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Astoria-Warrenton Area Chamber of Commerce
Skip Hauke won the George Award, Astoria's citizen-of-the-year honor, two times.

Hauke remembered as a civic leader

From a family market to the chamber of commerce

By **ETHAN MYERS**
The Astorian

Skip Hauke, who helped sustain his family's market as an Astoria staple and was influential in promoting economic growth, cultural events and tourism on the North Coast, died on Thursday. He was 78.

Hauke's Sentry Market was in business for over 100 years in two locations before the grocery off of Lief Erikson Drive in Uppertown was sold to Safeway in 2002.

Hauke served as the executive director of the Astoria-Warrenton Area Chamber of Commerce for 13 years before stepping down in 2018.

He co-founded Clatsop Economic Development Resources and was the energy behind community projects like the Astoria Aquatic Center and the Astoria Riverfront Trolley.

His commitment as a volunteer, most notably with the Astoria Regatta and the Astoria Scandinavian Midsummer Festival, was extensive. He won the George Award, Astoria's citizen-of-the-year honor, in 1982 and 2002. The only other two-time winner is former Astoria Mayor Willis Van Dusen, a friend of Hauke's.

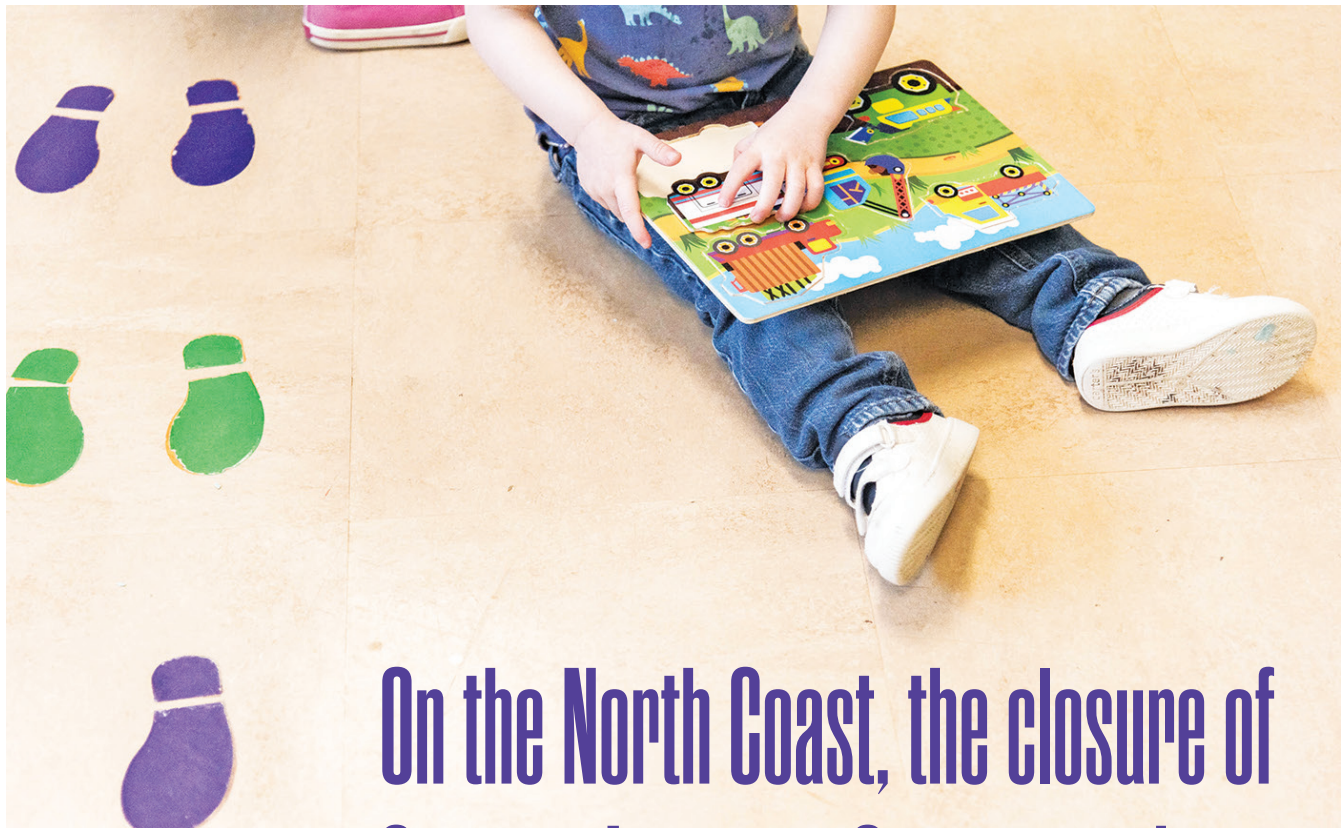
While Hauke's role as a civic leader was pivotal, friends and colleagues point to his personality and character first. His bright smile and wacky costumes enlivened community events, and his friendly nature, selflessness and love for his family were clear to those who knew him.

"He was such a loving, kind and gentle person," Sara Hauke, his wife, said. "We had a wonderful life together. We will miss him terribly."

A family market

Immigrating from Norway, Hauke's grandfather, Erik, arrived in Astoria in 1892. After saving up for several years, he opened a market along with a partner.

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On the North Coast, the closure of Sprouts Learning Center marks another setback for child care

Clatsop County has lost over half of its licensed child care capacity over the past five years

By **ABBEY McDONALD**
The Astorian

Sarah Humphrey and her husband, Parke, said they were impressed by Sprouts Learning Center since enrolling their 3-year-old son. They enjoyed getting updates about him throughout the day. He would often come home showing great progress with his language skills.

On Wednesday afternoon, Humphrey was among several parents who tuned in virtually to an Astoria City Council work session and watched as the council unanimously voted to transition out of providing day care by the end of June.

Over the past several months, families started to worry as it became increasingly clear that Sprouts — run by the city's Parks and Recreation Department at the Astoria Recreation Center — was having issues with staffing and operational costs. The city said that it loses around \$17,000 a month from the day care, money that comes at the expense of other community activities.

As recently as December, the parks department had said there were no plans to end child care. In the following weeks, city staff tried to keep parents in the loop, said Jonah Dart-McLean, the city's parks director.

"That was the effort of our staff team, myself, to present to City Council at their work session to just give them the transparent picture of the decisions



Photos by Lydia Ely/The Astorian

TOP: A child at Sprouts Learning Center in Astoria plays with a toy. ABOVE: Children at Sprouts Learning Center look at a betta fish named 'Drax.'

that are possible. And then from there, that was the City Council's complete deliberation process unfolding," he said. "We were being informed at the same time as everybody else."

Humphrey said she thought the parks department presented good options during the work session to address the financial challenges. She wasn't expecting every vote to favor closing Sprouts.

"As the City Council meeting was happening and I kept hearing these votes, I was pretty shocked," she said. "And so I started calling day cares."

She said she was able to land the last open spot at a local preschool and her son will be starting there soon.

Humphrey, who is pregnant and due to give birth in April,

had been planning to enroll her baby at Sprouts. It was one of the few options for infants on the North Coast.

"We have no idea what we'll do for the baby when she comes," she said.

'It's been happening'

The closure of Sprouts Learning Center is the latest in a series of setbacks for child care on the North Coast.

Since 2017, Clatsop County has lost over half of its licensed child care capacity — more than 1,000 slots at licensed care centers, care homes and family homes. Over those five years, the county went from having around 22 certified child care centers to 10.

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Sibony is Seaside's sharp-shooting guard

The youngest in a competitive family

By **GARY HENLEY**
The Astorian

EVERYDAY
people

SEASIDE — Ever Sibony, a Seaside High School senior, is a standout in academics and athletics.

Ever, short for Everest, is the third and last of the Sibony brothers. The sons of Salomon and Cecilia Sibony are familiar to fans of Seaside sports, year-round.

Rafael, Samson and Everest Sibony have taken part in everything from cross-country, football and soccer in the fall, to golf and track in the spring. It's basketball only in the winter.

As you might imagine, the Sibony house has its fair share of medals, trophies and letters received for competing.

In fact, Rafi, from the Class of 2018, is said to be the only athlete in Seaside school his-

tory to letter in four sports — cross-country, soccer, basketball and track — all four years.

The second oldest, Samson, was a standout golfer, and now it's Ever who is carrying the torch and holding out hopes for one more state championship medal for the Sibony family.

In addition to being a possible future Ivy Leaguer, Ever — one of the most accurate long-range shooters in league history — is a strong candidate for Cowapa League boys basketball Player of the Year this season. The Gulls likely have one more home game appearance before they head south to Marshfield, with hopes of competing in this year's 4A

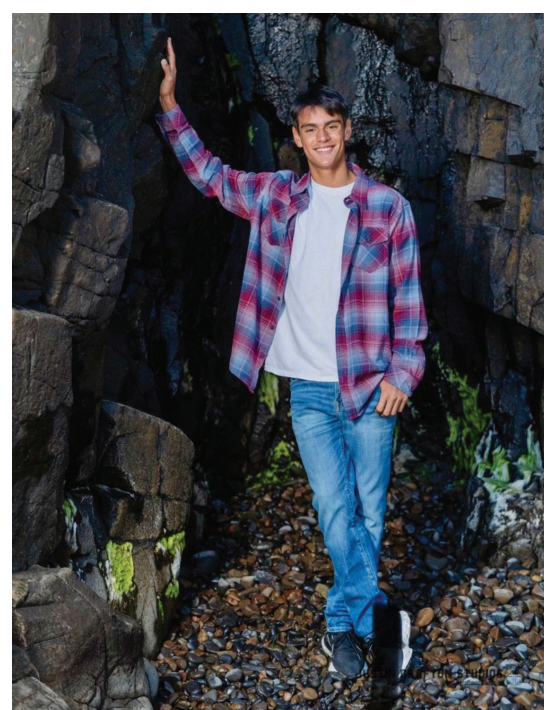
state basketball tournament.

After a first round exit in 2019-20, Sibony is up front and honest about Seaside's expectations, the final year for several key seniors on the team.

"Our goal is not just winning league," he said, "we're definitely trying to go for state this year."

Setback

A day before being interviewed, Sibony and the Gulls suffered their first league loss of the season, a 47-32 setback at Banks. "Suffered" is the key word whenever the Gulls and Braves get together.



Justin Grafton

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Seaside High School senior Everest 'Ever' Sibony.

