

# Rural America is searching for more doctors

## Many young physicians flock to big cities

By KATHY ANEY  
EO Media Group

**PENDLETON** — When anesthesiologist Richard Wick opted to practice in rural Walla Walla after his residency last summer, the decision put him at odds with most of his classmates. Young physicians tend to flock to jobs in big cities.

Wick, who grew up in Pendleton, dreamed of being a doctor since boyhood and practicing in a rural area was always on the radar. His father, Ernest Wick, ran the radiology department at St. Anthony Hospital. The boy hung around the hospital, even shadowing Pendleton general surgeon John McBee. Wick always figured he would become a surgeon, but changed course during an anesthesiology rotation at the

Creighton University School of Medicine in Nebraska. He loved the variety and the awesome responsibility.

“In one day, I may care for a 9-month-old and a 90-year-old in different types of surgery,” Wick said. “I get to take care of people at their most critical moments. I watch their heart rate. I literally breathe for them.”

After finishing residency at Oregon Health & Science University, he and his wife Sarah considered where to practice. Richard felt comfortable with rural life, but Sarah had grown up in Portland and wasn’t as eager to leave the metropolis. In recruiting physicians to rural areas, it’s a common issue — a partners’ employment opportunities or simply the affinity for perks of urban life often come into play.

The couple, expecting a child and tired of Portland traffic, eventually embraced an anesthesiologist position at Walla Walla’s Providence St. Mary Medical Center.



E.J. Harris/EO Media Group  
**Richard Wick, an anesthesiologist at Providence St. Mary Medical Center in Walla Walla, Wash. Wick, who grew up in Pendleton, dreamed of being a doctor since boyhood and practicing in a rural area was always on the radar.**

“I love it,” Wick said.

It’s a happy outcome in a time of doctor shortages in rural America. The shortage, especially of primary care physicians, continues to worsen. That is partially due to an imbalance in pay between primary care doctors and specialists. According to Medscape’s

2017 Physician Compensation Report, orthopedists, cardiologists, plastic surgeons and urologists all earn \$400,000 or more on average. But pediatricians, internists and family medicine doctors make \$225,000 or less.

Maggie Elehwany, the National Rural Health Associ-

ation’s vice president of government affairs, said rural America needs more doctors.

“Twenty percent of the population is scattered over 90 percent of the land mass,” she said. “This 20 percent of the population has nine percent of the physicians.” In addition, “there’s a higher percentage of chronic disease in rural America. They’re poorer and sicker.”

Oregon isn’t quite that low. Based on Oregon Medical Board licensures and the OHSU Office of Rural Health, 10,247 of Oregon doctors practice in urban areas and 2,362 work in rural areas (defined as 10 miles or more away from a population center of at least 40,000).

The national shortage could grow to 45,000 by the year 2020, according to the rural health association. Since 2010, more than 80 rural hospitals have closed, including Walla Walla General Hospital.

Internist Norman Sitz is a popular Pendleton physician who is pondering retirement in the next couple of years. He worries about his patients when that time comes. He doesn’t have hard numbers but he knows his town is short on docs.

“People are always calling to get in,” Sitz said. “I don’t know what my patients are going to do.”

Sitz grew up in Ontario, so as a young internist he felt no qualms about practicing in a rural area. Though Pendleton wasn’t his first choice, he soon grew attached to this little place where “people get along with each other” and he has stayed for 40 years and counting. The locale was close to good hunting and fishing and proved a great place to raise his and wife Michelle’s three children. He doesn’t mind seeing his patients around town and his home phone number is in the book.

“People don’t abuse that,” he said.

**FIVE-DAY FORECAST FOR ASTORIA**  
AccuWeather.com

TONIGHT	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
55	68 55	68 56	70 52	74 56
Partly cloudy	Partly sunny and not as warm	Clouds giving way to some sun	A blend of sun and clouds	Some sun; breezy in the afternoon

**ALMANAC**  
Astoria through Sunday.

**Temperatures**

High/low	83°/49°
Normal high/low	69°/52°
Record high	88° in 1894
Record low	43° in 1895

**Precipitation**

Sunday	0.00"
Month to date	0.38"
Normal month to date	0.94"
Year to date	50.05"
Normal year to date	37.88"

**SUN AND MOON**

Sunset tonight	8:01 p.m.
Sunrise Tuesday	6:32 a.m.
Moonrise today	1:50 p.m.
Moonsset today	11:52 p.m.

**UNDER THE SKY**  
Tonight's Sky: The Milky Way will be arcing high overhead from Cassiopeia in the north, through the Summer Triangle overhead, to Sagittarius in the south.

**TOMORROW'S TIDES**  
Astoria / Port Docks

Time	High	Low
8:06 a.m.	5.7 ft.	1.43 a.m.
7:35 p.m.	7.1 ft.	1.26 p.m.
		2.6 ft.

**NATIONAL CITIES**

City	Today			Tues.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Alliantia	82	68	pc	85	71	c
Boston	72	57	s	68	59	pc
Chicago	75	63	t	78	61	pc
Denver	90	60	s	92	60	s
Des Moines	77	59	pc	80	60	pc
Detroit	74	63	t	72	60	t
El Paso	89	67	s	89	65	s
Fairbanks	64	44	sh	59	49	r
Honolulu	87	74	sh	89	74	pc
Indianapolis	79	64	t	78	62	t
Kansas City	79	57	s	78	58	s
Las Vegas	108	84	pc	106	84	s
Los Angeles	102	76	s	102	75	s
Memphis	82	69	c	85	71	pc
Miami	89	78	sh	91	79	pc
Nashville	81	66	c	86	68	pc
New Orleans	82	74	r	84	75	r
New York	75	61	pc	70	59	c
Oklahoma City	85	62	pc	83	60	c
Philadelphia	78	64	pc	72	63	r
St. Louis	79	63	t	80	64	pc
Salt Lake City	97	71	s	98	74	s
San Francisco	77	59	s	73	58	s
Seattle	90	62	pc	84	58	s
Washington, DC	78	66	pc	71	64	r

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

## Warrenton man arrested for sex abuse

By JACK HEFFERNAN  
The Daily Astorian



**Carl Axel Hagnas**

A Warrenton man known for giving candy to children while volunteering around town has been arrested for numerous sex abuse charges.

Carl Axel Hagnas, 68, allegedly abused three children in the area.

The crimes allegedly took place between 1992 and 2015. He allegedly abused one young child eight separate times from 1992 to 1996. Those crimes were first reported in 2005.

The abuse of the two other

girls allegedly took place in 2015.

Known by many as the “candy man,” Hagnas manages rental properties and performs other small jobs around the area. He worked and later volunteered at the Ocean View Cemetery, where some of the crimes allegedly took place.

The families of the children he allegedly abused all know him as a friend, according to a Clatsop County press release.

The Clatsop County Sheriff’s Office had been investigating Hagnas for multiple years along with the Warrenton Police Department. He was indicted Wednesday on 12 charges of first-degree sex abuse and one count of second-degree sodomy. The Sheriff’s Office arrested him Friday.

Hagnas, who was convicted in 1991 on two charges of manufacturing and delivering a controlled substance, would face at least 81 years in prison if convicted on all charges. The indictment includes a bail amount of \$250,000.

## Eight arrested in Seaside on drug charges

The Daily Astorian

Eight people were arrested on drug charges Friday in Seaside.

The Clatsop County Sheriff’s Office arrested Todd Norman, 48, Jessica Bouvia, 34, and Chase Franklin, 28, at a residence at 84484 Necanicum View Drive. Charges include delivery of meth-

amphetamine, possession of methamphetamine and frequenting a place where drugs are used.

As that residence was searched, another search warrant was executed at a 33743 U.S. Highway 26 residence. There, five people — Tim Painter, 60, Connie Tilley, 46, Marcos Jamies-Radilla, 24, Estella Maria Caballero, 21,

and Preston Stewart, 36 — were arrested on drug-related charges.

Police had been investigating the case for about a month. The Sheriff’s Office seized two vehicles, surveillance equipment, two firearms, digital scales, drug records, \$7,000 cash, two grams of heroin and nearly half a pound of methamphetamine.

## OBITUARIES

### Robert Sanderson Warrenton

June 3, 1947 — Aug. 23, 2017



**Robert Sanderson**

Bob left behind his wife, Bobbie Sanderson; his mother, Valarie Sanderson; his grandchildren, Carysa and Maggie Corder of Seaside, Oregon, Geordyn and Cailin Bryan of Korea, Jasper and Briella Bryan; a son-in-law, Gary Bryan and his wife, Monique, of Tenino, Washington; a niece, Kelli, and her daughter, Shelby Rae, of Vancouver, Washington; and a sister-in-law and caregiver, Jerri Starr.

He was preceded in death by a daughter, Jackie L. Bryan; his father, William C. Sanderson; and a sister, Pat Sanderson.

Bob was a very loving and caring man to family and friends; he was a beautiful soul. He will be greatly missed by all.

Please, in lieu of flowers, donate to the Clatsop County Animal Shelter. Bob loved his dogs.

A memorial was held Sunday, Aug. 27, 2017.

## ON THE RECORD

**DUI**

• At 10 p.m. Thursday, Matthew Grant Friesen, 38, of Portland, was arrested by the Clatsop County Sheriff’s Office on the 36000 block of U.S. Highway 26 and charged with driving under the influence of intoxicants.

## DEATH

**Aug. 24, 2017**

**STRINGER**, Edward Wayne, 79, of Troutdale, died in Seaside. Caldwell’s Funeral & Cremation Arrangement Center of Seaside is in charge of the arrangements.

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

**MONDAY**  
**Seaside City Council**, 7 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

## LOTTERIES

### OREGON

**Sunday’s Pick 4:**  
**1 p.m.:** 9-1-6-2  
**4 p.m.:** 9-5-1-8  
**7 p.m.:** 3-7-6-1  
**10 p.m.:** 7-1-8-7  
**Saturday’s Megabucks:** 8-11-18-19-44-47  
 Estimated jackpot: \$6.5 million  
**Saturday’s Powerball:** 7-15-32-38-66, Powerball: 15  
 Estimated jackpot: \$53 million  
**Saturday’s Pick 4:**  
**1 p.m.:** 5-7-9-2  
**4 p.m.:** 6-5-5-2  
**7 p.m.:** 3-9-5-2  
**10 p.m.:** 4-2-3-7  
**Friday’s Pick 4:**  
**1 p.m.:** 7-0-9-4  
**4 p.m.:** 6-0-5-7  
**7 p.m.:** 0-6-7-2  
**10 p.m.:** 2-3-0-9  
**Friday’s Mega Millions:** 17-38-42-51-65, Mega Ball: 11  
 Estimated jackpot: \$45 million

### WASHINGTON

**Sunday’s Daily Game:** 9-4-4  
**Sunday’s Keno:** 03-07-08-10-11-17-30-31-35-39-41-45-47-49-54-57-60-67-70-75  
**Sunday’s Match 4:** 02-06-08-15  
**Saturday’s Daily Game:** 6-7-3  
**Saturday’s Hit 5:** 03-10-22-24-26  
 Estimated jackpot: \$190,000  
**Saturday’s Keno:** 04-14-16-17-25-29-31-34-36-40-44-49-55-56-65-66-69-71-78-80  
**Saturday’s Lotto:** 06-13-25-29-32-42  
 Estimated jackpot: \$2.1 million  
**Saturday’s Match 4:** 01-08-13-24  
**Friday’s Daily Game:** 6-7-4  
**Friday’s Keno:** 09-13-23-37-39-41-42-44-45-50-54-55-58-64-65-66-69-73-76-77  
**Friday’s Match 4:** 03-04-14-18

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