

Graduation: 'I feel like we're all kind of one clique. It's the Gray clique.'

Continued from Page 1A

out to Alley and helped her enroll at Gray. "It was hard fitting in in the beginning, then it blossomed into something great," Alley said, adding a girl's group created by a former counselor at Gray helped break the ice.

"I feel like we're all kind of one clique. It's the Gray clique, I guess."

Five or six of the Gray clique walked at Astoria's graduation Saturday, including Megan Halicki, 18, who said she had to be talked into the tradition.

Halicki said she walked out of Warrenton High School early after a particularly bad day her junior year. Her father told her dropping out wasn't an option, Halicki said, and she ended up finishing her junior and senior year at Gray.

"I think this program is awesome," she said, "and people don't understand what a good thing it is."

Into summer

The Gray graduation Thursday ended with a garden party in the community vegetable plots outside Capt. Robert Gray School. Graduates from Gray enjoyed some final socializing with peers, Knutsen and their mentors, before heading into a summer of work and other adult responsibilities.

Knutsen said as the program improves, it is finding better ways to serve students. Gray focuses on helping students finish on their own schedule but before aging out of high school. She hopes the school will become a GED proctor site to help students for whom graduation isn't a reality.

She attributed the particularly high graduation rate this year to those students who persevered, including one who spent three years at Gray before finishing this year. "If they come back for a second semester or a second year, we know they're not going to quit."



JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian

Kylee Pitts, holds up her senior project, a "Cookbook for Life." The cookbook features recipes to help students cook for themselves. Pitts handed out copies of the cookbook to students at the school.



EDWARD STRATTON — The Daily Astorian

Members of the Astoria Christian Church, with Pastor Frank Loyd, third from left, were honored for supporting the Gray School Campus Alternative Education Program with food and other supplies by Astoria School Board Chairman Martin Dursse, second from left, at the governing body's Wednesday night meeting.

Astoria schools honor church support

The Daily Astorian

The Astoria School Board recognized the Astoria Christian Church and Pastor Frank Loyd at its Wednesday meeting for the congregation's support of the Gray School Campus Alternative Education Program.

"The support and mentorship of Astoria Christian Church is invaluable to Gray School students as it encourages them to remain committed and to persevere through the many obstacles they may face while trying to earn their high school diplomas," the district's release said.

Over the past four years, Loyd and his congregation provided food and resources every Friday to ensure students have meals to eat over the weekends. In addition, the church continues to host the annual winter break potluck and provide gifts for graduates of the Gray School program.

"It has been a real honor to work with the staff and the teachers," Loyd said. "They're a good group of kids in there who have had a hard time at various points for various reasons."

Trial: They implicated each other through various statements

Continued from Page 1A

may vaguely correlate because the period of time listed in two separate indictments span two months and involve the same children, to some extent," the lawyers wrote.

Roden was indicted on 15 counts. Four counts of aggravated murder, two counts of murder by abuse, felony murder, first-degree unlawful sexual penetration, first degree sex abuse, three counts of

first-degree assault and three counts of criminal mistreatment. The sex abuse charges relate to Roden allegedly subjecting the girl to sexual contact by touching.

Wing was indicted on counts of murder by abuse from neglect and maltreatment, first-degree manslaughter and six counts of criminal mistreatment.

The alleged crimes occurred between Oct. 31 to Dec. 20, 2014. An autopsy

found Wing's daughter, Evangelina Wing, was the victim of homicide and apparently died Dec. 20 from blunt force trauma. She would have turned 3 on Jan. 22.

The couple told investigators about incidents where the toddler fell coming from a bus stop, fell off of a toilet and got in tussles with Wing's two sons, ages 5 and 2, who were found injured the same day the girl was found dead. The boys were hospitalized

and placed in state protective custody.

"In the various statements each made, they implicated the other," the lawyers wrote. "Arguably, Ms. Wing implicated Mr. Roden more than he did Ms. Wing."

According to the motion, Wing made numerous statements about injuries to her children that occurred while she was at work. She made statements about a broken arm her daughter suffered while in

Roden's care, again while she was out of the house.

"There are many other incriminating statements made by defendant Wing that clearly implicate Mr. Roden in the crimes with which he was charged," the motion states. "Those statements require separate trials."

Roden is serving 100 months, or about eight years, in prison for a probation violation from a previous domestic violence conviction.

He violated the probation by possessing marijuana, oxycodone, and methadone and failing to report that he moved in with Wing. The drugs were discovered during a search warrant of Roden and Wing's Seaside resident Dec. 20, the day the toddler was found dead.

Wing remains in custody without the possibility of bail. A hearing to discuss the motion to sever is scheduled for July 8.

Burglar: '... in all reality, it was a brief lapse of judgment'

Continued from Page 1A

survival," Pitts said. "I meant no harm. I was cold, starving and that just allowed me to justify a lapse in judgment."

Judge Philip Nelson commended Pitts for his apology.

"That is probably one of the most sincere apologies that I've heard," Nelson said. "That was more heartfelt and thought out than a lot of them. But on the other hand, someone that has their house broken into, it takes a long time to get past that lost sense of security."

As part of Pitts' two-year prison sentence, Judge Nelson required Pitts to have no contact with the victims or the properties and pay restitution to be determined later. In addition, Pitts will be on two-year, post-prison supervision.

Astoria Police found Pitts in March camping in the densely wooded area off Kensington Avenue. He was found by a campsite he set up

with a camouflage tarp over the top. Police were searching for Pitts in connection to previous burglaries in November.

He was arrested in March and charged with eight counts of first-degree burglary. He was also arrested on a warrant for failing to appear in court.

The burglary charges related to incidents reported on the 100 block of West Duane Street, the 200 block of West Exchange Street, the 100 block of Hume Street, the 100 block of Washington Street, the 4000 block of Irving Avenue and the 3800 block of Kensington Avenue.

On Thursday, Pitts pleaded no contest to four counts of first-degree burglary and one count of failure to appear in court. The other burglary charges were dropped, including all the charges from the November incidents.

Police originally arrested Pitts in November when he was found in an attic at a

vacant residence on the 100 block of Hume Avenue. He was arrested and booked in November for a felony warrant and the two counts of burglary

Pitts, who was homeless at the time of the various burglaries, stole mostly perishable food items from the homes.

"Frankly, he probably left the homes cleaner than when he got there," Pitts' defense lawyer Kris Kaino said.

During his supposed run from the law, Pitts said, he was not a criminal run amok. Instead, Pitts said, the time allowed him to stay away from drugs and volunteer for services such as garbage cleanup.

"Although on a piece of paper it looks like I'm this chronic criminally intended burglar, in all reality, it was a brief lapse in judgment," Pitts said. "It is not something that would ever happen again."



COLUMBIA
MEMORIAL
HOSPITAL

Our people make
The Planetree Difference

Congratulations Spirit of Caring Award Winner Kelsey Betts!

The Spirit of Caring Awards honor individuals who personalize, humanize and demystify the healthcare experience.

"I am truly impressed with the nurse and person that Kelsey is. Her passion for maternity nursing and CMH is clear in her everyday work."

— Award nomination for Kelsey Betts, RN

2111 Exchange St., Astoria, Oregon • (503) 325-4321
www.columbiamemorial.org • A Planetree-Designated Hospital

Machine: Access to the jetty is restricted while the work is in progress

Continued from Page 1A

complete critical repair work by September. As of June 8, contractors say flat bed trucks have delivered approximately 1,400 granite stones, or about 35 percent of the total that will need to be placed on the jetty.

A massive crane now crouches on the top of North Jetty, picking up rocks as they're brought by trucks that must back up along the length of the jetty to deliver their loads. Sometimes, they don't quite bring the right rock. The crane swings around, the claw descends, picks up the rock and sets it aside. Plac-

ing jetty stones is as much an art as it is a science, say the crane operators, and, often, they tell right away if the rock will be a good fit or not. But they rely on the guys down below to let them know for sure.

Up in the crane, the operator has what he thinks is a good stone for the section they're working on. He makes the claw turn, rotating the rock one way then another so the men below can get a good look at it, at its shape, at its many faces. Then, slowly, after they give their approval, he begins to lower the rock. The claws open. The rock drops. The thud is au-

dible even over the wind and waves that pound the sides of the jetty without ceasing.

Another truck is already waiting with another rock and the crane swings around again.

Work on the smaller Jetty A, located east of North Jetty, is set to begin this year while a full rehabilitation of North Jetty and South Jetty will likely begin in 2017.

Access to the jetty is restricted while this potentially hazardous work is in progress. Would-be spectators can glimpse the huge crane in action from Waikiki and Benson beaches in Cape Disappointment State Park.