146TH YEAR, NO. 176

DailyAstorian.com // TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2019

ONE DOLLAR

While his family home burned in Hamlet, an 11-year-old went to get help

Krista Howsden with her three children, Jaxon, Jordan and Hali'a.





Matt Verley/Hamlet Volunteer Fire Department

Boy ran barefoot through the snow

By BRENNA VISSER The Daily Astorian

AMLET — No one really knows how they would react in a house fire until it happens

Krista Howsden learned this the hard way in February after a nearby generator caught fire and burned down her Hamlet home.

After managing to get herself and her three kids out of the home, she went into "panic mode," she said. She remembers screaming into the distance, hoping any neighbor would hear her. Her home has virtually no cellphone service.

But as Howsden frantically tried to get a call out to 911, her 11-year-old son, Jordan English, seemed to know just how to react. He was already running barefoot through the snow to get help.

"I went into panic mode and I'm grateful that he didn't," Howsden said.

At the time, English remembers not totally understanding what was going on. Before the fire, he had been eating pretzels and watching a movie, and hadn't seen the smoke that prompted his mom to rush him and his two siblings out of the home.

But after getting outside, English noticed a neighbor about a football field away with his shed door open.

"I thought, 'Wait ... that person's shed door is open. He wouldn't leave that open if he wasn't home," English

So he started running, with his 2-year-old brother Jaxon and dog, Spooky, under each arm.

'My feet were freezing ... they were numb," he said. "I was just thinking, 'Get help. I hope he's there. I hope he can do something."

See Boy, Page A7

'WHEN I SAW HIM RUNNING BACK FROM THE NEIGHBOR'S HOUSE, LOOKING LIKE A HERO, SOMETHING CAME OVER ME ... LIKE, 'OH MY GOSH, WE'RE NOT ALONE, 'BECAUSE THAT'S HOW I WAS FEELING.'

Krista Howsden | mother of Jordan English, who ran to a neighbor to get help

Property owners concerned about waterfront restrictions

Some urge city to be flexible on development

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ The Daily Astorian

Several waterfront property owners pushed back Monday night

Astoria city codes that will guide future development along the Columbia River.

Fire crews work to put out a house fire in Hamlet in wintry conditions.

Jim Knight, executive director of the Port of Astoria, objected to proposals by the City Council that would more strictly limit development in the Bridge Vista sec-

against proposed amendments to

tion of the city's Riverfront Vision Plan. The area stretches from Portway Street to Second Street and includes Port property.

The city has not engaged the Port in discussions about new codes that could restrict what the Port hopes to develop in its ongoing effort to create new jobs, Knight said.

Following public outcry over the city's approval of a new fourstory Fairfield Inn and Suites off Second Street, the City Council has discussed possible amendments to Bridge Vista, including a height limit of 28 feet for new buildings.

The City Council's goal on Monday was to weigh draft codes for the downtown Urban Core area, the final piece of the riverfront plan, which was originally intended to be more densely developed. The Planning Commission is still in the process of crafting the

See Waterfront, Page A7

Community celebrates former Knappa wrestling coach

Some have a sour taste over his departure

By BRENNA VISSER The Daily Astorian

BROWNSMEAD Former and current wrestlers, along with their friends and family, came to support Dan Owings, the former wrestling coach for Knappa High School, at a community dinner on

Saturday. The longtime wrestling coach and two of his assistants resigned in January following what the school

superintendent described as "unfortunate incidents" during an away tournament in Redmond, Washington. Superintendent Paulette Johnson has declined to publicly detail the incidents.

Nathan Truax, a 21-yearold volunteer coach, was charged with second-degree sex abuse, third-degree rape and third-degree sodomy after allegedly having sex with a 15-year-old girl on the wrestling team during

the Redmond trip. In response to the sudden resignations, Gary Newberry, the Knappa Youth Wrestling coach who used

to wrestle for Owings, decided to host the retirement party to show Owings the community supported

"Without him there wouldn't be a program," Newberry said. "It's kind of like celebrating the ending of an era."

Owings is credited by many with helping the sport thrive in Knappa after starting a youth wrestling program in 1987. In 1995, he got permission to start a team at the high school on the condition he ran it with no budget, Owings said.

See Coach, Page A7



Brenna Visser/The Daily Astorian

Former and current wrestlers gather for a photo with former coach Dan Owings at a celebration dinner on Saturday.

