

OBITUARIES

Alan Karl Gatchell

Salem

March 29, 1947 — Feb. 23, 2021

Alan Gatchell, of Salem, died Feb. 23, 2021, after an 18-month battle with acute myeloid leukemia.

Born Alan Karl Gatchell on March 29, 1947, in Corvallis, he was the only child of Karl Lester Gatchell and Nolia Catherine Walker Gatchell.

He was raised in Corvallis and graduated from Corvallis High School in 1965. Growing up, he enjoyed Little League Baseball, building and flying model airplanes with his father and visits to his grandparents' grass seed farm near Tangent.

He was drafted into the U.S. Army in September 1967 and sent to Vietnam as a medic. He served one tour, from March 1968 to March 1969. He spent most of the year attached to the 1st Cavalry in the central highlands around An Khe. He made it home and never talked much about his experiences there.

After the Army, he worked for the Northside Lumber mill in Philomath. He eventually went to college on the GI Bill, and worked part-time at the lumber mill. He graduated from Oregon State University with a degree in pharmacy in 1975.

He worked for Salem Memorial Hospital for 17 years as a hospital pharmacist. He went to work for the Salem Costco Wholesale store in 1992, and worked as the pharmacy manager for 15 years, then continued with Costco as a part-time relief pharmacist for several years, until full retirement.

Alan married his high school sweetheart, Lynda McFarland, in 1968. They had one daughter, Traci. They divorced in 1983.

He was a confirmed bachelor for many

years until he was reacquainted with Lou Ann Thorsness in 1999. They had worked together at the Salem hospital in the late 1980s. They dated for several years, while she raised her daughters. They decided to get married in 2010. He freely admitted she was the best thing to ever happen to him.

Alan became involved with the Sons of Norway in Gearhart and the Astoria Scandinavian Midsummer Festival with Lou Ann and her family. He became a key member of the lodge's annual lefse-making and booth at the festival. He enjoyed becoming part of the Astoria community, and treasured the many friendships he made.

His hobbies included hiking in the Cascade and Coast Range mountains in his younger years. Camping, bicycling, driving back roads, yard work, building and flying radio-controlled model aircraft, photography, reading and woodworking.

Survivors include his wife, Lou Ann; one daughter, Traci Burton (Mike), of Canby; and granddaughters, Brianna Nofziger and Haley Nofziger (Jeremy Erickson), both of Oregon City.

He is also survived by his stepdaughters, Kelly Huckestein (Sam and Oliver Seulean), of Knappa, and Erika Huckestein (Jordan Smith), of Philadelphia; and brothers-in-law, Chuck (Carol) Thorsness and Andy (Cathy) Thorsness.

Memorial contributions may be made to your local animal shelter, Oregon Public Broadcasting or the charity of your choice.

At Alan's request, no services are planned. Assisting the family is Virgil T. Golden Funeral Services.



Alan Gatchell

SPORTS

Astoria football seeks a return to winning

By GARY HENLEY  
The Astorian

Longest stretch without a victory since 2003. Not exactly the kind of streak you want your sports program known for, but that's where the Astoria Fishermen football team stands.

No other team is looking forward to erasing the memory of the previous season more than the Fish, who open the season Friday at Banks.

Astoria's last year of play was not a memorable one, record-wise. The Fishermen had their moments, but the scoreboard was not kind in return, as Astoria finished the 2019 season with an 0-8 record.

The last win for the program came on Oct. 19, 2018, when the Fishermen defeated Valley Catholic 21-13 in the regular season finale. Astoria lost a first round state playoff game against Baker the following week, the first of nine straight losses.

Astoria has five games on its upcoming spring schedule — five chances to stop the streak and hopefully turn things around.

At first glance, that could be tough in the always-competitive Cowapa League.

But the Fishermen are a lot bigger, stronger and more experienced at the key positions.

On offense, Astoria has capable athletes at every skill position, starting at quarterback with senior Bo Williams — the Fishermen starter since his sophomore year.

Williams "has really grown in understanding the concepts of our system, whether in the passing tree or in our run-

pass option scheme," said Astoria coach Howard Rub. "We think he has a chance to have a great senior season."

All-leaguer Ryan Stutznegger has graduated, but senior Michael Moore returns at running back, and could also line up at receiver, as the Fishermen like to show different looks on offense.

Senior T.J. Colvin's speed could make him the key receiver and deep threat, but don't be surprised if Colton "Gronk" McMaster leads the team in receptions, as the big-handed junior tight end will likely be a frequent target for Williams.

"His athleticism as an all-league basketball player is going to translate really well as a tight end and defensive end," Rub said of McMaster.

Junior Xander Marincovich will anchor the offensive and defensive lines, while the same players — Williams and Colvin at defensive back, and Moore at linebacker — will be key defenders.

Add it all up, and there's no reason the Fishermen couldn't move up several spots from last year's last place finish in the Cowapa.

"If we can be better at those things we can be better at, we'll have a chance to turn some competitive losses into competitive wins," Rub said. "Any opportunity to put on the pads and play is going to be a healthy thing for our kids."

Rub is entering his 21st year as the Astoria coach, and enters 2021 with 105 career wins — far more than the next nearest coach in school history (Robin Andrea, with 55).

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SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR ASTORIA

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
47 34 Mostly cloudy; chilly	49 36 Becoming cloudy	55 46 Breezy in the p.m.	51 40 Cloudy with showers	50 40 Showers possible	49 39 Showers possible	47 37 Showers possible

ALMANAC

Astoria through Sunday

**Temperatures**

High/low	51/43
Normal high/low	53/38
Record high	72 in 1968
Record low	22 in 1960

**Precipitation**

Sunday	0.01"
Month to date	12.00"
Normal month to date	7.19"
Year to date	27.95"
Normal year to date	17.39"

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2021

UNDER THE SKY

**Tonight's Sky:** For the month of March, "In like a Lion (Leo); out like a Lamb (Aries)."

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	6:53 a.m.
Sunset tonight	6:03 p.m.
Moonrise today	10:36 p.m.
Moonset today	8:50 a.m.

Last	New	First	Full
Mar 5	Mar 13	Mar 21	Mar 28

TODAY'S TIDES

Astoria / Port Docks	Time	High (ft.)	Time	Low (ft.)
3:10 a.m.	8.7	9:35 a.m.	0.5	
3:29 p.m.	7.9	9:40 p.m.	0.6	
<b>Cape Disappointment</b>				
2:47 a.m.	8.7	8:42 a.m.	0.6	
3:02 p.m.	7.8	8:49 p.m.	0.7	
<b>Hammond</b>				
3:14 p.m.	8.2	9:09 p.m.	0.5	
<b>Warrenton</b>				
3:05 a.m.	9.1	9:19 a.m.	0.6	
3:24 p.m.	8.3	9:24 p.m.	0.7	
<b>Knappa</b>				
3:47 a.m.	8.9	10:36 a.m.	0.4	
4:06 p.m.	8.1	10:41 p.m.	0.5	
<b>Depoe Bay</b>				
2:00 a.m.	8.9	8:12 a.m.	0.6	
2:15 p.m.	8.1	8:18 p.m.	0.7	

NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Wed.
Atlanta	50/41/r	59/43/r
Boston	30/26/s	46/32/s
Chicago	46/34/s	48/31/s
Dallas	56/36/pc	67/43/pc
Denver	58/27/s	57/28/s
Honolulu	80/68/pc	79/66/sh
Houston	60/42/pc	66/44/s
Los Angeles	78/53/s	67/50/sh
Miami	85/73/pc	87/67/pc
New York City	36/30/s	50/36/s
Phoenix	78/51/s	82/57/c
San Francisco	65/46/pc	65/47/pc
Wash., DC	46/35/s	58/38/pc

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, l-ice.

REGIONAL FORECAST

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

City	Today	Wed.	City	Today	Wed.
Seattle	49/35	50/32	Wenatchee	49/30	51/39/pc
Tacoma	50/32	50/31	Moses Lake	56/31	54/34
Olympia	49/32	50/31	Yakima	56/29	54/34
Longview	50/31	50/31	Kennewick	62/30	55/35
Astoria	47/34	50/31	Walla Walla	55/35	54/34
Portland	54/35	57/33	Hermiston	62/32	44/25
Salem	54/33	57/33	Pendleton	60/32	44/25
Albany	53/32	57/33	La Grande	45/30	44/25
Corvallis	54/32	57/33	John Day	52/27	49/27
Eugene	56/34	58/30	Burns	51/22	55/27
Bend	58/30	57/22	Ontario	49/27	55/27
Medford	65/33	57/22	Burns	51/22	55/27
Klamath Falls	57/22	57/22	Caldwell	55/27	55/27

City	Today	Wed.	City	Today	Wed.
Baker City	43/24/pc	45/24/pc	North Bend	52/37/c	51/39/pc
Brookings	55/38/pc	52/40/pc	Roseburg	59/36/c	63/37/pc
Ilwaco	46/36/c	46/37/pc	Seaside	47/34/c	50/35/pc
Newberg	52/32/c	57/34/pc	Springfield	57/33/c	60/34/pc
Newport	48/34/c	48/38/pc	Vancouver	52/33/c	58/36/pc