

# At debate, governor says she was victim of domestic violence

Brown did not disclose any details of abuse

By **PARIS ACHEN**  
Capital Bureau



**Gov. Kate Brown**

PORTLAND — During a heated exchange with her opponent in the gubernatorial race Friday, Gov. Kate Brown revealed that she has been a victim of domestic violence.

Brown made the disclosure during the second debate with GOP gubernatorial nominee Dr. William “Bud” Pierce, hosted by the City Club of Portland at the Sentinel hotel.

Moderator Laura Gundersen of The Oregonian asked a city club member’s question about what the candidates would do to improve the lot of women. The member referenced a report last week by the Women’s Foundation of Oregon that found Oregon women

continue to be victims of domestic violence and sexual assault at high rates.

“I know what it feels like to be a victim of domestic violence,” Brown responded, emotion in her voice.

Brown’s campaign confirmed Friday that the governor has been a victim of domestic violence but declined to provide details about her experience. The perpetrator was not Brown’s husband, Dan Little, said Chris Pair, a spokesman with Brown’s campaign. The couple married in October 1997.

After the revelation, Brown spoke about her work as a lawyer representing domestic violence victims and her work in the Legislature, where she served in the House of Representatives and Senate before

winning election as secretary of state.

“I know what it feels like to represent clients who can’t get restraining orders on abusive partners,” Brown continued. “That’s why I spent a number of years in the Oregon Legislature strengthening Oregon’s domestic violence and sexual assault laws, including increasing penalties for domestic violence when a child was present, including getting the first general fund dollars ever for domestic violence shelters.”

In his answer to the question, Pierce, a Salem oncologist, did not address the governor’s disclosure.

“Despite the wonderful efforts of our government leadership, Oregon finds ... its women, its poor women, horribly underpaid, violence committed against them at a highest level in the country and sexual violence against them at the highest level in the country,” Pierce said.

“A woman that has great education and training and a great job is not susceptible to this kind of abuse by men,” he continued, drawing boos from the crowd.

Pierce later said that he meant that women with good jobs and resources are more likely to be able to afford lawyers and get out of abusive situations than poor women. He said he did not mean to say that women with education and a good job are not abused.

“Dr. Pierce showed that he’s not just out of touch with Oregonians, he doesn’t exhibit even a basic understanding of the problems women face, regardless of their education level or income,” Pair said Friday. “As Gov. Brown noted, she and countless other women from all walks of life have experienced domestic violence.”

*The Capital Bureau is a collaboration between EO Media Group and Pamplin Media Group.*

# Seaside woman dies in crash

The Daily Astorian



Oregon State Police

SEASIDE — A Seaside woman died Friday afternoon after her car crashed on Highway 53 about 10 miles southeast of the city.

Connie Kay Henry, 59, was apparently driving her silver Oldsmobile coupe southbound on the highway around 4:30 p.m. when she drifted off the shoulder and lost control, Oregon State Police said. The car overturned and Henry, who was not wearing a seat belt, was ejected and pinned underneath, according to state police.

The crash closed the

highway for about four hours while investigators reconstructed the accident.

The state police were assisted by Medix, the Hamlet Volunteer Fire Department and the state Department of Transportation.

**A Seaside woman died Friday when her car overturned on Highway 53.**

# Washington man accused of sexually abusing young girl

By **KYLE SPURR**  
The Daily Astorian

A Bellingham, Washington, man has been extradited to Clatsop County on charges of sodomy and sex abuse.

Juan Carlos Jimenez-Mares, 28, is accused of sexually abusing a young girl multiple times between January 2009 and January 2012 in Clatsop County. The girl was between the ages of 5 and 8 during the alleged abuse.

Jimenez-Mares was indicted by a grand jury in July. He was booked into Clatsop County Jail Thursday afternoon. He remains in custody on \$500,000 bail.

On Friday, Jimenez-Mares pleaded not guilty in Circuit Court to first-degree sodomy and two counts of first-degree sex abuse. He is ordered to have no contact with the victim.

He will return to court in October for an early resolution conference.

# Warrenton man charged with kidnapping

Refused to let girlfriend go after fight

By **KYLE SPURR**  
The Daily Astorian

A Warrenton man is accused of kidnapping and assaulting his girlfriend after a dispute last week on the beach off Delaura Beach Road.

Eric Nelson Sharpsteen, 42, pleaded not guilty Friday in Circuit Court to second-degree kidnapping, coercion, two counts of fourth-degree assault and harassment.

In the early morning hours of Sept. 22, Sharpsteen and his girlfriend went to an area of the beach in Warrenton, where locals call Strawberry

Knoll. The couple got into a fight, and Sharpsteen reportedly grabbed his girlfriend’s hair and refused to let her go.

Warrenton Police Chief Mathew Workman said the act of forcibly restricting someone from leaving an area is considered kidnapping.

“He was keeping her there and dragging her around by her hair,” Workman said.

Police responded to a call at about 8 a.m. to the couple verbally fighting near the UPS store in Warrenton. Before an officer arrived, Sharpsteen left the scene. His girlfriend, who was visibly injured, told police about the earlier incident on the beach. Sharpsteen was arrested moments later.

“The charges are stemming from what she disclosed happened the night before,”

Workman said.

Sharpsteen has a lengthy criminal history in Clatsop County.

In October 2013, he pleaded no contest to felon in possession of a firearm and felon in possession of body armor. The charges stemmed from an arrest in March 2013, when Clatsop County Sheriff’s Office found 21 firearms, body armor, methamphetamine, drug paraphernalia, stolen identification, brass knuckles and hundreds of rounds of live ammunition in the John Day Trailer Park. Sharpsteen was sentenced to two months in jail and three years probation.

In June 2014, Sharpsteen pleaded no contest to first-degree aggravated animal abuse after he maliciously killed a

dog named Basker. He was sentenced to six months in prison.

Sharpsteen remains in custody in Clatsop County Jail on \$250,000 bail. He is due back in court in October for an early resolution conference.

## Dawn McIntosh rejoins Campbell & Popkin



**Dawn McIntosh**

Judge-elect Dawn McIntosh has rejoined Campbell & Popkin to work closely with Chris Palmer, in whom she has great confidence. Dawn and Chris are both well-known for skillfully representing clients in divorce, separation, custody and other family law matters. Campbell & Popkin also provides services in business law, litigation, real estate, estate planning and probate. Dawn and Chris are both taking new clients.



**Chris Palmer**



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