

OBITUARY

Mary Louise Strohl Montgomery

Astoria

Feb. 18, 1917 — Dec. 11, 2016

Mary Montgomery was born Feb. 18, 1917, in Quincy, Illinois, to Dr. Harley and Eva (Gill) Strohl. Mary passed away Sunday, Dec. 11, 2016, in Astoria.

Mrs. Montgomery was a graduate of the class of 1939 at the University of Illinois, with a major in fine arts. She was granted a year's study with Frederic Taubes, an Italian painter. She was a member of Illustrators International (an honorary fraternity). She maintained a studio and painted many portraits while also employed by Garrard Press as art editor and job estimator. She later became a cartographer, then apprenticed as an editor with Kingsport Press.

In 1941, Mary married Ensign Mark V. Montgomery Jr. They divorced in 1969. They had three children, Mark III, David P. and daughter Kristin. Cmdr. Montgomery and their son, David, preceded her in death, along with a grandson, Ethan Montgomery.

As a Navy wife, Mrs. Montgomery continued to paint many portraits, landscapes and still life, throughout the U.S. and British Territories until she became legally blind in 2003. She maintained a lively interest in art, politics and Bible study, and was a member of the First Congregational Church, although she was baptized in St. John's Cathedral, in Quincy, Illinois, of which she had fond memories. She was also church organist and choir director of the Navy Chapel in Trinidad, British West Indies, from 1947-1948. She later taught in a private school and sang at the Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C.

In later years, Mrs. Montgomery studied social work at Winthrop College in South Car-

olina and became a children's protective service worker for the states of Maryland and Florida. Upon retiring in 1980, she moved from Winter Park, Florida, to Astoria, where she was employed as a library assistant for 11 years at the Astoria Library.

She is survived by her son, Mark V. Montgomery III and daughter-in-law, Tomelene, of Lompoc, California; daughter Kristin M. Johnson and son-in-law, Jeffery H. Johnson, of Astoria; granddaughter Jasmine Swank and her husband, Shannon, of Astoria; grandson Michael Montgomery of Boulder, Colorado; grandson Daniel Montgomery and his wife, Morgana, of Winston-Salem, North Carolina; grandson Matthew White and his wife, Davina, of Templeton, California; five great-grandchildren, Solice Swank of Astoria and Ethan, Isaiah, Emma and Jaiden White of Templeton, California.

A special remembrance for a longtime friend, Pat Miller. Special thanks to Brent and Renee Kahle for providing 2 1/2 years of loving care and friendship. The Kahles became, and will continue to be, part of Mary's family.

Visitation will be held Friday, Dec. 16, 2016, from 1 to 5 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 17, 2016, from 10 to noon at Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary, 1165 Franklin Ave., Astoria, Oregon.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, Dec. 17, 2016, at 1 p.m. at Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary. Private vault interment will be at Ocean View Cemetery in Warrenton, Oregon.

Memorial contributions may be given to the Clatsop County Animal Shelter, 1315 S.E. 19th St., Warrenton, OR 97146, or to a charity of one's choice.



Mary Montgomery

Mental health agency making strides, but path still bumpy

Crisis respite center lacks secure beds

By DERRICK DePLEDGE

The Daily Astorian

Six months after a leadership implosion, Clatsop Behavioral Healthcare has hired more than two dozen new staffers, opened a crisis respite center in Warrenton, and secured a two-year certificate to provide mental health services.

Amy Baker, the executive director brought in to stabilize the agency in June, has also ensured that the status of high-risk patients is reviewed every morning, a safeguard to help prevent people from crisis.

"I think that we've made some significant headway, but we're definitely not where we want to be yet," Baker told the Clatsop County Board of Commissioners during an update on the agency's progress Wednesday night. "We're still crossing some — I don't want

to say huge waves — but definitely some rough waves."

Among the 26 new hires is Pypor Powell, the clinical director, who previously worked at the Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium, along with a psychiatrist, a psychiatric nurse practitioner, and a new crisis response team.

Clatsop Behavioral Healthcare, the county's mental health contractor, was in disarray earlier this year after staff departures tied to management and operational dysfunction.

An internal investigation, as well as a review by the Oregon Health Authority, outlined the management shortcomings. The state had issued the agency a one-year provisional certificate to provide mental health services pending a follow-up review.

The agency has about 100 employees and 1,400 patients.

One positive step, and challenge, is the crisis respite center in Warrenton that opened in July.

The 16-bed center, an alternative to hospital emergency rooms and jail for people in crisis, has served 31 patients so far.

The crisis respite center is

supposed to have four secure beds, a commitment made after concerns from law enforcement and city leaders in Astoria and Warrenton that potentially dangerous patients could walk away.

Baker said the respite center has not been licensed for secure beds, but could complete the process by March.

The respite center was also supposed to have residential treatment, a clientele, covered by insurance, that could help finance the facility. But Baker said that because of state funding issues there is no residential treatment component, so the respite center will have to find ways to be financially sustainable.

At a briefing Baker gave to the Warrenton City Commission on Tuesday night, commissioners praised the respite center as long overdue. Warrenton Police Chief Mathew Workman said his department has a good relationship with the new facility.

"This fills a real need, not just in Warrenton, but countywide," Mayor Mark Kujala said. "So that's why we're really pleased to be a home for the respite center."

Emergency Board denies more money for women's prison

By PARIS ACHEN
Capital Bureau

SALEM — The Oregon Emergency Board Wednesday denied a request by state corrections officials for \$3.8 million to continue laying the groundwork for opening a second women's prison in Oregon.

Lawmakers on the 20-member board said they want to see if efforts by the Department of Corrections and several counties can reduce the female inmate population enough

to avoid opening the Oregon State Penitentiary Minimum in Salem, where the second women's prison would be housed.

The Emergency Board could reconsider the request in March.

"This isn't a denial," said state Sen. Fred Girod, R-Stayton. "All we are doing is delaying the decision."

The decision came amid backlash from justice reform advocates and others over the Department of Corrections plan to open the second prison in June for as few as 20 female

inmates. Despite a statewide revenue shortfall of \$1.7 billion, Gov. Kate Brown also had allocated \$17.5 million to open the prison in her proposed budget.

Lawmakers approved \$55 million in "justice reinvestment" grants to counties over the past three years with the hope of avoiding opening additional prisons. The grant proceeds are intended to pay for programs that help keep offenders out of prison. Despite those concerted efforts, the population at the

state's sole women's prison — Coffee Creek Correctional Facility in Wilsonville — has hovered over the 1,280 limit since May. The population reached an all-time high of 1,315 in November, said Liz Craig, an administrator in the Department of Corrections Office of Communications.

State corrections officials have used the 1,280-population threshold as a trigger for opening a second women's prison.

Corrections officials have been delaying additional mon-

etary requests for opening the facility "solely based on our commitment to justice rein-

vestment," Department of Corrections Director Colette Peters said.

Cookie Walk & Bake Sale
 Dec 16th & 17th, 2016
 9:00AM to 3:00PM
 Lighthouse Christian Church
 A Lighthouse of Hope
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 Warrenton, OR • 503.738.5182
 www.LighthouseChristianChurchOregon.com

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Keith Klatt, MD

Sally Baker, PA-C

Mark Tabor, PA-C

Honey Marques, PA-C

Appointments are gladly Accepted!

Hours: Everyday 9AM - 7PM
 2120 Exchange Street, Suite 111
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