

FIVE DALLAS POLICE OFFICERS SLAIN IN DEADLIEST DAY FOR POLICE SINCE 9/11

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Stakes for bond rise as state enters

Seaside first on list for funds to move schools

By R.J. MARX
The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — The push to move Seaside schools to safety got a big boost Thursday as Superintendent Dr. Doug Dougherty

announced the district was “the first school district on a waiting list to receive \$4 million in state grant funds.”

The grant is a result of a random draw through the Oregon School Capital Improvement

Matching grant program. The district was one of 29 school districts that applied for these funds on July 1.

“I am optimistic because in the May election, every school district that was on the waiting list

and passed their bond received the funding,” Dougherty said.

The funds are contingent on the district passing a bond in November. The 2015 Legislature authorized \$125 million in state matching bonds to provide incentives to school districts seeking approval for capital projects. The Oregon Department of Finance Office of

Administration Office of School Facilities could contribute \$4 million on a \$99.7 million bond cost, according to pre-election grant results.

“For almost two decades, Seaside School District has been seeking state and federal funding to

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Doug Dougherty

PULLING THE PLUG ON ONLINE SEX ABUSE

Detectives use new tools to track, convict predators

By KYLE SPURR
The Daily Astorian

In the parking lot of the Clackamas Town Center last fall, 22-year-old Colby Greer sat in his Toyota pickup expecting to meet his 13-year-old girlfriend.

Greer had been messaging online with the Clatsop County girl for about a month. They met in person twice. He prodded her for “sexy pics,” and they eventually exchanged nude photos.

The girl’s parents caught on to the inappropriate relationship and had two officers take over her online accounts. For almost a week, Clatsop County Sheriff’s Office Detective Ryan Humphrey and Deputy Seann Luedke replied to messages as the girl and even sent a random scandalous photo from the internet to keep Greer on the hook.

When the officers approached Greer in the mall parking lot, he was confused and asked what they were doing there. Humphrey then sent him a message as the girl that read, “Hi Colby.”

The Molalla man was arrested for online and physical sex abuse. He told the officers he knew his activities with the girl were wrong. “I just didn’t think it through,” he said.

Clatsop County law enforcement are using new technology

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ABOVE: Astoria Police Detective Thomas Litwin demonstrates how the police department uses the Cellebrite software to obtain information from cellphones Wednesday at the Astoria Police Department. LEFT: Litwin shows the police department’s Cellebrite kit that provides a variety of adapters to accommodate almost all phones in order obtain information from cellphones. Photos by Danny Miller The Daily Astorian



Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian
Jessica Smith prepares to enter the courtroom for a hearing on Thursday at Clatsop County Circuit Court in Astoria.

Court sees video of accused murderer

Mom describes events leading up to toddler’s death, teen’s slashing

By KYLE SPURR
The Daily Astorian

A video interview of accused murderer Jessica Smith gives her thoughts leading up to allegedly murdering her infant and slashing her teenager two years ago in a Cannon Beach resort.

The video, taken in the Seaside Police Department the day she was arrested, was played Thursday during a pretrial hearing in Clatsop County Circuit Court.

Smith described a fun getaway with her 2-year-old, Isabella Smith, and 13-year-old, Alana Smith, to the beach that turned stressful after she received

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‘Hot, wet and wild’ 2016 weather as US has warmest June

2016 is heading for weather disaster record

By SETH BORENSTEIN
AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON — America’s warm, wild and costly weather broke another record with the hottest June, federal meteorologists say. And if that’s not enough, they calculated that 2016 is flirting with the U.S. record for most billion-dollar weather disasters.

The month’s average temperature in the Lower 48 states was 71.8 degrees, 3.3 degrees above normal, surpassing the Dust Bowl record set in 1933 by a couple tenths of a degree, the National Oceanic and

Atmospheric Administration reported Thursday. Every state in the nation was warmer than normal through the midpoint of the year, with Utah and Arizona having their hottest Junes.

“2016 has been hot, wet and wild for the contiguous U.S.,” NOAA climate scientist Jake Crouch said Thursday.

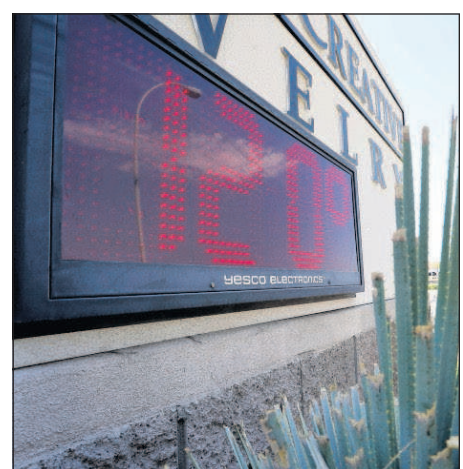
The nation had its third hottest first half of the year. June’s record heat is from a combination of natural variability and long-term global warming, Crouch said. Records go back to 1895.

But there’s been a wet and wild aspect of the year, too. So far, NOAA calculates that there have been eight billion-dollar weather disasters in the first half of this year, not counting the West Virginia flooding, which is still being calculated. They’ve been a combination of severe storms with

tornadoes and heavy rains and downpours that cause damaging flooding. Seven of those have hit Texas.

NOAA calculates billion-dollar disasters, adjusting for inflation, to show trends in the most extreme and damaging weather. Since 1980, the U.S. has averaged five billion-dollar disasters a year, but in the last five years the country has averaged nearly 11 a year. There were eight in 2015. The record is 16 different billion-dollar disasters in 2011.

“The main lesson is that it shows us how vulnerable we are to climate change,” Texas A&M climate scientist Andrew Dessler said in an email. “People frequently think that, ‘Oh, we’ll just adapt to climate change.’ But we’re learning that it’s going to be a lot harder than people realize to do that. How do you adapt to the amount of rain that West Virginia got?”



AP Photo/Matt York

A sign, in direct sunlight, indicates 120 degrees, in Phoenix on June 20. Federal meteorologists say America’s warm, wild and costly weather broke another record this summer: hottest June.



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