

'WE BEGAN TO RUN'

Students describe horror in college shooting in Roseburg, where nine were killed

By JEFF BARNARD
and GOSIA WOZNIACKA
Associated Press

ROSEBURG — Armed with multiple guns, a 26-year-old man walked into a morning writing class at a community college in this rural Oregon town and opened fire, hitting

some students with multiple gunshots. One witness said the attacker demanded to know students' religion before shooting them.

Students in a classroom next door heard several shots, one right after the next, and their teacher told them to leave.

"We began to run," student Han-

nah Miles said. "A lot of my classmates were going every which way. We started to run to the center of campus. And I turned around, and I saw students pouring out of the building."

At least nine people were killed and 9 others wounded Thursday, the fourth day of classes at Umpqua Community College in this former

timber town 180 miles south of Portland. The worst mass shooting in recent Oregon history was raising questions about security at the college with about 3,000 students.

"I suspect this is going to start a discussion across the country about how community colleges prepare themselves for events like this,"

former college president Joe Olson said.

Gerald Hamilton, interim president of Clatsop Community College, said the college will review its security plan starting with a forum at noon today.

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Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

From left: Laurel Berblinger, Karen Beck, and Josh Saranpaa, all with the Wildlife Center of the North Coast, watch as a Western gull is released near the Maritime Memorial Monday.

Wildlife center soldiers on after death of founder

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

The doors on the animal totes at the Maritime Memorial underneath the Astoria Bridge popped open on a sunny afternoon Monday, but the seagulls were hesitant to leave. Raised since chicks by the Wildlife Center for the North Coast, the gulls had never ventured into the urban wilds.

With some light prodding and tipping of the containers, the gulls eventually spilled out onto the lawn underneath the bridge, followed shortly thereafter by 12 juvenile murrelets floating out into the river from the park's beach and three cormorants, two leisurely floating out while one takes flight and makes a beeline for the middle of the Columbia River.

It was the first bird release for the wildlife center since founder Sharnelle Fee died two weeks ago, after being hospitalized with a lung infection.

Seeing those birds fly away into the wild is the end goal for volunteers and Josh Saranpaa, who started volunteering with Fee as a teenager, and at age 23, was recently named the center's new director.

"This is the best part of working here," said Karen Beck, president of the wildlife center's board of directors, watching the birds slowly readjust to being wild.



Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian

Volunteer Coralie Crayne, left, tries to feed an injured seagull, with the help of Ami Kreider at the Wildlife Center of the North Coast.

A refuge in the woods

A gravel road cuts off of Oregon Highway 202 and tunnels nearly a half mile through the dense foliage before opening up on the modest offices of the wildlife center.

Inside on a recent Friday, Saranpaa helps arrange the pickup of an injured bird from Manzanita. The center uses a sort of pony express system, volunteers taking birds as far north or south toward the center as they can.

"We don't ask people to save birds from other birds," Saranpaa said. The center focuses on un-

natural injuries to birds, he said, although it's hard to differentiate sometimes between natural and unnatural causes.

Cages line the main room in the offices, filled with the center's patients — mainly seabirds found drenched in oil, hit by cars, entangled in fishing line, harassed by beach walkers, washed up emaciated on the beach or otherwise affected by human causes.

Behind the office is a meadow dotted with 16 covered enclosures holding anything from seagulls to a kestrel falcon, the smallest falcon in North America.



Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian

Volunteers at the Wildlife Center of the North Coast have to carefully handle and feed injured birds like this western grebe, which has stitches on its stomach and back.

After a divorce, the death of her father and hip replacement, Fee sold her house in Portland, left her job and moved to Olney, where she had purchased a home and 105 acres to specifically help wildlife, but focus on seabirds, which she said are challenging to rehabilitate and release.

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High times

North Coast experiences heady first day of legal recreational pot sales

By ERICK BENGEL
The Daily Astorian

Without stress or secrecy, Tom and Charlotte Gniazdowski entered The Pharmacy, a medical marijuana dispensary in Astoria, Thursday and purchased four strains of pot. Because they wanted to. Because they could.

And because they legally could buy pot purely for recreational use in Oregon.

"I never thought this day would dawn," said Charlotte Gniazdowski, who lives just outside Astoria with her husband.

The Gniazdowskis, who have smoked pot since the 1960s, felt they were witnessing and sharing in one of their state's historic moments: Under state law, Oregon's medical marijuana dispensaries may now sell up to a quarter ounce of dried marijuana leaves and flowers to adults 21 and older who don't possess medical marijuana cards.

Now in their 70s, the Gniazdowskis won't miss the days when they had to worry about getting caught with the drug or, worse, accidentally getting their friends in trouble for selling it to them.

"I'm really glad this has finally happened," she said. "I hate being treated like a criminal for just smoking pot."

The Pharmacy, one of three registered dispensaries in Astoria, opened at midnight, and "it was a stampede for about an hour and a half," said Omar Guerrero, who owns the business with Nick Palazzo. When they reopened at 9 a.m., they faced "another stampede," Palazzo said.

The Gniazdowskis strolled in during an afternoon lull and left with small amounts of Maui Wowie, Buddha Tahoe, Raspberry Kush and Blue Dynamite.

Tom Gniazdowski, an occasional user, said "it's fun to get a little bit high and go out for a walk, or whatever, in the woods." And, after hitting the Maui Wowie that afternoon, the couple hit the hiking trails near Lewis & Clark National Historical Park.

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Vandals spill paint on Astoria Column

\$1 million restoration was almost complete

By DERRICK DePLEDGE
The Daily Astorian

Vandals broke into the Astoria Column and knocked over white primer that spilled on the top portion of the landmark, causing damage just days before a \$1 million restoration project was expected to be completed.

The restoration crew suspects the incident happened late Wednesday or early Thursday. Trespassers would have had to get through a locked fence and climb scaffolding to reach the top of the Column near the ob-

servation deck. The primer was in sealed cans.

"We were very lucky, is all I can say," said Marie Laibinis, a Portland conservator leading the restoration project, who was thankful the distinctive murals were not damaged.

Small cigar butts were found on the Column grounds. A cold pack from a first aid kit was also discovered.

Astoria Police are investigating the vandalism and are looking into video from a surveillance camera at the Column gift shop.

Angela Cosby, the director of the Astoria Parks and Recreation Department, estimated the damage at between \$1,000 to \$5,000.

Painting for the restoration



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Spilled paint primer is seen near the top of the Astoria Column Thursday. The primer did not leave a significant impact on the murals, but will need to be scraped off and painted over.

was scheduled to be completed by Friday. Scaffolding is expected to come down early next week. Workers on the restoration crew may have to work extra hours to remove the spilled

primer and repaint.

The Column, which has been closed over the summer, could reopen to public tours by next weekend.

"Thank you to the resto-

ration crew for being willing to work additional hours to keep the project on schedule," Cosby said. "And to the police department for investigating it so quickly."

"I'd also like to ask the community, if they know anything about it, to contact the police department."

The 125-foot-tall Column, erected in 1926 to celebrate the region's early history, attracts an estimated 400,000 visitors a year. The last significant renovation was in 1995.

"I never will understand acts of vandalism," Mayor Arlene LaMear said in a statement. "It seems so crazy to mar or destroy something that others have worked so hard to build or restore."

