

Criminal case closed in Astoria crash turned fatal

Melissa Yowell died Jan. 20 in the hospital

By KYLE SPURR
The Daily Astorian

Astoria Police recently closed its criminal investigation into a January crash that turned fatal.

Police cited Robert Carroll, 43, Milwaukie, for failure to obey a traffic control device after he failed to stop at a red light and collided with a 2011 Kia Soul, driven by Melissa Yowell of Astoria.

Yowell, 75, later died at Columbia Memorial Hospital the

same day of the crash, Jan. 20.

Carroll faces no other charges.

"He did cause a crash, but there is no indication his activity was reckless or criminal in causing her death," Astoria Police Chief Brad Johnston said.

Carroll, who was driving a 2008 Ford F-150, was originally cited and released at the scene of the crash, which was the intersection of West Marine Drive and Portway Street in Astoria.

However, Johnston said, the citation was voided shortly after to avoid a theoretical legal barrier.

Had Carroll pleaded guilty to the traffic violation, no further prosecution



Melissa Yowell

would have been possible.

"After we were notified Yowell passed away we moved to dismiss that citation to preserve all options in charging," Johnston said.

Upon further investigation,

'The result of the autopsy is quite incriminating, but not for the person driving the car.'

— Joann Guiliani
Clatsop County medical examiner

Astoria Police decided to cite Carroll for the original charge of failure to obey a traffic control device. No other charges were added.

Yowell, who was driving home from a bridge game at 4:26 p.m., attempted to turn left onto West Marine Drive, when she was struck by the Ford F-150.

Yowell was treated at the scene by Medix Ambulance Service and the Astoria Fire Department and transported with general complaints of pain and nausea to Columbia Memorial Hospital.

"At the time they cleared the crash, nobody believed it was a serious injury crash, much less a fatal," Johnston said at the

time. "She had been up moving around and was alert. Then we were notified by CMH that she had passed away at the hospital."

The Daily Astorian requested that the state medical examiner release the results of Yowell's autopsy. That request was denied. The newspaper is appealing that decision to the state attorney general.

County Medical Examiner Joann Guiliani said she agrees with the police investigation, concluding that Carroll should not be charged with any crime related to Yowell's death.

"The result of the autopsy is quite incriminating, but not for the person driving the car," she said.

Another whooping cough case in Ilwaco

By KATIE WILSON
EO Media Group

ILWACO, Wash. — Health officials confirmed another case of pertussis, or whooping cough, at Ilwaco High School in late March.

That brings the official count to two cases, but there were likely many people who were ill or treated but never tested for pertussis, said Mary Goelz, Pacific County's director of public health and human services.

"I believe there were other people who probably had it," Goelz said. With two confirmed cases at the high school, the illness was certainly in the community, she added.

The second case at IHS

was confirmed about a week after an IHS teacher was found to have pertussis. The teacher had been potentially contagious between Feb. 19 and March 12.

The community was told that if anyone had been at the school on or between those dates, they should contact their healthcare provider and tell them of a possible exposure if they began to experience the onset of the illness: severe coughing spells, runny nose, fever.

With the first case, exposure was possible up until April 2. With the second case, that date has been pushed farther into April.

"We still have a couple weeks to go before we're

feeling good," Goelz said.

The second person had been immunized. However, immunization doesn't prevent someone from getting sick, but it can keep them from getting as sick as they otherwise might. Pertussis can be especially deadly for young children and babies, causing pneumonia, seizures, brain damage and even death. No record of immunization could be found for the high school teacher.

Nearly a dozen high school students had to miss school after the first case of whooping cough was confirmed. These were students who either had not been immunized or had no record of immunization. Many of

them were later able to supply a record of immunization and returned to school, Tobin said.

For the rest, they could choose to undergo a round of antibiotics and obtain a doctor's note saying they are symptom free, which would return them to school in a handful of days, or they'd have to wait out the full exposure period at home.

IHS Principal Dave Tobin said Wednesday that all the students who were impacted by the first pertussis case now are back in school. He added the new case has not resulted in additional students being temporarily excluded from classes due to lack of immunization records.

Man dies after crash in Tillamook County

By The Daily Astorian

TILLAMOOK — A 57-year-old Lincoln City resident died after a single-vehicle crash on U.S. Highway 101 in Tillamook County Wednesday morning.

David Kyte was driving a silver Pontiac Sunfire northbound on U.S. Highway 101 at about 6 a.m. when the vehicle struck a guardrail and rolled over on the roadway near milepost 100.5 in Tillamook County, according to the Oregon State Police.

Oregon State Police troopers are continuing to investigate the single vehicle crash.

Early information suggests Kyte was not wearing a seatbelt, according to OSP. Heavy rain and speed are also being investigated as additional contributing factors in this crash.

OSP was assisted at the scene by the Oregon Department of Transportation, Nestucca Fire Department, Tillamook Police Department and the Tillamook County Medical Examiners Office.

National Park Service launches new educational website

By The Daily Astorian

The National Park Service and the National Park Foundation launched a new educational website, www.FindYourPark.com. The website is a public awareness and education campaign celebrating the centennial anniversary of the NPS

anniversary of the NPS next year.

The online campaign highlights historical, urban, and cultural parks, as well as the National Park Service programs that protect, preserve and share nature, culture, and history in communities nationwide,

according to the NPS.

"Find Your Park" is also the theme for this year's National Park Week, April 18 to 26.

Entrance fees will be waived April 18 and 19, the opening weekend of National Park Week, at all National Park Service sites, including Lewis and Clark

National Historical Park.

LCNHP Superintendent Scott Tucker said there are endless ways to "Find Your Park." Locally, the public can visit Fort Clatsop, hike a trail, come to a lecture, become a Junior Ranger, kayak or canoe on the Lewis and Clark River, visit Middle

Village or the Salt Works or have a picnic at Netul Landing, Tucker said.

One opportunity at this park is a lecture on Pacific Northwest Foraging presented by lifetime Northwest forager Dr. Douglas Deur at 1 p.m. Sunday, April 19 in the Netul River Room of the Fort

Clatsop visitor center.

Deur, a research professor at Portland State University and specialist in American Indian plant traditions, will share some of his insights and experiences, including what to look for, when and where to look, and how to gather in a responsible way.

Master Gardeners offer free soil testing Saturday

WARRENTON — Clatsop County Master Gardeners are conducting a free Ph Test Soil Clinic from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday at Home Depot in Warrenton. Bring one cup of garden soil placed into a clean glass jar with lid, or double bagged in a ziplock plastic bag, for

analysis. Allow one hour for the test.

Directions for obtaining a proper soil sample can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/chksoil>

For information, call the Oregon State University Extension Office at 503-325-8573.



Celebrate with Grace
the Joy of Easter
Easter Sunday
April 5th 8 am & 10 am
Grace Episcopal Church SINCE 1886
1545 FRANKLIN AVE., ASTORIA • 503-325-4691

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE
Maundy Thursday 7pm at First Lutheran
Good Friday 7pm at First Lutheran
Easter Breakfast 9:00am to 10:30am
Easter Egg Hunt 9:15am (2yrs - 6th Grade)
Easter Festival Worship 8am and 11am
725 33rd St., Astoria • 503-325-6252
www.astoriafirstlutheran.com

CALVARY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
503 N. Holladay, Seaside • 503-738-5773
episcopal church
Holy Week Services
Good Friday: Stations of the cross at 3:00
Saturday: Easter Vigil at 5:00
Sunday: Easter Eucharist at 9:30

WANTED
Alder and Maple Saw Logs & Standing Timber
Northwest Hardwoods • Longview, WA
Contact: Steve Axtell • 360-430-0885 or John Anderson • 360-269-2500

Friday April 3rd
COAST GUARD BEAN SOUP
\$5.00
4 pm 'til gone

EASTER SUNDAY
Sunday April 5th
HAM DINNER
12(noon) - 2PM
Regular Bingo at 3PM
ASTORIA Clatsop Post 12 & Unit 12
AMERICAN LEGION 1132 Exchange Street • 325-5771

B A R B I E R I S R E T I R I N G
MARCH
1 2 3 4 5 6 7
8 9 10 11 12 13 14
15 16 17 18 19 20 21
22 23 24 25 26 27 28
29 30 31
3-6 PM
JOIN US!
Come help us celebrate!
Coastal Eye Care 553 18th St., Astoria!

Barbie is retiring
Barbie Jenkins has been an optician for the past 20 years here in Astoria. She started her career with Dr. Kumpula in 1994, continued on as it became North Coast Vision Center, and since 2011 has been vital in helping Coastal Eye Care become the thriving clinic it is today! As the practice changed hands several times over the years Barbie has remained the constant force. She has been dedicated to her patients for all this time with her compassionate ways and steadfast service. Barbie will be greatly missed.

nccf
GOOD FRIDAY, April 3 SERVICE
Friday, 6:30pm Wahanna Campus
RESURRECTION SUNDAY, April 5 SERVICE
Sunday, 8am The Cove
Sunday, 10am Seaside Convention Center
To serve our community -
Please bring a non-perishable food donation to the Easter Service for the S. County Food Bank.