



Photos by Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

The Knappa Red Devils throw candy from their float during the Knappa Days parade.

Celebrating Knappa Days



Wyatt Olson races his lawnmower around the track during Knappa Days Saturday.



Ethan Smalley, 10, of Knappa, gets dunked in a dunk tank during Knappa Days Saturday.



Rusty Hebert, of Knappa, foreground, and Gary Boettcher, of Knappa, compete in the Pole Snip competition during a logging show at Knappa Days Saturday.

Marsch: She helped start the Astoria School District Wellness Program

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"In my opinion, she was one of the neatest people I've ever met," said former Astoria coach and Athletic Director Mike Goin, who worked with Marsch for years at the high school.

"When I took over as A.D., we needed a winter sports adviser, because I couldn't both coach and serve as the A.D.," he said. "She was the only person I even considered for that role. When you needed something done, she would always do it right away, and not two days later."

After news of her death spread Friday and Saturday, Facebook timelines quick-

ly filled with thoughts, remembrances and messages to Marsch, especially from Astoria High students.

"Senior year will be rough without you, but there wasn't a day that your wise words and smile didn't brighten mine ... You were truly the most remarkable person I have ever met and I hope to one day have the strength and courage you had yourself. Hearts extremely heavy for you today but God's gained an angel" — Mykka Abrahams.

"... Beyond blessed to have had the opportunity to have known Dena Marsch. Here's to forever being the brightest smile to walk the halls of AHS, you will be

missed and remembered by so many" — Taylor Mickle.

"Dena Bondiotti Marsh, you taught me some of the most valuable lessons you learn from high school, none of which came from a textbook. I know so much more about the woman I want to be because I had you to model it for me. I'm going to miss your smile, but your wonderful spirit will live on in all of those you shared it with — both inside the classroom and out. Rest in peace, Mrs. Marsch" — Dani Bergeson.

"Heaven received another angel. Miss Marsch touched so many lives including mine. I will follow your advice and will make you

proud. Rest in peace. Thank you for touching so many lives" — Jordan Gagnon.

After graduating from Astoria, Marsch enrolled at Oregon College of Education (now Western Oregon), where she played four seasons of volleyball, three years of softball and two in basketball.

She returned to her alma mater and coached varsity volleyball at Astoria from 1980 to 1989, and assisted in basketball and track (AHS girls track won the 1981 state championship).

During her teaching career, she served as class adviser for 29 years, and winter athletics supervisor for 18 years.

She also helped start the Astoria School District Wellness Program in the mid-1980s.

After retiring in June 2009, Marsh and husband John remained active with contributions to the AHS athletic program, purchasing state and sportsmanship banners that hang in the school's gym.

Along with other members of the Class of '72, Marsch was part of the 40th reunion celebration just three years ago.

Playing sports at Astoria gave Marsch a deep passion for athletics. Her P.E. teacher and coach at AHS, Liz Hewitt, inspired Marsch to become a P.E. and health

teacher. She joined the AHS faculty in 1980.

"Teaching was never a job," Marsch told The Daily Astorian reporter Rebecca Sedlak in 2012. "It was a dream, and I had the chance to live that dream every day during my career. You have all these influential minds that are like sponges, just craving knowledge, and you have the opportunity to make a difference in their lives."

A memorial service will be held for Marsch 1 p.m. Friday in the Commons at Astoria High School.

"She was a real stalwart," said Goin, who will serve as Master of Ceremonies at the service. "She was beloved, and will be sorely missed."

Ban: Proposed ordinance would apply to all tobacco consumption

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"We sympathize, I believe, with the people that do smoke," said Norma Hernandez, the chairwoman of the city Parks and Recreation Board, which has recommended the policy change. "But parks are — it's about health, it's about nature, it's about really having a healthy lifestyle. And smoke has no part in it."

"I'm not telling people not to smoke. But when we are maintaining parks that are supported with people's tax money, I have to respect that money and try to put it to use in the best way that we can protect the whole community."

Preventable death

Health campaigns to discourage smoking have significantly reduced the places where people are legally allowed to smoke. The Centers for Disease

Control and Prevention lists smoking as the leading cause of preventable death, and has found there is no risk-free exposure to secondhand smoke.

Smokers, who have been marginalized for consuming a legal product, have not been very successful at fending off restrictions.

Last year, Oregon banned smoking in state parks except in vehicles, campsites and sections of day-use parks set aside as safety rest areas. But an attempt to prohibit smoking on beaches was met with public criticism of government overreach into personal freedom.

Littering, fire risk

At parks, the issue is not only secondhand smoke or setting a tobacco-free example for children, but littering. Cigarette butts are a common item found during park cleanups.

Fire risk is also factor. Smoking is already prohib-



Residents enjoy a movie screening at McClure Park in July. The City Council will consider Monday night whether to ban smoking in parks.

Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

ited on the elevated wooden sections of the Astoria Riverwalk.

The proposed ordinance

in Astoria would apply to all tobacco consumption, including vaping and chewing tobacco.

"It supports our mission within the Parks Department of providing wellness and well-being through

recreational opportunities," said Angela Cosby, the director of the city's Parks and Recreation Department. "And that also includes outdoor recreational opportunities."

"So to be able to protect those who don't want to receive secondhand smoke, that is very beneficial for our parks' system."

Clatsop County adopted a ban on smoking and tobacco use in county parks in May with no public outcry. While some on the county's Recreational Lands Planning Advisory Committee and others raised concerns about personal rights, the hearings before the county Board of Commissioners were uneventful.

The county ban took effect in June.

"I have not had one person call me about the county smoking ban," said Scott Lee, the chairman of the Board of Commissioners.