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ONE DOLLAR

HOMIE RUN!

GASSER LOOKS BACK AT HIS FINAL, MEMORABLE SEASON



Dave Gasser gives wife Vicki a hug, following a milestone win early in his coaching career at Astoria.

The Daily Astorian/File Photo

By GARY HENLEY
The Daily Astorian

If the 2017 season were a movie, the Astoria baseball team would have advanced to the final, knocked off Henley for their first title since 2011, and those Band of Brothers — the Fishermen seniors — would finally have their state championship.

And retiring head coach Dave Gasser (played by Gene Hackman) would be riding off into the sunset with his 751st career victory and his sixth state title.

“Ideally, in a perfect world, we would have walked out with a state championship just the way it started (in 2006),” Gasser said. “But those are movie scripts.”

Still, the season “was awesome,” he said. In the playoffs, “We had to beat the Player of the Year (Andy Avants) in Estacada’s league; then we had to beat the Player of the Year (Hidden Valley’s Cade Kissel) in the Skyline; then we had to turn around and play the Player of the Year in the Greater Oregon League (La Grande’s G.T. Blackman).”

And all three on the road. “There was nothing easy about the route we took. I don’t know how our kids could have done any more.”

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‘There was nothing easy about the route we took. I don’t know how our kids could have done any more.’

Dave Gasser
retired Astoria High School baseball coach



The Daily Astorian/Submitted Photo
Dave Gasser and the coach who will replace him next year, Glen Fromwiller, right.

Retirement home closing a sign of stress

Pacific County has dearth of nursing options

By AMY NILE
EO Media Group

LONG BEACH, Wash. — More than a dozen seniors who call Long Beach Retirement their home are looking for a new place to live.

The assisted-care home on Washington Avenue is closing its doors for good. The seniors, mostly a 75 and older crowd, are left with few options for long-term care outside of a long-distance relocation or a move into a relative’s home.

Long Beach Retirement owner Bob Rowe, of Tacoma, said he’s struggled for years to keep the family business afloat. His grandparents, Bob and Pat Hall, passed it down to him.

Rowe, 45, was born on his grandfather’s birthday and given his name, so naturally, he followed in his footsteps, too.

But, he said, he can’t keep the state-licensed home with limited resources running. He had trouble staffing the home and making ends meet for years before making the call to shut down the 25-bed facility.

Now, he and employees are helping the 14 residents find new places to live.

“There were some tears,” Rowe said. “It’s hard.”

Medicaid money

The home was often the only one in Long Beach that would take Medicaid, the federal health insurance program for the poor and disabled. However, he can’t stretch reimbursements from the program far enough to cover costs.

“We treaded water as long as we could,” Rowe said.

Robin Dale, CEO for the Olympia-based nonprofit Washington Health Care Association, said Medicaid pays providers a state-



Robin Dale

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Oregon Senate OKs health care provider tax

Bill goes to Gov. Brown to help pay for Medicaid

By CLAIRE WITHYCOMBE
Capital Bureau

SALEM — The state Senate Wednesday passed an assessment on health care providers and insurers that is expected to cover a chunk of the state’s expected \$1.4 billion budget gap.

The bill was previously passed by the House.

Passage of the so-called provider tax is a significant milestone as the Legislature closes in on its finish date. The tax is expected to raise more than \$600 million in revenue from providers over the next two years and draw down nearly \$1.9 billion in federal funds to help pay for the state’s Medicaid program for the poor and disabled.

The legislation increases an assessment on certain urban hospitals by 0.7 percent to 6 percent of a hospital’s net revenue; creates a new assessment on rural hospitals; and places a 1.5 percent tax on insurance premiums.

The money is intended to cover the costs of the Oregon Health Plan, the state’s Medicaid program, and the concept has the support of the state’s hospitals.

Most, if not all, of the money collected by the assessment is returned to hospitals in the form of Medicaid payments.

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Portland hotelier takes action against Port of Astoria

Seeks legal victory on delayed transcripts

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

Param Hotel Corp. is once again seeking victory in a lawsuit against the Port of Astoria over the operation of the Astoria Riverwalk Inn, based on the Port’s delay in releasing executive session transcripts and recordings.

The Portland hotel group, which had been attempting since 2014 to take over operation of the Riverwalk Inn from heavily indebted former operator Brad Smithart, filed suit in November 2015. The lawsuit came after the Port awarded operation of the hotel to Astoria Hospitality Ventures, whose owner, William Orr, is former Port Commissioner Stephen Fulton’s brother-in-law. Param claimed the Port violated a deal it had made with Smithart on the hotel, and had shown bias toward Orr’s group.

In April, Clatsop County Circuit Court Judge Dawn McIntosh ordered the Port to pay for additional depositions of its staff by Param. She found the Port had withheld executive session materials related to the hotel, requested by Param in November 2015, for about 13 months. Param’s lawyer, Colin Hunter, sought to win the case based on the omissions, arguing they were prejudicial and had irreversibly affected his case.

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The Daily Astorian/File Photo

Operation of the Astoria Riverwalk Inn is part of a continuing legal battle between Param Hotel Corp. and the Port of Astoria.

