

Trump won in places, like Aberdeen, drowning in despair

County flipped Republican last November

By **CLAIRE GALOFARO**
Associated Press

ABERDEEN, Wash. — One-hundred-fifty baskets of pink petunias hang from the light posts all over this city, watered regularly by residents trying to make their community feel alive again. A local artist spends his afternoons high in a bucket truck, painting a block-long mural of a little girl blowing bubbles, each circle the scene of an imagined, hopeful future.

But in the present, vacant buildings dominate blocks. A van, stuffed so full of blankets and boxes they are spilling from the windows, pulls to the curb outside Stacie Blodgett's antiques shop.

"Look inside of it," she says. "I bet you he's living in it."

Around the corner, a crowded tent city of the desperate and addicted has taken over the riverbank, makeshift memorials to too many dead too young jutting up intermittently from the mud.

America, when viewed through the bars on Blodgett's windows, looks a lot less great than it used to be. So she answered Donald Trump's call to the country's forgotten corners. Thousands of her neighbors did, too, and her county,



Forrest Wood, 24, injects heroin into his arm under a bridge along the Wishkah River at Kurt Cobain Memorial Park in Aberdeen, Wash., in June.

once among the most reliably Democratic in the nation, swung Republican in a presidential election for the first time in 90 years.

"People were like, 'This guy's going to be it. He's going to change everything, make it better again,'" she says.

Blodgett stands at the computer on her counter and scrolls through the headlines. Every day it's something new: details in the Russia campaign investigation, shake-ups at the White House, turmoil over Trump's response to race-fueled riots. His administration's failed plans to remake the health care system may or may not cost millions their coverage, and there's a lack of clarity over how exactly he intends to erad-

icate a spiraling drug crisis that now claims 142 American lives each day — a growing number of them here, in Grays Harbor County.

"Has he done anything good yet?" she asks. "Has he?"

Born and raised

Blodgett was born and raised in this county, where the logging economy collapsed decades ago, replaced by a simmering sense of injustice that outsiders took the lumber, built cities around the world and then left this place to decay when there was nothing more to take. The community sank into despair. Suicides increased, addiction took root. Blodgett is 59, and the rate at which people here die from drugs and alcohol

has quadrupled in her lifetime.

She thought opening an antiques and pawn shop with her boyfriend on a downtown street bordered by petunias would be fun. Instead, she's confronted every day with her neighbors' suffering. They come to pawn their jewelry to pay for medication. They come looking for things stolen from them. They come to trade in odds and ends and tell her food stamps won't cover the dog food.

She keeps a bag of kibble behind the register.

Now they come to discuss Trump, and their differing degrees of faith that he will make good on his promise to fix the rotting blue-collar economy that brought this despair to their doorstep.

Many here agree that the thrashing and churning in Washington looks trivial when viewed from this place 3,000 miles away that so many residents have been trying so hard to save. Some maintain confidence that Trump will rise above the chaos to deliver on his pledge to resurrect the American dream. Others fear new depths of hopelessness if he fails.

Blodgett just prays Trump understand the stakes — because in places like this, there is little room left for error from Washington, D.C.

There, he is tweeting insults about senators and CNN.

Here, her neighbors have been reduced to living in cars.

Working class crumbled

Across the country, Trump disproportionately claimed these communities where lifetimes contracted as the working class crumbled.

Penn State sociologist Shannon Monnat spent last fall plotting places on a map experiencing a rise in "deaths of despair"

— from drugs, alcohol and suicide wrought by the decimation of jobs that used to bring dignity. On Election Day, she glanced up at the television. The map of Trump's victory looked eerily similar to hers documenting death, from New England through the Rust Belt all the way here, to the rural coast of Washington, a county of 71,000 so out-of-the-way some say it feels like the end of the earth.

Aberdeen was built as a boomtown at the dawn of the 20th century. Its spectacular landscape — the Chehalis River carves through tree-topped hills to the harbor — offered ships easy access to the Pacific Ocean. Millionaire lumber barons built mansions on the hills. There were restaurants and theaters and traffic that backed up as the drawbridge into town seasawed up and down for ship after ship packed with timber. Now that drawbridge pretty much stays put.

The economy started to slip in the 1960s, slowly at first, as jobs were lost to globalization and automation. Then the federal government in 1990 limited the level of logging in an attempt to save an endangered owl.

Today, the riverbank hosts a homeless encampment where residents pull driftwood from the water to construct memorials to the dead. An 8-foot cross honors their latest loss: A 42-year-old man who had heart and lung ailments made worse by infrequent medical care and addiction. A generation ago, people like him worked in the mills, lived in tidy houses and could afford to see a doctor, says the Rev. Sarah Monroe, a street minister here.

"But instead his life ended living in a tent on the riverbank."

The county's population is stagnating and aging, as many young and able move away. Just 15 percent of those left behind have college degrees. A quarter of children grow up poor. There is a critical shortage of doctors. All that gathered into what Karolyn Holden, director of the public health department, calls "a perfect storm" that put Grays Harbor near the top of the lists no place wants to be on: drugs, alcohol, early death, runaway rates of welfare.

"Things went from extremely good to not good to bad to worse, and we've got generations now where they don't know anything else," she says. "We have a lot of people without a lot of hope for themselves."

Forrest Wood grew up here;

his parents even picked his name in tribute to the local timber history. He watched drugs take hold of his relatives, and he swore to himself that he would get out, maybe become a park ranger. But he started taking opioid painkillers as a teenager, and before he knew it he was shooting heroin — a familiar first chapter in the story of American addiction.

He sits under a bridge next to a park named after Kurt Cobain, the city's most famous son, the Nirvana frontman and a heroin addict, who shot himself in the head at 27 years old in 1994. Wood is 24. He plunges a syringe full of brown liquid into his vein, though he knows well how this might end.

"My uncle died right over there in his truck," he says, pointing to a cluster of battered houses and blinking back tears. "He was messing with drugs. He did too much."

Obamacare

Wood's mother got treatment at the county's methadone clinic and has stayed clean for years, paid for by her coverage under the Affordable Care Act.

Holden was so happy on the day President Barack Obama signed the legislation, she cried. It's an imperfect program with premiums and deductibles rising for some, she says. But thousands here received coverage; the uninsured dropped from 18 percent in 2012 to 9 in 2014 — one of the greatest gains in the state.

She reads about all the proposals Republicans have offered to topple it — repeal and replace, just repeal, do nothing and let it buckle on its own — and believes the consequences of an unstable system will be most painful in counties like hers, where residents die on average three years younger than those in the rest of the state. For two terrifying weeks this summer, no insurer filed to provide coverage for the county through the exchange next year, threatening to leave thousands without an option. Other initiatives seem to be on the administration's chopping block, too, like family planning programs to combat the high rate of teen pregnancy.

The health department last year collected 750,000 needles at its syringe exchange designed to stem the tide of drug-related disease — an incredible number for a small community, but still down from more than 900,000 the year before. Holden attributes that improvement to the methadone clinic that helps Wood's mother and nearly 500 more stay off drugs.

FIVE-DAY FORECAST FOR ASTORIA AccuWeather.com

TONIGHT	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
56	68 / 53	67 / 51	67 / 52	74 / 54
Low clouds	Low clouds	A morning shower; otherwise, partly sunny	Plenty of sunshine	Mostly sunny and pleasant

ALMANAC
Astoria through Monday.

Temperatures
High/low 76°/55°
Normal high/low 69°/53°
Record high 85° in 1942
Record low 42° in 1988

Precipitation
Monday 0.00"
Month to date 0.38"
Normal month to date 0.66"
Year to date 50.05"
Normal year to date 37.60"

SUN AND MOON
Sunset tonight 8:12 p.m.
Sunrise Wednesday 6:25 a.m.
Moonrise today 7:22 a.m.
Moonset today 8:55 p.m.

First Full Last New
Aug 29 Sep 5 Sep 12 Sep 19

REGIONAL WEATHER
Shown is tomorrow's weather. Temperatures are tonight's lows and tomorrow's highs.

Forecasts and graphics provided by **AccuWeather, Inc.** ©2017

UNDER THE SKY
Tonight's Sky: After sunset, Jupiter will be low in the west and Saturn high above the southern horizon.

Source: Jim Todd, OMS

TOMORROW'S TIDES
Astoria / Port Docks

Time	High	Low
2:45 a.m.	8.7 ft.	9:23 a.m.
3:36 p.m.	8.3 ft.	9:38 p.m.
		-1.1 ft.
		0.5 ft.

NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Wed.
	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W
Atlanta	91 74 pc	90 71 t
Boston	87 71 s	82 63 s
Chicago	80 58 r	76 58 s
Denver	86 60 pc	87 57 c
Des Moines	79 55 pc	81 59 s
Detroit	81 57 r	77 53 pc
El Paso	92 70 t	92 68 t
Fairbanks	63 47 c	60 48 c
Honolulu	88 74 sh	88 76 pc
Indianapolis	81 60 r	78 58 pc
Kansas City	80 55 t	80 58 s
Las Vegas	101 80 s	99 79 pc
Los Angeles	83 64 s	80 65 pc
Memphis	93 73 pc	83 63 c
Miami	90 80 t	88 79 t
Nashville	93 73 t	84 62 c
New Orleans	89 76 t	90 77 pc
New York	89 73 pc	83 65 t
Oklahoma City	90 65 t	85 60 pc
Philadelphia	93 75 pc	86 65 pc
St. Louis	82 60 r	81 60 s
Salt Lake City	92 68 s	90 67 pc
San Francisco	73 60 pc	72 59 pc
Seattle	85 59 s	74 55 pc
Washington, DC	95 77 pc	85 67 t

REGIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Wed.
	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W
Baker City	96 54 s	89 55 pc
Bend	92 56 s	85 50 pc
Brookings	65 54 pc	65 54 pc
Eugene	86 55 s	81 55 s
Ilwaco	66 58 c	66 56 c
Klamath Falls	89 55 s	84 50 t
Medford	97 64 s	92 60 pc
Newberg	89 58 s	83 55 pc
Newport	62 53 pc	65 51 pc
North Bend	65 55 pc	67 54 pc
Olympia	84 55 s	74 49 c
Pendleton	95 65 s	90 63 pc
Portland	88 61 s	81 57 pc
Roseburg	90 61 s	86 60 s
Salem	89 59 s	84 56 s
Seaside	69 58 c	69 55 c
Spokane	90 61 s	87 60 s
Springfield	87 57 s	84 58 s
Vancouver	87 59 s	81 55 pc
Yakima	97 61 s	93 57 pc

TOMORROW'S NATIONAL WEATHER
Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.

Weather (W): s=sunny, pc=partly cloudy, c=cloudy, sh=showers, t=thunderstorms, r=rain, sf=snow flurries, sn=snow, i=ice.

DEATHS

Aug. 21, 2017
WILSON, Rosalie Elizabeth, 94, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Ocean View Funeral & Cremation Service of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

Aug. 18, 2017
HERRON, Mary Corinne, 91, of Carson City, Nevada, formerly of Astoria, died in Carson City. Ocean View Funeral & Cremation Service of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

Aug. 20, 2017
KAUPPI, Kenneth H., 60, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary in Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

Aug. 19, 2017
CROWLEY, Charles Leonard, 89, of Toledo, Washington, formerly of Clatskanie, died in Toledo. Ocean

View Funeral & Cremation Service of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

Aug. 4, 2017
HUMPHREY, Robert James, 68, of Seaside, died in Seaside. Ocean View Funeral & Cremation Service of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

TUESDAY
Port of Astoria Commission, 4 p.m., special session to interview candidates, 5 p.m., regular meeting, Port offices, 10 Pier 1, Suite 209.
Warrenton City Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall, 225 S. Main Ave.
Astoria Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m., City Hall, 1095 Duane St.

ation Board, 6:45 a.m., City Hall, 1095 Duane St.
Astoria City Council, noon, special meeting on street end easements, City Hall, 1095 Duane St.
Clatsop County Housing Authority Board, 5 p.m., Judge Guy Boyington Building, 857 Commercial St.
Clatsop County Board of Commissioners, 6 p.m., Judge Guy Boyington Building, 857 Commercial St.

WEDNESDAY
Astoria Parks and Recre-

BIRTH

Aug. 2, 2017
HANSEN, Jessica, and **VAN OSDOL, Edwin,** of Knappa, a girl, **Azaleah Azariah Van Osdol,** born at Columbia Memorial Hospital in Astoria. Grandparents are Rune Hansen and Joyce and Ed Van Osdol of Svensen.

LOTTERIES

OREGON
Monday's Pick 4:
1 p.m.: 3-6-7-0
4 p.m.: 1-2-9-9
7 p.m.: 5-8-5-1
10 p.m.: 8-4-0-2
Monday's Megabucks: 07-15-18-20-29-42
Estimated jackpot: \$6.2 million

WASHINGTON
Monday's Daily Game: 6-8-6
Monday's Hit 5: 06-14-18-20-27
Estimated jackpot: \$120,000
Monday's Keno: 05-11-18-22-25-28-33-41-45-46-47-48-49-52-54-62-63-69-74-78
Monday's Lotto: 01-02-09-30-40-44
Estimated jackpot: \$1.8 million
Monday's Match 4: 01-11-15-16

APPLIANCE PACKAGE DEALS

J & S

APPLIANCE AND HOME FURNISHINGS

529 SE MARLIN, WARRENTON
503-861-0929

OVER 30 YEARS IN CLATSOP COUNTY

Mattresses, Furniture & More!

HOURS OPEN: MON-FRI 8-6 • SATURDAY 9-5 • SUNDAY 10-4
We Service What We Sell

VISA MasterCard

The Daily Astorian
Established July 1, 1873 (USPS 035-000)

Published daily, except Saturday and Sunday, by EO Media Group, 949 Exchange St., PO Box 210, Astoria, OR 97103 Telephone 503-325-3211, 800-781-3211 or Fax 503-325-6573. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Daily Astorian, PO Box 210, Astoria, OR 97103-0210

www.dailyastorian.com

MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Associated Press is entitled exclusively to the use for republication of all the local news printed in this newspaper.

SUBSCRIBER TO THE NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE
MEMBER CERTIFIED AUDIT OF CIRCULATIONS, INC.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
Effective July 1, 2015

HOME DELIVERY	MAIL
EZpay (per month).....\$11.25	EZpay (per month).....\$16.60
13 weeks in advance.....\$36.79	13 weeks in advance.....\$51.98
26 weeks in advance.....\$70.82	26 weeks in advance.....\$102.63
52 weeks in advance.....\$135.05	52 weeks in advance.....\$199.90

Circulation phone number: 503-325-3211
Periodicals postage paid at Astoria, OR

ADVERTISING OWNERSHIP
All advertising copy and illustrations prepared by The Daily Astorian become the property of The Daily Astorian and may not be reproduced for any use without explicit prior approval.

COPYRIGHT ©
Entire contents © Copyright, 2017 by The Daily Astorian.
Printed on recycled paper