

A lawyer for the toughest cases

Straight-forward legal advocate for criminals

By ANDREW BINION
Kitsap Sun

BREMERTON, Wash. — When dealing with killers, the best piece of advice Roger Hunko ever received was upon first meeting them, look for something you like about them.

For Hunko, 70, the venerable Kitsap County defense attorney whose expertise on death penalty trials involved him in some of the more notable and heinous Washington state cases through the past three decades, it was usually easy.

"I look at people and I like them," said Hunko, who is retiring after first being licensed in Washington state in 1979. "Although I never expected to know as many murderers as I do."

Hunco had been co-counsel on the case of Gabriel Gaeta, charged in the 2014 rape and murder of 6-year-old Jenise Wright, but he was released at his own request. Last month the state Supreme Court ruled on another of his cases, and he has one more hearing, a sentencing for a drug case.

Roam the country

After that, he has no plans to practice again. In fact, he has no



Larry Steagal/Kitsap Sun

Roger Hunko, a longtime Kitsap County defense attorney and death penalty opponent, poses for a photo in his backyard on Lake Tahuya, Wash.

real plans at all except to close on the sale of his home and roam the country in a 24-foot RV with his wife, Kathleen, and their two dogs, Olive and Twinks.

"Just going to go, gypsy life," Hunko said. "I like not having a plan."

For somebody known almost as much for his skill as an attorney as his mellow, likable demeanor, it may be the most fitting retirement. After all, Hunko took the law school entrance exam on a whim, after a night of drinking tequila and playing dice, only to score in the top 9 percent in the country. "I wasn't hung over, I was

still drunk," Hunko said.

He estimated that he had been on about 30 aggravated murder cases, and of the death penalty cases he took, only one client was condemned to die — Robert Lee Yates, convicted in 2002 of murdering two women in Pierce County and number five of eight on the state's death row.

Straight-forward

Those who worked for him at his firm in Port Orchard, and those who argued against him in cases where the stakes couldn't be higher, said Hunko was a straight-forward advo-

cate — professional and passionate — but never underhanded or abrasive. He lifted weights competently in his younger days and wears loud shirts, but he is not known for flamboyance.

"He really practiced from the heart," said Kevin Kelly, now chief deputy prosecutor in Kitsap County District Court. In 1996, Kelly was one of the prosecutors who argued against Hunko in Kitsap County's last death penalty trial, the case of Steven R. Morgan.

Tina Robinson, Kitsap County prosecutor, was hired by Hunko in 2006 for her first job out of law school. She said he taught her to love her job as a defense attorney and how to relate to clients as people.

"He will fight till the end for his clients," she said. "He is a great guy with a great heart and he is a very good attorney."

Born in Brooklyn, New York, on the Fourth of July, Hunko was a twin. His brother, Robert, died as an infant. He was raised in New Jersey and served four years in the U.S. Air Force before roaming the country in a Volkswagen bus. He eventually made his way to Pocatello, Idaho, where he went to college, majoring in history, and he later decided to give law school a shot. He says now that at the time, he didn't know what lawyers actually did.

He attributes his success to his time spent working as a bartender, where he became a student of human nature, as well as his love of puzzles. In ways, working a case is like solving a puzzle, he said.



Submitted Photo

A Seaside woman was killed Saturday in a car crash.

Astoria man indicted for manslaughter in fatal crash

The Daily Astorian

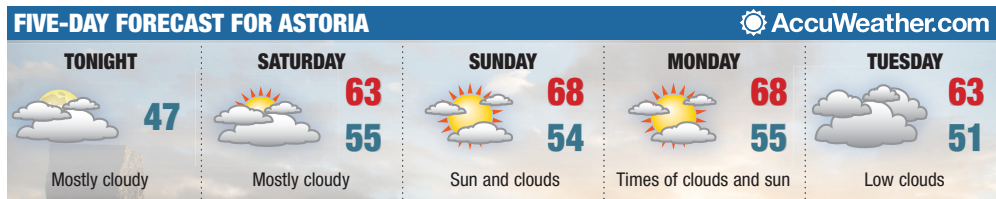
An Astoria man involved in a fatal crash last weekend was indicted Thursday for manslaughter.

Christopher Jeremy Costa, 23, has been indicted for manslaughter, driving under the influence of intoxicants and reckless driving. He allegedly crossed the center line of U.S. Highway 101 near Cullaby Lake just before 2:30 a.m. Saturday. His 1984 Chevrolet pickup truck collided head-on with a 2001 Toyota

Camry. Kayla Lynn Weber, 27, of Seaside, was driving the Camry and died as a result of the crash.

Costa was able to escape his truck, which had caught fire. Costa had been receiving treatment for serious injuries after being taken by Life Flight to Legacy Emanuel Medical Center in Portland. The east side of the highway was closed for 4½ hours after the crash.

A warrant was issued today for Costa's arrest, and security has been set at \$500,000.



ALMANAC

Astoria through Thursday.

Temperatures
High/low 59°/53°
Normal high/low 64°/50°
Record high 81° in 1961
Record low 41° in 1959

Precipitation
Thursday 1.26"
Month to date 2.25"
Normal month to date 1.49"
Year to date 49.38"
Normal year to date 34.85"

SUN AND MOON

Sunset tonight 9:09 p.m.
Sunrise Saturday 5:23 a.m.
Moonrise today 1:07 a.m.
Moonset today 12:23 p.m.

Last New First Full
June 17 June 23 June 30 July 8

UNDER THE SKY

Tonight's Sky: Vega, of Lyra, is the brightest star of the Summer Triangle, which is in view all night.

Source: Jim Todd, OMS

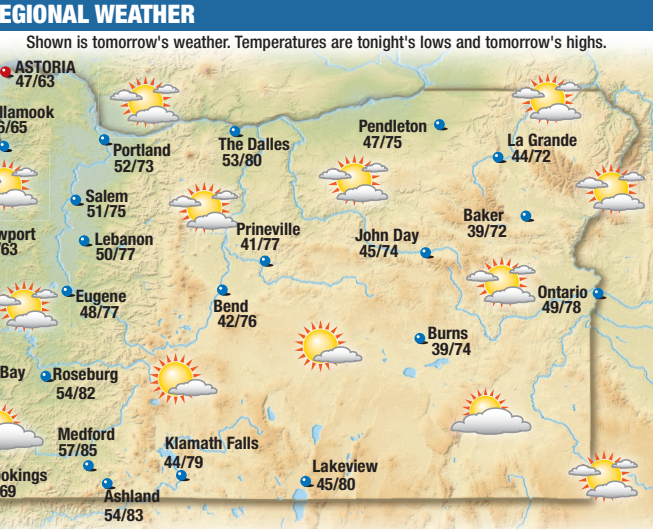
TOMORROW'S TIDES

Astoria / Port Docks

Time	High	Time	Low
7:16 a.m.	6.8 ft.	1:40 a.m.	2.5 ft.
8:25 p.m.	7.7 ft.	1:40 p.m.	0.8 ft.

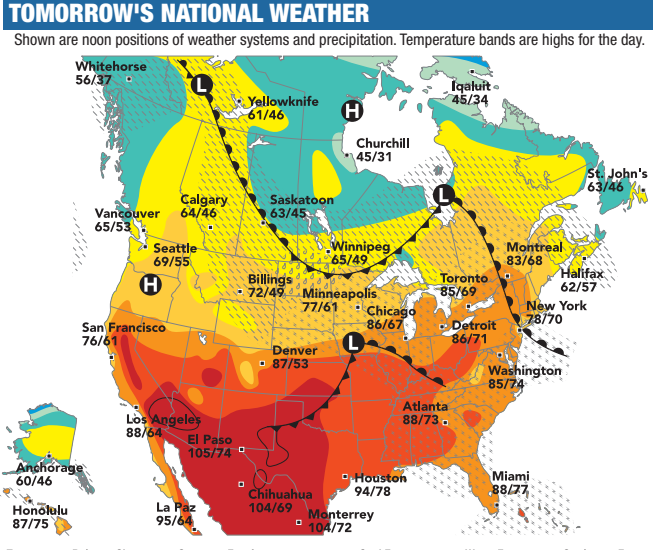
NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	Sat.
Atlanta	85	71	t	88	73	t	
Boston	67	61	r	77	67	pc	
Chicago	88	69	t	86	67	t	
Denver	93	60	pc	87	53	pc	
Des Moines	89	70	t	85	62	t	
Detroit	86	69	pc	86	71	t	
El Paso	104	72	s	105	74	s	
Fairbanks	68	54	pc	67	52	sh	
Honolulu	86	73	pc	87	75	s	
Indianapolis	88	69	pc	89	73	t	
Kansas City	92	74	pc	94	65	s	
Las Vegas	107	81	s	109	85	s	
Los Angeles	90	65	s	88	64	s	
Memphis	94	77	t	95	78	pc	
Miami	86	76	t	88	77	t	
Nashville	91	71	t	93	74	pc	
New Orleans	89	75	pc	89	76	pc	
New York	72	67	sh	78	70	c	
Oklahoma City	98	76	pc	99	71	s	
Philadelphia	82	70	sh	86	72	c	
St. Louis	88	75	pc	96	73	t	
Salt Lake City	92	63	s	82	59	pc	
San Francisco	74	58	s	76	61	s	
Seattle	68	48	c	69	55	c	
Washington, DC	84	73	t	85	74	c	



REGIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	Sat.
Baker City	62	39	r	72	45	pc	
Bend	62	42	c	76	50	s	
Brookings	63	54	c	66	56	s	
Eugene	67	48	c	77	51	pc	
Ilwaco	60	49	c	60	55	c	
Klamath Falls	74	44	pc	79	47	pc	
Medford	77	57	pc	85	59	pc	
Newberg	68	49	sh	73	55	pc	
Newport	60	48	sh	63	51	pc	
North Bend	65	54	c	68	54	pc	
Olympia	68	43	sh	68	53	c	
Pendleton	69	47	r	75	55	pc	
Portland	67	52	sh	73	58	pc	
Roseburg	71	54	c	82	56	pc	
Salem	67	51	sh	75	54	pc	
Seaside	61	48	sh	62	55	pc	
Spokane	67	45	sh	70	53	pc	
Springfield	67	51	sh	78	52	pc	
Vancouver	66	49	sh	71	56	pc	
Yakima	74	43	c	78	52	pc	



OBITUARIES

Donna Mae (Beckwith) Buckman

Astoria

Sept. 12, 1944 — June 13, 2017

Donna Mae (Beckwith) Buckman passed away peacefully at home on June 13, 2017. She was born Sept. 12, 1944, in Astoria, Oregon. Donna was the daughter of Don Beckwith, Maymie Phillips and Don Phillips. They preceded her in death.

Donna was married 56 years to her loving husband, Joseph (Paul) Buckman. They have three daughters: her eldest daughter, Sandra, and her son-in-law, Brian Emrick, of Clatskanie, Oregon; her middle daughter, Terri, and her son-in-law, Bob Killion, of Spokane, Washington; and her youngest daughter, Dawnya, and her son-in-law, Dave Lucas, of Marina, California.

She has nine grandchildren: Tim McDonald and his fiancée, Shalana Harrison, Kris McDonald and her fiancé, Keaton Crepe, and Darren Emrick, all of Clatskanie, Oregon, Michelle and her husband, Alex Seguin, of Lynnwood, Washington, Lindsay and her husband, Dustin Funderburk, of Spokane, Washington, and Daniel, Rebekkah, Larken and Trinity Lucas of Marina, California; and eight

great-grandchildren. She is also survived by her brother, Jim, and sister-in-law, Lorelei Beckwith, of Brownsmead, Oregon.

Donna loved to play cards. She was very crafty, creating beautiful oil paintings and ceramics. She loved to knit and made outfits and blankets for all her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She will be greatly missed. She was happiest when she was surrounded by her family, friends and her two dogs.

Visitation will be held Friday, June 16, 2017, from 1 to 5 p.m., and Saturday, June 17, from 9 to 11 a.m. at Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary, 1165 Franklin Ave. Funeral services are at noon Saturday, also at Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary, followed by graveside services at Ocean View Cemetery in Warrenton.

Memorial contributions may be given to the National Kidney Foundation at www.kidney.org

Please send the online guest book at www.caldwellsmortuary.com



Donna Buckman

DEATH

June 15, 2017

BEESTON, Diane Sistere, 87, of Astoria, died

in Astoria. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

ON THE RECORD

Assault

• At 11:14 a.m. Thursday, Marc Anthony Castelamare, 21, of Astoria, was arrested by the Clatsop County Sheriff's

Office on the 90100 block of Oregon Highway 202 for fourth-degree assault, harassment and strangulation. He allegedly assaulted his girlfriend.

LOTTERIES

OREGON

Thursday's Pick 4:

1 p.m.: 2-9-9-0

4 p.m.: 8-8-1-8

7 p.m.: 5-2-7-0

10 p.m.: 7-4-1-7

WASHINGTON

Thursday's Daily Game: 1-0-5

Thursday's Keno: 04-06-08-11-

18-19-21-24-28-34-40-47-48-49-

50-59-74-76-77-78

Thursday's Match 4: 02-12-

14-22

PUBLIC MEETINGS

MONDAY
Astoria City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 1095 Duane St.

TUESDAY
Cannon Beach Public Works Committee, 9 a.m., City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.
Sunset Empire Parks and Rec

District, 4 p.m., 1225 Ave. A, Seaside.
Clatsop County Human Services Advisory Council, 4 to 5:30 p.m., 800 Exchange St., Room 430.

Seaside School District, 6 p.m., 1810 S. Franklin, Seaside.
Port of Astoria Commission,

6 p.m., budget hearing, regular meeting following, 10 Pier 1, Suite 209.

Shoreline Sanitary District Board, 7 p.m., Gearhart Hertig Station, 33496 West Lake Lane, Warrenton.
Seaside Planning Commission, 7 p.m., 989 Broadway.

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