

# Warrenton man sentenced for felony hit-and-run

By KYLE SPURR  
The Daily Astorian

The 71-year-old Warrenton man who injured a Warrenton High School student after a felony hit-and-run accident in September, was sentenced Wednesday in Clatsop County Circuit Court.

A jury found Paul Edward Depping guilty of failure to perform the duties of a driver (hit-and-run) and not guilty of fourth-degree assault following a two-day trial.

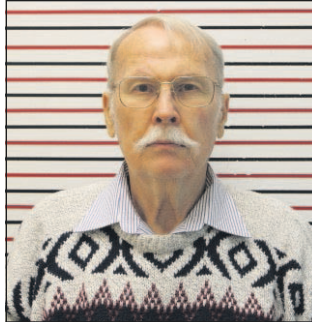
Judge Cindee Matyas sentenced Depping to three-years probation, 200 hours of community service to be

completed within six months and a one-year suspension of his driver's license. Matyas had the option of a 30-day jail sentence, but used her discretion to sentence community service instead.

Depping, driving his gold 2014 Toyota RAV4, struck 15-year-old Emily Knehr as she was crossing South Main Avenue toward Southwest 18th Street, just south of the high school.

Knehr suffered minor injuries to her right hip and knee from the hit-and-run accident.

Prosecutor David Goldthorpe said multiple students witnessed the accident.



Paul Edward Depping

Seven witnesses testified during the trial.

Depping, who was represented by defense lawyer Alex Hamalian of Portland, testified Knehr ran into his car and he thought she was OK

after the collision.

"I think he is still in denial he did anything wrong," Goldthorpe said.

Knehr told police she started to cross the road to go toward Southwest 18th Street during the lunch hour when Depping's vehicle sped up and hit her in the right hip. She had a brief verbal exchange with Depping, before he drove away.

Witnesses testified Depping was only on the scene for seconds.

Warrenton Police later found Depping's car parked outside the Mini Mart with a handprint on the hood. After

interviewing Depping, police arrested him for the hit-and-run.

He was indicted Sept. 24 on the hit-and-run and assault charges.

At the time, Warrenton Police Chief Matt Workman explained anytime a driver makes contact with a pedestrian, the driver is required by state law to stay on scene and contact police.

"It's definitely a 'he said, they said' thing. It definitely differs in how the accident played out," Workman said in October. "The only thing that doesn't change is he should have stayed."

In addition to probation and community service, Depping was sentenced to pay a \$200 conviction fee, a \$500 fine and restitution to be decided at a later date.

If he successfully completes his probation, Depping could petition to court to drop the hit-and-run conviction from a felony to a misdemeanor. The hit-and-run was considered a felony because it caused an injury. Non-injury hit-and-run charges are misdemeanors.

"In the end, the case would be a misdemeanor, not a felony," Judge Matyas said.

## Gearhart Fire Department holds fireman's ball

GEARHART — The members of the Gearhart Volunteer Fire Department are holding their 54th annual Gearhart Fireman's Ball Fundraiser at 8 p.m. Saturday at the fire station, 670

Pacific Way in Gearhart. This Vegas Style Game Night consists of live music provided by the band 24-7, gaming, dancing, refreshments and adult beverages.

No minors are allowed; those attending must be age 21 and older. There will also be prizes, and custom Gearhart Fire apparel will be available for purchase. The cost is \$10 per

person, and tickets are available at the door.

Proceeds from this event benefit fire department operations. For information, call 503-738-7838.

## Cutter Alert to get new commander

The Daily Astorian

The crew of the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Alert in Astoria will hold a change-of-command ceremony Friday at Columbia River Maritime Museum.

During the ceremony, Cmdr. Brian Anderson will transfer command of the 210-foot medium endurance

cutter to Cmdr. Patrick A. Culver.

Vice Adm. Charles W. Ray, commander of the Coast Guard's Pacific Area, will preside over the ceremony.

The event signifies a total transfer of responsibility, authority and accountability for the command. All available unit personnel attend the ceremony.

## Head-on crash closes Highway 103

By The Daily Astorian

A head-on crash between a log truck and a Toyota Corolla at about 5:30 a.m. this morning closed Highway 103 near Jewell, according to the Oregon State Police.

The crash caused injuries. OSP did not have details on the number or identity of injured people since the scene is still being cleared and investigated.

One lane of Highway 103

opened as of 9 a.m. OSP offered no time frame as to when the highway will reopen in both directions.

The road closure caused Jewell School District to start 2 hours late today.

A main reason for the closure is due to a power pole being down from the accident, OSP said.

For more information, contact OSP at (503) 325-2231 or call 511.

## WDFW announces fishing rule change

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife has announced that hatchery adult summer chinook and steelhead may be retained on the lower main stem of the Columbia River from the Astoria Bridge upstream to the Bonneville Dam from June 16 to July 6.

The salmon and steelhead daily limit is six fish. Up to two may be adult salmon or hatchery steelhead, or one of each. All salmon other than hatchery chinook and sockeye must be released. Staff will monitor the fishery and potentially modify the July portion, which may include extending the season or allowing reten-

tion of any adult chinook.

Fishing regulations are subject to change. Call the WDFW Fishing Hotline for the latest rule information at 360-902-2500 (press 2), or go to <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/regulations>

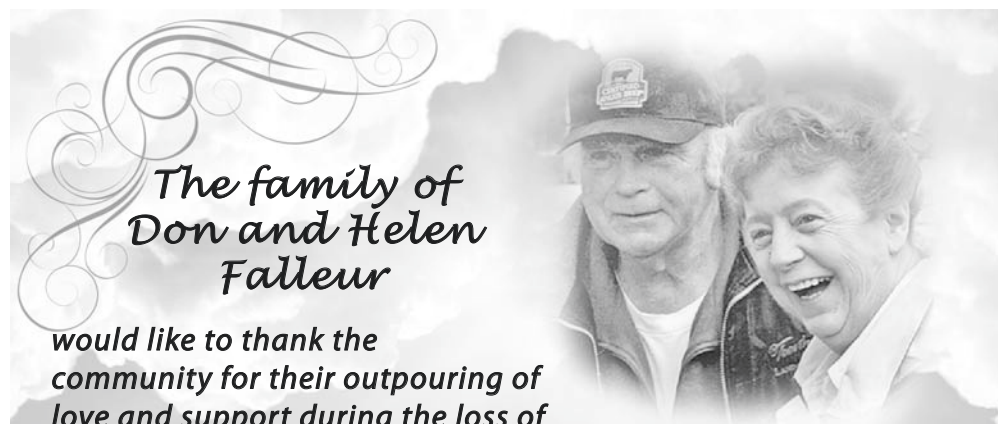
## OREGo wants drivers

OREGO, the fee-per-mile concept to fund Oregon transportation costs and maintenance, encourages Oregonians to join the interest list at [www.myorego.org/about/interest-list](http://www.myorego.org/about/interest-list). Joining is not a commitment to participate as a pilot volunteer, just an indication of interest in receiving

more information on this first-in-the-nation program. Members of the list will receive weekly updates on the program.

With OREGO, volunteers pay a per mile fee instead of fuel tax.

For information, go to [www.myorego.org](http://www.myorego.org)



The family of Don and Helen Falleur

would like to thank the community for their outpouring of love and support during the loss of our parents and grandparents. The attendance at both their service and the reception that followed was an inspiration to the legacy they leave behind.

Special thanks to the staff at Columbia Memorial and Legacy Emmanuel Hospitals for unwavering dedication to our parents, Caldwell Luce-Layton Mortuary, Oregon Fine Foods Catering Co., and to all that provided us with food and flower arrangements.

We are especially grateful to the Balensifer and Vonseggen families, who's love and guidance proved that family isn't always blood, but it's those that will be there for you no matter what.

### 'Parks After Dark' offers movies, games and beer

Event series for adults kicks off this Saturday night

The Daily Astorian

You can bring a date. Or your dog. But leave the kids at home. "Parks After Dark," a new event series by the Astoria Parks and Recreation Department, launches Saturday night with a showing of the movie "Jurassic Park" at McClure Park.

In June, adults can play Capture the Flag at Shively Park. In July, the movie "Back to the Future" will be shown at McClure Park.

Adults can enjoy glow-in-the-dark ultimate frisbee and kickball in August at Evergreen Fields. The series ends in September with the movie "Ghostbusters" at McClure Park.

"It's completely geared toward adults," said Angela Cosby, the director of the city's Parks and Recreation Department.

The events start at 8 p.m., are 21-and-over and cost \$5. The movies begin at 9 p.m. Beer is \$5.

"So the entire area is a beer garden," Cosby said.

The proceeds will go to help provide scholarships so low-income families can participate in health and wellness programs.

### SKATE 5-9pm NIGHT

Fridays & Saturdays @ the Astoria Armory

\$3 admission skate rentals

snacks, nachos, candy & popcorn

1636 Exchange St. Astoria 503-791-6064

Rent the Armory for parties!!

Mommy & Me Skate Wed 10-11am \$5 Parent & child 5/under includes skate rental. \$2.50 ea. additional parent & child

### SOILS! Seminar

Instructor James Cassidy from the Oregon State University Crop and Soil Science Department will present a program on the complex nature of soils!

Saturday May 30th 2015 6:00-8:00pm

Location: Fort George Brewery Showroom 1483 Duane Street • Astoria

This seminar will be suitable for urban residents, farmers and gardeners alike! The program will cover how soils are formed, soil health and microbiology and more!

Seminar is FREE, but please RSVP to Clatsop SWCD

The Clatsop SWCD is an equal opportunity employer, providing services to the public without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation and marital or family status.

For more info contact: Clatsop SWCD 750 Commercial Room 207 Astoria, OR Phone: 503-325-4571 Email: [cswcd@clatsopswcd.org](mailto:cswcd@clatsopswcd.org) Web: [clatsopswcd.org](http://clatsopswcd.org)

FREE Seminar

### Roast Pork Dinner

Friday May 22nd \$8.00 4 pm 'til gone

"Karaoke Dave" at 6 pm

ASTORIA AMERICAN LEGION

Sponsored by Unit 12 1132 Exchange Street 325-5771

## OCEAN VIEW funeral & cremation service

- Compassionate and Caring Service to all.
- Credit terms available to all. No down payment required.
- Offering pre-arranged Direct Cremation with no viewing or ceremonies included for \$725, compared to Hughes Ransom at \$2,095 and Caldwell's Luce-Layton at up to \$1,565. (based on rates as of Nov., 2014)
- We offer pre-payment options.
- We honor all plans written by any other funeral home, usually with a substantial refund.
- Comparison price shop and do your own pre-arranged plan online in the comfort of your own home.
- No hidden fees

[www.OceanViewAstoria.com](http://www.OceanViewAstoria.com)

BRIAN DUTTON, OWNER & OPERATOR PAM INGLE, FUNERAL HOME ASSISTANT

1213 FRANKLIN AVENUE, ASTORIA, OR 97103 PHONE: 503-338-7200

Recommended by the Oregon Memorial Association  
We are a locally owned and operated family business accountable only to you & our community, not a corporation

# KENNEL'S ELECTRONICS

Radio Shack

verizon wireless Authorized Agent

### Verizon Dealer Kick off BBQ

Memorial Day Weekend event with Free BBQ Saturday May 23rd • 11am - 3 pm

Hot Dogs & Chips (until gone)

Free RAFFLE Drawings & Mobile D.J. Have Music Will Travel

Your Seaside Authorized Verizon Dealer Shop us locally for all your Verizon needs

iPhone 5 iPhone 6 Samsung GALAXY S6

Ask about about Verizons new EDGE UP

1219 S. Roosevelt Dr. in Seaside • 503-738-8836