

# Coach: Grateful, honored for those who support him

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Twenty-four years and hundreds of students later, Owings said he was grateful and honored to see the number of people who came to support him.

"I think it's neat they took time out of their busy schedules to show their support," he said.

Several former coaches, friends and wrestlers who packed the Brownsmead Grange described Owings as a compassionate coach who mentored athletes by instilling the value of working hard, rather than pushing them through aggression or fear.

When Jeffrey Benthin was deciding between basketball or wrestling when he entered high school, the 2013 graduate chose wrestling because of the way Owings motivated his athletes.

"He taught me in training you're really only going to get out of it what you put into it," Benthin said. "He relied so much on personal integrity."

Owings was also regarded by many as the type of coach who was invested in seeing students be successful in all aspects of their lives.

Meisha Boettcher, a 2016 graduate, decided to join the wrestling team as a sophomore knowing virtually nothing about the sport, and said she left with a mentor who she knew she could rely on for a job reference.

"He didn't make me feel bad that I didn't know anything," Boettcher said. "You were the one coach I knew that was not only in my corner on the mat, but in my life."

For some, like Susanne Benthin and Kelley Rankin, parents who have had multiple children participate in the wrestling program, the celebration came with a sour aftertaste.

"Dan and Cindy (Owings) have given so much of themselves to the wrestling family," Susanne Benthin said. "When I heard about (the resignation), I was just heartbroken. They have helped so many kids."

Rankin and Benthin said they join many in feeling frustrated with the school district, which they feel has made Owings unfairly pay for the consequences of bad behavior by others.

"If this were a community vote, (the resignation) wouldn't have ever happened," Rankin said.



Brenna Visser/The Daily Astorian

A quilt with photos of Dan Owings coaching wrestling was displayed at a celebration dinner.

# Boy: English's actions played a significant role in keeping the fire from getting worse

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When he arrived, the neighbor was able to call 911 and brought over fire extinguishers to help slow the burn. English sheltered his brother and 1-year-old sister in a nearby pole barn while crews helped put out the fire.

"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,'" Howsden said. "Because that's how I was feeling."

As far as Howsden is concerned, English's actions played a significant role in keeping the fire from getting worse before fire crews could arrive, allowing the family to retrieve at least some of their belongings.

"It's so much less intense than it could have been," she said.

The family is living with relatives in Seaside as they search and save for a new home. Though some items were saved, the family will largely be starting from scratch, Howsden said.



Brenna Visser/The Daily Astorian

Jordan English helps his brother up the steps at the beach in Seaside.

There are a lot of bad things to remember about the fire for English. The feeling of fear. The cries of his brother as he ran through the snow.

And there are a few things he will always miss that were lost. His school photos. Some baby clothes. Memorabilia from his first Portland Trail

Blazers game.

But what he also gets to remember is the way his mother thanked him.

"She called me brave," he said with a smile.

# Waterfront: Public hearing on proposed codes set for late May

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The draft Urban Core codes include stricter height limitations for new buildings near the shoreline and do not allow the development of hotels or motels overwater, among other things.

A majority of the City Council has sought to limit large development along the waterfront, and has been adamant that Astoria does not need more hotels, especially on the shoreline. At the same time, city councilors said Monday that they were sympathetic to the property owners' concerns and want to make sure they are included in the discussion.

Steve Fick, who operates Fishhawk Fisheries at the base of Fourth Street, asked for flexibility. Fick said he has no desire for the whole waterfront to be developed, but he asked, as he has at previous meetings, that city leaders "not put ourselves in a box."

City councilors used Monday's discussion of the draft Urban Core codes as another opportunity to discuss their views on riverfront development.

But with property owners' concerns in mind, city councilors told staff they were open to providing a variety of exceptions for existing waterfront and

overwater buildings in the Urban Core while not breaking the intent of the codes.

For example, a large state building off Marine Drive between Fourth and Fifth streets that houses state child welfare and self-sufficiency offices is already at the maximum 30,000 square feet allowed. The state had hoped to expand the building, but under the draft Urban Core codes would not be allowed to do so. If they can't expand, it is likely they would move the offices out of the city, said planning consultant Rosemary Johnson.

It is important to keep those services and jobs in

Astoria, Mayor Bruce Jones said. He didn't see any issue with providing an exception that allows the building to expand out towards Marine Drive, since "the building already blocks a significant portion of the view."

City Councilor Joan Herman was in favor of providing exceptions to marine-related businesses in keeping with a desire to preserve a working waterfront in the Urban Core.

The Planning Commission plans to hold a public hearing on proposed Urban Core codes in late May. The codes could be back in front of the City Council for review in July.

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**181 Lost & Found**

-FOUND-  
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