

SPORTS

Gulls, Valiants share soccer awards

The Astorian

The best of Cowapa League boys soccer came in pairs for the shortened 2021 spring season.

With 5-1 league records, Seaside and Valley Catholic shared the league championship award; Player of the Year was Seaside's Westin Carter; Goalkeepers of the Year were Sam Brown, of Valley Catholic, and Riley Wunderlich,

of Seaside; and Coaches of the Year were Seaside's John Chapman and Valley Catholic's Mike Chertude.

The Gulls also had 10 of their 11 starters earning all-league honors, to Valley Catholic's nine all-league players.

Banks and Tillamook, tied for last in the league standings with 1-5 records, had seven all-league selections each. Astoria did not field a varsity team.



Jeff TerHar

Seaside senior Westin Carter, right, was selected as the Cowapa League's Player of the Year.

GIRLS SOCCER

Three players selected to first-team all-league



Jeff TerHar

Emma Arden takes the ball downfield.

The Astorian

Three Seaside players were selected first team all-league: juniors Emma Arden and Lilli Taylor, and sophomore Kaylee Snyder.

Astoria and Valley Catholic swept most of the awards this year in Cowapa League girls soccer, as part of the shortened 2021 "spring" season.

The Valiants were perfect on the field, earning the league championship with a 9-0 record and outscoring opponents 35-0.

Meanwhile, the league's Goalkeeper of the Year

award went to Astoria senior Shelby Rasmussen, while Astoria senior Elle Espelien and Valley Catholic freshman Malia Groshong shared Player of the Year honors. Both Groshong and Espelien also made first team all-state.

The league's Coach of the Year was Valley Catholic's Kibwe Cuffie.

Both the Valiants and Fishermen had seven of their 11 starters earn all-league honors.

In addition to Espelien and Rasmussen, Astoria landed three others on the first team: senior Emma Biederman and juniors Karen Jimenez and Maddie Sisley.

VOLLEYBALL

Wing, Wunderlich selected all-league

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The Oregon School Activities Association has completed all seasons for the 2020-21 school year. Now it's time for another one — awards season.

In volleyball, local teams had several players selected to their respective all-league teams.

At the 4A level, the Cowapa all-league squad included two Seaside players (seniors Karen Wing and Annika Wunderlich) on the first team, along with Astoria senior Halle Helmersen.

League champion Valley Catholic had the Players of the Year (senior Maddie Kloplic and sophomore Naima Foster) and the Coach of the Year (Becky Kemper).

All six Valiant starters were all-league.

Astoria and Seaside also had honorable mention selections.

At the 3A level, the Coastal Range all-league team included three players from regular season champion Warrenton. Senior Mia McFadden and junior Avyree Mieth were selected to the first team, while Coach

of the Year Staci Mieth led the Warriors to their third straight league title.

In the 2A Northwest League, Knappa's Hannah Dietrichs was a first-team selection.

At the 1A level, Jewell coach Jessica Miller led the Blue Jays to a 13-2 overall record, and 6-0 as the co-league champions in the Casco League.

Birdwatching, boating at county parks

By **LINDA K. HOARD**
Coast Weekend

Locals have enjoyed Cullaby Lake and Carnahan county parks for years.

Tucked off U.S. Highway 101 just south of Warrenton, the parks offer a large lake for water sports and fishing, a children's swimming area, picnic shelters, walking trails, a historic cabin and a playground.

Cullaby Lake is maintained by park hosts Stephanie and Bill Murray. They live on-site and help set up the park for parties, sell park passes and lock the park gates at night. The couple has held the job for three years.

"I live on 164 acres of forest and beautiful scenery. Can't beat living here. This park is a local hidden gem ... We feel really blessed to be here," Stephanie Murray said.

Winter is quiet at the lake but summer is "really busy," Stephanie Murray said. The lake is no more than 9 feet deep at its deepest, so it gets warm in the summer.

"It's a really good kayaking lake. People come out and paddle board," Stephanie Murray said. "We get a lot of people water skiing, boating, tubing and jet skiing."

The lake is also a good bass fishing lake and is stocked annually in May with 1,000 trout. There are seasonal bass fishing tournaments.

Both the Gearhart and Seaside fire departments train on jet skis at Cullaby Lake. The U.S. Coast Guard trains for helicopter water rescues in October.

The park's north and south shelters get booked throughout summer with weddings, parties, reunions. There are lawns, a playground and roped off swim-



Linda Hoard

A birdwatcher pauses during a hike.

ming area next to the north shelter, and a sandy swimming beach next to the south shelter. In the last weekend of June, the park hosted hydroplane races.

"It's awesome," Stephanie Murray said. "It's the small hydroplane races. It's the only time we let camping here in the parking lot."

Hiking trails

There are two hiking trails along the park including the long ridge trail through the woods. Bear and coyote sightings have been reported there. Bald eagles, osprey and blue herons frequent the lake.

One of the trails has a viewing platform near the open marsh and also opens up to an old paved road.

"The old Grand Prix Race Track was along that old asphalt road," Stephanie Murray said.

property. On the day of their annual clean up and picnic in early June, several volunteers, guided by Greg Jacob, with Lucien Swerdloff, help clean the grounds as well as the inside of the spacious cabin, which has four side rooms in addition to the large main room. There is a sauna and an outhouse.

Jacob, a retired English professor from Portland State University, and author of the book "Fins, Finns and Astoria," is also president of the local Finlandia Foundation and helped to organize the volunteers. Swerdloff, Professor of Historic Preservation at Clatsop Community College, sometimes brings students to the cabin to practice restoration.

Carnahan County Park

At the smaller, 30-acre Carnahan County Park, Liam Carson finds the dock at Carnahan Park a good place to kayak and fish.

"Fishing off the lake's always good," he said. "I

catch lots of little perch, blue gills, occasionally trout, occasionally bass."

He shared that the Carnahan Park is often less crowded than the larger Cullaby Lake Park. He said there is a good hiking path through the woods which starts off the parking area.

Carson added that the park is a great fishing spot for children, as there is a lot of small fish. He described the lake as "a good pan fishing lake."

"The park could be improved by having some life saving devices," he added.

Whether you enjoy fishing, the splash and speed of jet skis and water skiing, or the quiet of kayaks and paddle boards, a refreshing swim on a warm summer day, a forested hike, or a sheltered place for a gathering with family and friends, Cullaby Lake and Carnahan County Parks are indeed hidden gems worth exploring.

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