

# No change of venue for man who tried to arrest Astoria mayor

## Judge rules Seidel did not prove prejudice

By **DERRICK DePLEDGE**  
*The Daily Astorian*

The trial of the man who tried to make a citizen's arrest on Astoria Mayor Arline LaMear last June will remain in Clatsop County.

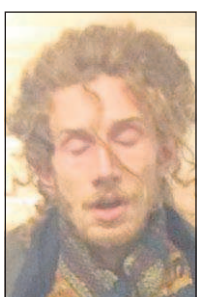
Circuit Court Judge Cindee Matyas on Thursday denied a change of venue motion by Zachary Seidel, who wanted to move his case to another county because he claimed he would not get a fair and impartial trial.

Seidel, 30, sought to arrest LaMear after disrupting a City Council meeting. He also tried to arrest Police Chief Brad Johnston, who wrestled him to the ground at City Hall.

Seidel is facing charges of criminal trespass, disorderly conduct and interfering with a police officer. He has also been charged with failing to appear for one of his court dates.

Seidel claimed that news articles about his case in The Daily Astorian make it very unlikely he would find an impartial jury.

He also argued that several witnesses, like LaMear and Johnston, are well-known and trusted in the community, which could influence jurors.



**Zachary Seidel**

"They're not as well-known outside the county," Seidel, who is acting as his own attorney with legal advice from Tatjana Queener, told the court.

Deputy District Attorney Steve Chamberlin said he saw no reason for a change of venue. He cited an Oregon Supreme Court ruling that upheld a lower court's denial of a change of venue in a prominent Douglas County murder trial. The court found that extensive newspaper and television reports on the 1998 shooting of a decorated World War II fighter pilot in a home invasion near Roseburg did not deprive the killer of a fair trial.

Judge Matyas said there must be an almost "hysterical level" of pretrial publicity to justify a change of venue. The judge also denied a request by Seidel to individually question prospective jurors about their knowledge of the case, finding the screening unnecessary to seat an impartial jury.

Seidel's trial was scheduled for early March but will likely be postponed because Johnston is traveling.

# Man sentenced for eluding police and drug charges

By **KYLE SPURR**  
*The Daily Astorian*

The Long Beach, Washington, man who possessed methamphetamine, heroin and cocaine when he crashed his car while eluding police in January has pleaded guilty.

David Ryan Huff, 36, was sentenced to 80 days in jail and two years probation.

He pleaded guilty in Clatsop County Circuit Court this week to attempting to elude a police officer, delivery of methamphetamine and four counts of recklessly endangering another person.

Huff was pulled over in late January by Oregon State Police for having a taillight out near the John Day area on U.S. Highway 30. He gave a false name and then fled from the stop.

A pursuit ensued and Huff lost control 4 miles down

the road, where he crashed into a power pole.

Highway 30 was closed for about two hours from the power lines coming down and striking three other vehicles — a milk truck, SUV and Toyota Tundra. The damage to each vehicle exceeded \$500.

A nearby fence was also damaged from the crash, according to the indictment.

As part of his sentence, Huff is ordered to pay more than \$12,500 in restitution. His driver's license has been



**David Ryan Huff**

suspended. Huff and a passenger, Keisha Marie Ann Jones, 24, of Long Beach, were arrested after the crash. Huff had Oregon and Washington state warrants and was in possession of methamphetamine, heroin and cocaine. In addition, drug paraphernalia such as baggies and scales were found in his possession, resulting in the delivery of methamphetamine conviction.

Jones was on post-prison supervision and her probation officer issued a detainer.

# Police offering course to prepare for mass shootings

*The Daily Astorian*

In an effort to prepare residents for mass shootings, the Astoria Police Department is offering specialized training for the community.

The course, "Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events," aims to increase the survivability of victims. Research has shown that those who have pre-planned response options can easily remember and act during these highly stressful incidents, according to the police.

Astoria Police are offering to present the course to area employees, community groups and other organizations.

The program is flexible and can be presented in varying lengths of time.

Similar to a first aid or CPR class, this training may never have to be used, police said,

but if such an event occurs having the training may help people survive and help other stay alive.

Many mass shooting events are over before law enforcement arrives on scene, according to police. Those in a mass shooting event must be prepared to take immediate action to save their own lives before law enforcement arrives.

The average response time for police to arrive to the scene is three minutes. Many victims can be seriously injured or killed during these few minutes.

The course was developed by the Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training Program at Texas State University with support from the Bureau of Justice Assistance and the Criminal Justice Division of the Texas Governor's Office.

For more information on how to bring this training to your organization, please con-

tact Deputy Chief Eric Halverson at 503-298-2541 or ehaverson@astoria.or.us.



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