



EDWARD STRATTON — The Daily Astorian

Life Flight Network touched down its helicopter next to the Red Building in Astoria during last week's launch of its first coastal base of operations. In the background is Pier 1 and the Crystal Symphony, the seventh cruise ship to dock at the Port of Astoria.

## Life Flight to the rescue

### Air medevac service sets up first coastal base in Warrenton

By EDWARD STRATTON  
The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — Late Thursday afternoon, pilot Rick Holbrook landed a blue Agusta A109E Power helicopter on the tarmac at the Astoria Regional Airport, a white, mountainous Life Flight Network insignia emblazoned on its sides. Pilots and medics emerged from a gray, manufactured office and living quarters recently positioned next to electric tug company Lektro's hangar, to greet Holbrook and mark the helicopter's inaugural flight into Warrenton.

At 9 a.m. Friday, the air medevac service officially started its first coastal base, staffed 24/7 for the straightforward mission of getting people to the hospital faster.

#### The right fit

Based in Aurora in the northern Willamette Valley, Life Flight has 18 locations throughout the Columbia, Willamette and Snake river watersheds in Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana. Warrenton is the first base on the coast.

"We spent a lot of time on researching, making sure it would be a good fit for Life Flight," said Jacob Dalstra, a spokesman for the nonprofit.

The base in Warrenton serves the coast from Aberdeen, Wash., to Tillamook, either of which it can reach in less than a half an hour. Life Flight will transport patients from the scene of an emergency to a local or regional hospital, or in between hospitals.

While thanking local municipalities and hospitals for their help at a welcoming dinner held by Life Flight Thursday in Astoria, Dalstra singled out Mike Weston, director of business development and operations for the Port of Astoria and a main manager at the airport, for helping fit the base in at the airport.

"There's a lot of work that went in on the City Council level," Weston said about getting Life Flight's trucked-in office OK'd, adding Life Flight will likely have its own permanent hangar within the next year or two.



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CEO Michael Griffiths of the Life Flight Network said Thursday that patients who might not have survived before might now with one of its helicopters. The air medevac service is now stationed at the Astoria Regional Airport in Warrenton.

Life Flight's addition boosts activity at the airport, Weston said, but more importantly provides a critical service that could save lives.

As industrial and commercial activity increases at the airport, the Port is looking to lease some of its land at an adjacent, undeveloped industrial park, Weston said. It is also waiting on a proposal from tenant Brim Aviation, an air taxi service delivering Columbia River Bar Pilots to incoming and outgoing ships, to be the private fixed-base operator of the airport.

#### All-weather

Life Flight's helicopter is certified for instrument flight rules, meaning it can approach the airport in low visibility using its instruments. The company spent months getting approved for instrument-rated approaches to local hospitals, from Grays Harbor Community Hospital in Aberdeen, Wash., to Tillamook Regional Medical Center.



Graphic courtesy of Life Flight Network  
Life Flight Network's new base in Warrenton is meant to serve the coast from Aberdeen, Wash., to Tillamook, transporting people to local and regional hospitals.

"We're bringing about \$1 million to the community in payroll," Dalstra said. Each medical flight includes a pilot, a nurse and a paramedic.

Overall, Life Flight's 24/7 base will include four pilots, four nurses, three full-time paramedics and four part-time shifts. Clinical Manager Chris Redling said the operation is stocked with the same capabilities as any ambulance, emergency room or intensive care unit.

#### Partnership

Life Flight's helicopter can land in any flat 100-by-100-foot area, but can't hoist people like the U.S. Coast Guard, which is right next door with two of its own helicopters. It has a history of working in conjunction with the air medevac service on rescues.

In November 2013, Life Flight medevaced a surfer to Portland who was rescued by the Coast Guard and Seaside Fire and Rescue. In July 2012, the Coast Guard hoisted injured prison workers in the Tillamook State Forest and placed them in a forest clearing, where Tillamook Fire and Rescue crews took one to the local hospital and Life Flight medevaced another to Portland.

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## \$1 million bail for Deviney

### Kidnapping suspect charged with rape, sexual abuse, more

By KYLE SPURR  
The Daily Astorian

Bail was set at \$1 million Friday for Russell Wayne Deviney, the Everett, Wash., man accused of kidnapping and raping a 15-year-old California girl.



Russell Deviney

Deviney, 48, who was captured Thursday just outside Cannon Beach, appeared in Clatsop County Circuit Court via video link from Clatsop County Jail.

He is being charged with first-degree kidnapping, first-degree rape, first-degree unlawful sexual penetration, first-degree sodomy and first-degree sexual abuse.

A nationwide felony warrant had been issued out of Clatsop County Circuit Court for his arrest.

"The allegations are he kidnapped and sexually abused a 15-year-old girl from California," Clatsop County District Attorney Josh Marquis said in court.

Deviney's bail was initially set at \$500,000. However, Marquis said he was concerned Deviney would be able to post the required 10 percent amount of \$50,000.

"We learned a little bit more about his background. He has assets that might not make the (\$500,000 bail) a deterrent," Marquis said.

Judge Paula Brownhill appointed defense lawyer James von Boeckmann to represent Deviney, and ordered Deviney to have no contact with the victim.

An arraignment on a grand jury's indictment is scheduled for 1:15 p.m. Friday.

Cannon Beach Police and FBI agents found Deviney behind a locked gate in a privately owned wooded area south of Cannon Beach after a passer-by reported seeing him and called Cannon Beach Police.

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## Securing the power to impeach

### Legislators press impeachment measure forward

By PETER WONG  
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Lawmakers have advanced at least one proposal emerging from the influence-peddling allegations that led Gov. John Kitzhaber to resign under pressure three months ago.

House Joint Resolution 31 awaits a vote of the full House after the House Rules Committee approved it on a bipartisan 6-2 vote last week.

If it clears both chambers — and voters approve it in the November 2016 general election — Oregon will join every other state with an impeachment process for statewide elected officials. According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, Oregon is the only state without it.

Under the proposal, 60 percent of the House (36 votes) would be required to bring one or more articles of impeachment, and 67 percent of the Senate (20 votes) would be required for removal of the impeached official. Penalties would be limited to removal from office and disqualification from future office.

Impeachment is considered a political process and does not affect criminal investigations.

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## Teacher takes the Forerunner's helm

For his job, Clatsop Community College instructor Chris Jacobsen gets to take students out on the water.

Jacobsen started a year ago as an underway instructor running the college's training vessel, Forerunner, up and down the Columbia River on research missions and student training.



Before joining the college, the Rhode Island native had been working with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for eight years in research fisheries. Jacobsen said he'd been a student at the college, taking classes to strengthen his able-bodied

certifications.

"Everything I was taking was a requirement of this job," said Jacobsen, adding he has a master's in education from a decade ago, along with a captain's license to operate vessels up to 100 tons.

Students travel from all around the region to spend a



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Chris Jacobsen has been the underway instructor for Clatsop Community College's maritime sciences program for the past year, helping students train on its vessel, the Forerunner.

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