



The Nutcracker

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ONE DOLLAR

Judge crafts compromise in probation dispute

Prosecutors and probation office at odds over early release

By KYLE SPURR
The Daily Astorian

A Clatsop County Circuit Court ruling carves out a compromise for those on felony probation who are eligible for early release from supervision.

Judge Philip Nelson ruled that eli-

gible defendants will serve their entire probation sentence, but can be released early from the supervision of Clatsop Community Corrections, the county division that oversees probation.

“Defendants are still subject to probation conditions even though they may no longer be required to report to the probation office or keep

a probation officer aware of their address and employment,” Nelson concluded in his written opinion covering four different cases.

The decision is in response to the Clatsop County District Attorney’s Office challenging a state law that allows early release for complying with certain conditions.

Created as reward

The earned discharge process, created by the state Legislature in 2013, rewards people who have paid their restitution and completed treatment programs.

If someone meets the requirements, their probation sentence could be cut in half.

For Clatsop County, Nelson ruled that supervision can indeed be cut in

half, but not the probation sentence.

The District Attorney’s Office was the first in the state to bring the issue before a court.

Chief Deputy District Attorney Ron Brown said the office was concerned the law gives probation officers more authority over sentences than judges or prosecutors.

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ILWACO 48, WARRENTON 47

SEASON TIPS OFF



Photos by Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Warrenton’s Tyler Whitaker, No. 4, puts up a shot while being defended by Ilwaco’s Zac Tapio, No. 2, during the first quarter of the basketball game at Ilwaco (Wash.) High School Wednesday.

Last-second comeback propels Ilwaco win in basketball opener

The Daily Astorian

ILWACO, Wash. — Warrenton’s 7-point lead with four minutes left did not stand up Wednesday night at Ilwaco, as the Fishermen rallied from a 47-40 deficit to score a season-opening 48-47 win over the Warriors in nonleague boys basketball.

Warrenton missed a shot with 32 seconds left, Ilwaco made a go-ahead free throw with 18 seconds remaining, and the Warriors misfired on a 3-pointer as time ran out.

“We played well, we just didn’t finish,” said Warrenton coach Nate McBride. “We were down 10 points in the first

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Ilwaco’s James Schenk, No. 11, passes while colliding with Warrenton’s Tyler Whitaker, No. 4, Wednesday at IHS.



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Red Kite Rising founder Jennifer Bouman-Stegall speaks during her lecture about workplace bullying Wednesday. The lecture covered the differences between bullying and harassment, types of bullies and creating a positive work environment.

Beating back the bullies at work

Attorney advises business leaders on curbing hurtful employee behavior

By ERICK BENGEL
The Daily Astorian

At the faintest whiff of bullying in the workplace, a company needs to crack down on the problem before it erodes employee morale, retards staff productivity, undermines the organization’s values and triggers a lawsuit.

That’s the advice Jennifer Bouman-Stegall, an employment law defense attorney, gave a roomful of business leaders during a luncheon at Buoy Beer Co. on Wednesday. Presented by Lower Columbia Human Resources Management Association, her talk, “Workplace Bullies: Control Them Before They Destroy You!,” examined the many forms that workplace bullying can take, and how it can hurt employee performance and the company’s bottom line.

An Oregon bill (which died in committee during the last session) defined bullying as “any persistent verbal or physical act of an employer or employee, unrelated to the employer’s legitimate business interests, that a reasonable person would find threatening, intimidating, humiliating, hostile or offensive.”

Bullying can occur between a superior and a subordinate, between co-workers, and

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Gearhart to bypass short-term rental survey



R.J. Marx/The Daily Astorian

Councilors Sue Lorain and Dan Jesse at the Gearhart City Council meeting Wednesday.

Rules ahead, just don’t call them ‘restrictions’

By R.J. MARX
The Daily Astorian

Gearhart councilors reversed course Wednesday night and scrapped plans for a short-term rental survey among residents. The survey, which would have been inserted in water bills, was to determine the public’s inclination to regulate short-term housing rentals.

Of the city’s 1,200 homes with water connections, more than 80 are used for short-term rentals, City Manager Chad Sweet said in a November analysis. Thirty-five of those allow for occupancy of 10 or more.

“I don’t think the poll will do any good at

this point,” Mayor Dianne Widdop said. “It’s not going to accomplish anything. People who have vacation rentals in their neighborhood will possibly respond to it. People who don’t have vacation rentals in their neighborhood — I see totally apathy.”

Widdop said the poll would likely be interpreted in different ways without providing real guidance for the council.

“Right now it’s more important we go home and start working on regulations, some things we want to do going forward, so we can have things set up for the summer rental season,” Widdop said.

North Marion Avenue homeowner Laurie Whittemore asked councilors to adopt educational tools rather than regulation.

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