

Woman arrested twice for arson sent to state hospital

Judge found her unable to assist in her defense

By KYLE SPURR
The Daily Astorian

The part-time employee at Clatsop Community College who was arrested for arson twice at the college in the past two months is being sent to the Oregon State Hospital for treatment.

Clatsop County Circuit Court Judge Cindee Matyas found Erin Jaynel Engelson, 37, of Naselle, Washington, unable to aid and assist in her criminal case and ordered her to be transported to the state hospital.

The court ruling is based off of a request from defense lawyer Kris Kaino, observations and reports from Clatsop County Jail staff and a consultation report from Clatsop Behavioral Healthcare.

Engelson will be evaluated within 60 days at the state hospital to determine whether she will have the capacity to stand trial.

"Defense counsel has met with the defendant at the Clatsop County Jail and believes she clearly is suffering from a mental disease or defect that makes

her currently unable to aid and assist in her defense," Kaino wrote in a court filing.

A report from the county jail details Engelson's behavior, which is consistent with someone suffering from significant mental health issues. The report describes her throwing a milk box, bread and clothing through the food slot on her cell door. She also appeared to be talking to shadows of herself as if they were a person and was throwing her food around the cell.

Engelson was arrested earlier this month for attempting to start a bonfire outside the art building on the college campus. She reportedly used pieces of wood pallets, wood shavings and other items to try to

start the fire.

At the time, she was out of jail on a release agreement that prohibited her from being at the college. She was arrested in December after police found fire damage, estimated at \$250, on the floor area of the college's science lab. The arrest followed a police investigation into a report by the college.

She is being charged with first-degree arson, first-degree attempted arson, second-degree burglary and second-degree criminal trespass for the two incidents.

A status hearing to address the results of her evaluation is scheduled for late March.



Erin Jaynel Engelson

Fulton defies call to resign from CREST council

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

The Columbia Estuary Study Taskforce's council of governments held its quarterly meeting Thursday, and Stephen Fulton was still representing the Port of Astoria Commission.

Scott Lee, the chairman of both the Clatsop County Board of Commissioners and the environmental group's governing council, has asked for Fulton's resignation and said late last year he would make a motion to that effect if Fulton was still on the council by Thursday's meeting.

But Lee made no motion Thursday, saying afterward, "I'm waiting for the Port to solve this."

Lee claimed in a letter last year that Fulton has been noncollaborative, threatening and aggressive to the environmental group and its staff. His concerns centered around opposition by Fulton and his employer, Warrenton Fiber Co.-Nygaard Logging, to CREST's replacement of a

dam with a bridge on the Skipanon River at Eighth Street in Warrenton. Sitting next to Fulton Thursday was John Nygaard Jr., a lawyer and co-owner of Warrenton Fiber.

Sitting near the periphery were Robert Mushen, the chairman of the Port Commission, and Jim Knight, the Port's executive director. There was confusion about whether Mushen or Fulton, who both made motions during the meeting Thursday, was the official representative for the Port.

At an August meeting of the Port Commission, Mushen and Fulton sparred over who would represent the agency on CREST's council. Mushen said he needed a year on the group's council to help repair the relationship. Fulton



Stephen Fulton



Scott Lee

said he wanted the post, arguing he has the expertise in wetlands mitigation issues. Mushen eventually agreed to let Fulton stay on the council, cautioning him to be more cognizant about potential conflicts of interest.

Fulton attempted to add an undisclosed agenda item at the beginning of Thursday's meeting, but was blocked by Lee.

"I'm not going to allow him to ambush the staff or the board with an agenda item," Lee said after the meeting. "I don't know what the agenda item was, but I won't allow that, based on the previous behaviors."

Lee called for public comment at the end of the meeting Thursday, but nobody spoke. On his way out, Fulton

handed Lee a business card, in case he wanted to talk.

Fulton declined an interview after the meeting, but sent a statement via email Thursday evening saying the agenda item he had hoped to add was about Lee's memo regarding his actions:

"I was surprised that the issue of Commissioner Lee's memo was not on the CREST agenda for today's meeting, and Commissioner Lee did not allow it to be added to the agenda," Fulton wrote. "This is especially troubling, since Lee's memo was discussed at the last CREST meeting, even though I had notified the Director (Denise Löfman) that I was on vacation and could not attend."

Fulton wrote that he is concerned about the impacts of several CREST projects, including the Otter Point Estuarine Restoration in Lewis and Clark National Historical Park, the Eighth Street Dam removal in Warrenton and the Vera Slough project next to Astoria Regional Airport.

County manager finalists meet community

The Daily Astorian

Three finalists for the vacant Clatsop County manager position visited with community members Thursday evening for a meet-and-greet event at the Barbey Maritime Center in Astoria.

The candidates met and spoke with local residents.

Comment cards were available for residents to provide their input.

The finalists are:
• Bryant Baehr, the chief information officer for the Oregon Judicial Department. He was a former trial court administrator in Clatsop County Circuit Court.
• Peter Troedsson, the assistant city manager in Bothell,

Washington. He previously served in the U.S. Coast Guard and was group commander at Air Station Astoria.

• Cameron Moore is the chief executive officer of the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission in Illinois.

A fourth finalist, Steve Franks, of Brea, California,

announced this week he is dropping out of consideration.

On Friday, the three candidates will be interviewed by three panels — the county Board of Commissioners; department heads and labor representatives; and elected officials and community stakeholders. The Board of Commissioners will decide who to hire.

Oser fills out school board

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

David Oser, the chief financial officer for Craft3 lending company in Ilwaco, Washington, is the newest member of the Astoria School Board.

Oser, 66, replaces Martin Dursse, who resigned in November. The term runs until 2019.

Oser was voted in unanimously on Tuesday by board members Jenna Rickenbach, Shawn Helligso, Grace Laman and Jeanette Sampson.

"Public education, K-12, is the single most critical service that a city provides to its residents," Oser said.

Oser said he hopes his financial expertise can help the

Astoria School District, along with his prior experience on boards. He has served on the Clatsop Community College Foundation Board for four years, the Columbia Memorial Hospital Board for two years and the Astoria Public Library Board for four years.

Oser moved to Astoria from the Chicago area five years ago with his wife, Patsy, a former teacher and librarian known for reading several days a week to kids at Astor Elementary School. The two have raised four kids who range in age from 25 to 40, which Oser said also provides him with a unique perspective.

"I do not have any specific agenda items that I'm pushing," Oser said. "I want to do everything I can to strengthen the school system."

The Daily Astorian

Clatsop Community College announced the four finalists for president selected to come to Astoria for interviews.

Christopher Breitmeyer is the vice president for academic and student affairs at St. Charles Community College in Missouri, where he has also been dean of math, science and health. Breitmeyer earned a bachelor's degree in biology education from Illinois State University and a master's degree in zoology from Arizona State University. He is expected to complete the educational leadership doctoral program at the University of Nebraska in the fall.

Christopher Dyer is CEO and president of the University of New Mexico-Gallup. He was previously chief academic officer at Missouri State University-West Plains. He earned bachelor's degrees in anthropology and fishery biology from the University of Arizona, a master's degree in biology from the University of Alabama, a master's degree in anthropology and a doctorate in anthropology from Arizona State University.

Ron Liss is vice president and special advisor for workforce, community and economic development at Cuyahoga Community College in Ohio, where he was previously president of

the college's western campus. He earned a bachelor's degree in engineering from the State University of New York, a master's degree in instructional systems development from the University of Maryland and a doctorate in philosophy in education, leadership and management from American University in Washington, D.C. Glenn Smith is vice

president for student affairs at Concordia University in Portland, where he was previously executive vice provost. He earned a bachelor's degree in communication, a master's degree in college student development from Azusa Pacific College in California and a doctorate in educational leadership from Portland State University.

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