," Somers said. "It fits in nicely with what could be a next step for me."

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