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ONE DOLLAR



READY TO RUMBLE

Knappa Days gets loud to support the community

Allen McBride of Vernonia hits the ground after colliding with Wyatt Olson, of Knappa, during a lawnmower race at Knappa Days Saturday. More photos online at www.dailyastorian.com
Photos by Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

By JOSHUA BESSEX
The Daily Astorian

The sounds of chainsaws, cheers and loud engines, filled Knappa Days Field Saturday during the seventh annual Knappa Days event, put on by the Knappa Boosters Club. A parade along Hillcrest Loop Road kicked off the festivities as hundreds attended the fundraising event which included a logging show, lawnmower racing, a big truck rock crawl and various games and vendors. Sunday featured the Christy Miethe and Lindy Yuill Memorial 5K walk/10K run and an all-day Mush Ball tournament. Proceeds from Knappa Days benefit the Knappa High School sports teams, scholarships, and the Knappa Boosters Club. View more photos of the event on Page 10A.



ABOVE: Allen McBride races his lawnmower around the track during a timed trial. BELOW LEFT: Kids race around a track in power wheel cars during Knappa Days Saturday. BELOW RIGHT: Harold Alward loses his hat from the exhaust off his custom-built chainsaw during a cutting demonstration at Knappa Days Saturday.



Butts, no!

Astoria may ban smoking in parks because of secondhand smoke worries

By DERRICK DePLEDGE
The Daily Astorian

Astoria, looking to promote wellness and worried about the health dangers from secondhand smoke, might ban smoking in city parks. The prohibition would apply to traditional parks such as Tapiola Park and McClure Park and popular tourist spots such as the Astoria Riverwalk, the Astoria Column and the Garden of Surging Waves. Clatsop County banned smoking and tobacco use in county parks earlier this year. Warrenton, Gearhart, Seaside and Cannon Beach do not prohibit smoking in parks, although Cannon Beach has restrictions at a basketball court and skate park. The City Council will discuss a potential smoking ban Monday night.

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Cherished Astoria coach dies

Dena Marsch waged a long battle with cancer

By GARY HENLEY
The Daily Astorian

Known for her kind-hearted smile and compassion for the generations of students whom she coached or taught, the Astoria community lost one of its most cherished residents over the weekend. Dena (Bondiotti) Marsch died Friday night, after a long battle with cancer. As a student at Astoria High School (Class of 1972), Marsch participated in volleyball, basketball and track, when female athletes competed in the Girls Athletic Association (before Title IX). After college, she returned to Astoria High and served as a coach, adviser and teacher. She was inducted into the school's Hall of Fame last year.



Dena (Bondiotti) Marsch

See MARSCH, Page 10A

Over the top: Astoria Bus dispatcher wins state award

Getting it right is 'just how Denise is'

Denise Richardson, a driver and dispatcher for Astoria School District since 1987, won the Doug Flatt Administrative Support Award from the Oregon Pupil Transportation Association. The award honors an administrator who exhibits the leadership, attention to detail, community service, interpersonal relationships and customer service exemplified by Flatt, a former chief executive of the Mid-Columbia Bus Co., who was well-known throughout transportation circles in Oregon.

Richardson received nominations for the award from administrators, secretaries and other staff in the Astoria district's transportation department. She started with the district in 1987 as a bus driver and has been a dispatcher for about 15 years. "I was kind of surprised, but it's nice to be recognized," Richardson said. Richardson's boss, Transportation Director Ryan Hahn, said it is important for the district to know about the support staff that helps pull the district's transportation system together.



Kate Gohr, principal at John Jacob Astor Elementary School, said she was concerned about the logistics when changing conference schedules for kindergartners. But Richardson, Gohr said, offered to call every parent to help convey the changes. "That's just how Denise is." Richardson said she has made a habit of calling the parents and guardians of every kindergartner each year to make sure they have the right drop-off points. Now the longest-tenured employee of the district's transportation department, Richardson said she can count down the years to retirement on one hand.



Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian

Denise Richardson, who has worked for the Astoria School District's transportation program since 1987, recently won the Doug Flatt Leadership Award for her administrative support in dispatching.

— Edward Stratton

