

# Got a warrant? ‘Amnesty Day’ offers some relief for scofflaws

Pacific County seeks \$2 million in unpaid fines

By NATALIE ST. JOHN  
EO Media Group

LONG BEACH, Wash. — If you’ve got an outstanding warrant hanging over your head, June might be your lucky month — Pacific County will soon host an “Amnesty Day.”

The June 21 event is a unique opportunity for people with warrants in South District Court or Ilwaco or Long Beach, Washington, municipal courts to get their cases back on track without fear of arrest.

“You can get the warrant quashed. You can sleep at night, and not worry about getting picked up,” Judge Nancy McAllister said.

During the two-hour event, the fee for quashing a warrant will be \$50, instead of the usual \$100. Experts will be on hand to provide information about enrolling in court-mandated programs and dealing with unpaid court debts. The court will also lift driver’s license suspensions for participants.

South District Court officials can’t do anything about felony warrants, or warrants from North District Court or other jurisdictions. But they are offering a guarantee that people with only local Municipal Court or South District

Court warrants will be free to leave when they’re done taking care of business.

“We’re not going to have deputies standing around waiting to arrest people. That won’t happen,” District Court Administrator Kim Hamilton said.

## Hundreds of warrants, millions of dollars

McAllister and Hamilton hope a lot of people will take advantage of the offer. If they do, the court staff could be very busy — currently, there are more than 700 people with active warrants who qualify to participate, Hamilton said. In all, their bail amounts total more than \$2 million.

Most of the scofflaws aren’t hardened criminals. The municipal courts primarily deal with traffic tickets and citations for minor things like littering, and district court deals mostly with misdemeanor crimes.

Many of the people on the list simply didn’t show up for court dates, McAllister and Hamilton said. Some failed to comply with court-ordered requirements, like enrolling in treatment programs. Some violated the terms of their probation. Others didn’t pay their fines.

Some of the people were irresponsible, but others made honest mistakes.

“They could have just messed up. They could have been out of town,” McAllister

said. “Then they sit there with this warrant in fear that they’re going to be thrown in jail.”

## A promising idea

Hamilton said the court held an amnesty day several years ago, when the idea was still fairly new. Turn-out was modest, but the idea showed promise. The state has also occasionally sponsored amnesty days in the past.

McAllister, who was appointed to replace Judge Doug Goelz last year, decided to try it again while training for her new role.

“In judicial college, the other judges were talking openly about making it more convenient to resolve legal issues,” McAllister explained.

## ‘Easier to ignore it’

When people don’t deal with their legal issues, minor screw-ups can take on a life of their own. Fines pile up. Collection agencies get involved. Warrants go out. But some people are so broke, over-

whelmed, or scared of being thrown in jail that they won’t even call the court to sort things out, much less show up for a hearing, McAllister said. As a result, court officials sometimes come across people with years-old underage drinking or marijuana possession charges that are still messing up their lives.

“Fear is the biggest thing. It really is,” Hamilton said. “When you talk to someone, they say, ‘Will I go to jail? Will I go to jail? Will I go to jail?’”

Their fear is understandable, McAllister said. People who do get arrested miss work, family time and appointments. They may lose wages, or even their jobs. Without money, they can’t afford to pay their fines, or go to court hearings. The cycle continues.

“You have to also understand how disruptive that it to their lives. It interferes with their employment,” McAllister explained. “It’s easier to ignore it then to potentially go to jail.”



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Gregory Miller, 63, of Hammond, pictured on the right, pleaded guilty Friday to three counts of first-degree sexual abuse.

# Hammond man pleads guilty to sexual abuse

By JACK HEFFERNAN  
The Daily Astorian

A man pleaded guilty Friday to three counts of first-degree sexual abuse against an underage girl.

Gregory Thomas Miller, 63, of Hammond, could face more than six years in prison after his sentencing in July.

Miller was originally indicted on 16 counts of first-degree sexual abuse along with individual counts

of luring a minor, attempting to use a child in a display of sexually explicit conduct, private indecency and first-degree online sexual corruption.

He allegedly touched the girl inappropriately multiple times from January to October of last year and also texted her an intimate photo of himself. He pleaded guilty to three incidents that took place in April, May and June.

**WANTED**  
Alder and Maple Saw Logs & Standing Timber  
Northwest Hardwoods • Longview, WA  
Contact: John Anderson • 360-269-2500

**NO MINIMUMS - NO RESERVES**  
**PUBLIC AUCTION**  
REAL ESTATE - 250 FT OF BOAT DOCK  
**ASTORIA FISHERIES**  
TUESDAY, JUNE 20  
ONE 9TH STREET, ASTORIA, OR 97103  
ICE HOUSE, PROCESSINGS EQUIPMENT, SARDINE LINES, BOX INVENTORY, CONDENSERS, (115+) PALLETS OF SHIPPING BOXES, EVAPORATORS (1,000+) PROCESSING BASKETS, 5,000LB SCALE (4) AMMONIA TANKS, (6) COMPRESSORS & MUCH MORE!  
find us on facebook! [murphyauction.com](http://murphyauction.com)  
JAMES G. MURPHY CO • 425-486-1246

**RIVER PEOPLE FARMERS MARKET**  
EST 2011  
ASTORIA, OR

**Now monthly, year round!**  
Buy directly from local farmers for healthy meals!  
Fresh produce, seafood, eggs, meats, \$10 SNAP match, and more!  
**THURSDAY JUNE 15TH 2:30-5:30PM**  
577 18<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
503.465.0921  
[northcoastfoodweb.org](http://northcoastfoodweb.org)

Join North Coast Food Web for grilled pizzas on market day.

Call Anytime Free Fast Estimates

**Jeff Hale Painting**

- Residential
- Commercial
- Cedar Roof Treatments
- Interior & Exterior

Over 20 years local experience

503-440-2169 **Jeff Hale, Contractor**  
LICENSED BONDED INSURED CCB#179131

# HEALTH NOTIFICATION

## Are You Hard of Hearing?



A major name brand hearing aid provider wishes to field test a remarkable new digital hearing instrument in the area. This offer is free of charge and you are under no obligation.

These revolutionary 100% Digital instruments use the latest technology to comfortably and almost invisibly help you hear more clearly. This technology solves the “stopped up ears” and “head in a barrel” sensation some people experience.

If you wish to participate, you will be required to have your hearing tested in our office **FREE OF CHARGE** to determine candidacy and review your results with

the hearing instruments with our hearing care specialist.

At the end of this evaluation, you may keep your instrument, if you so desire, at a tremendous savings for participating in this field test. Special testing will be done to determine the increased benefits of this technology.

Benefits of hearing aids vary by type and degree of hearing loss, noise environment, accuracy of hearing test, and proper fit.

**This is a wonderful opportunity to determine if hearing help is available for your hearing loss and get hearing help at a very affordable price.**

**Call Now and Make a Reservation if you wish to be Included!**

# THIS WEEK ONLY!

Expires June 16<sup>th</sup>

**Come Join Our OPEN HOUSE in Tillamook - June 19<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
Call 503-836-7926 to Schedule an Appointment!

**ANOTHER GREAT WAY TO SAVE**

Save on our advanced line of digital hearing aids.  
**BUY 1, GET 2<sup>ND</sup> 50% OFF**

Manufacture’s Suggested Retail Price  
All ME-1, ME-2 and ME-3 Solutions Hearing Aids

Good only from participating Miracle-Ear® Hearing Aid Centers. One coupon per purchase. No other offers or discounts apply. Discount does not apply to prior sales. Offer valid on ME-1, ME-2, & ME-3 hearing aids. Cannot combine with any other offers. Cash value 1/20 cent. Expires on 6/16/17.

**Special Notice State Employees**  
You may qualify for a hearing aid benefit up to \$4,000 every 4 years. Call for eligibility status.

**Miracle-Ear®**

**Miracle-Ear Center**  
Youngs Bay Plaza  
173 S. Hwy 101, Warrenton, OR 97146  
(503) 836-7921 • [www.miracle-ear-warrenton.com](http://www.miracle-ear-warrenton.com)

**Miracle-Ear Center**  
2505 Main Ave N, Suite C, Tillamook, OR 97141  
(503) 836-7926 • [www.miracle-ear-tillamook.com](http://www.miracle-ear-tillamook.com)

Hearing tests are always free. Hearing test is an audiometric test to determine proper amplification needs only. Hearing Aids do not restore natural hearing. Individual experiences will vary depending on severity of loss, accuracy of evaluation by our Consultant, proper fit, and the ability to adjust amplification. If you are not completely satisfied, the aids must be returned within 30 days of the completion of fitting, in satisfactory condition for a full refund.