

Authorities release 'manifesto' from Roseburg mass shooting

Killer left behind an explanation

By GILLIAN FLACCUS
Associated Press

PORTLAND — Authorities have released a detailed report on a mass shooting at Umpqua Community College that includes a six-page, type-written "manifesto" in which the shooter critiqued the methods of other mass killers and said he was a follower of the occult.

The report came almost two years after the Oct. 1, 2015, shooting that left nine people dead and nine others injured

in a classroom at the college in Roseburg.

It includes a lengthy transcript from an interview with the mother of shooter Christopher Harper Mercer and an explanation of his actions that he wrote the day before the shooting and left on a thumb drive for police to find.

Harper Mercer shot himself in the head after he was wounded by police. Authorities found nine guns stashed in his backpack, in a college restroom and at his home.

In the document, the 26-year-old community college student wrote that he is part of a "demonic Hierarchy" and will become a demon

when he dies and return "to kill again and again" after possessing someone else.

He makes it clear that he idolizes other mass shooters and says he has studied their methods but faults them for not killing more people or for not killing police officers.

He also paints himself as a "loser," with nothing to live for and no successes in life.

"My whole life has been one lonely enterprise. One loss after another. And here I am, 26, with no friends, no job, no girlfriend, a virgin," he wrote.

"But for people like me there is another world, a darker world that welcomes us. For people like us this (is) all that's

left," he wrote. "My success in Hell is assured."

The report details how Harper Mercer singled out one student early in the attack and told him he would survive if he passed an envelope to police when they arrived.

It held the thumb drive containing his so-called "manifesto," copies of newspaper articles about other high-profile mass shooters and a report on the killing of children at a Sandy Hook, Connecticut, elementary school.

Harper Mercer's mother, Laurel Harper, told police in an interview the day of the shooting that her son was "born angry" and would have fierce

tantrums as a young child that required her to pin him in a "bear hug."

As a young child, he opened the door of a car while his mother was driving on a freeway and tried to jump out, she said. He was hospitalized and eventually placed on psychiatric medications, but he stopped taking the drugs when he turned 18, she said.

He pointed a gun in his mother's face after getting kicked out of U.S. Army boot camp when he was 19 or 20, she said, and watched videos of killings on a computer in his room.

Harper Mercer seemed less volatile after they moved in 2013

from California to Roseburg, a small city about 180 miles south of Portland, she said.

When she got an automated phone message about an active shooting on her son's college campus, she said she first called a hospital to see if he was there and then called the jail to see if he'd been arrested.

When Harper could not find him, she checked his room to see if his guns were missing but could not tell because his room was so messy.

At one point, officers asked if she needed anything.

She replied, "I think I need my son back. I need to understand, really why he did this. I don't. I'm guessing."

Rummage sale for Astor Elementary library

The Daily Astorian

The Astor Parents Club is holding a rummage sale at Astor Elementary School from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

The club is accepting com-

munity donations. The proceeds from the event will go to the school's library, which is in need of books. Due to budget shortfalls at the state level, the library services' budget has been reduced.

The average age of library

books in Astor's library is 17 years old, and a recent analysis found that it would cost nearly \$90,000 to bring the library up to date.

Call 503-791-5953 to schedule gently-used donations for the sale.

OBITUARIES

Ruth Janet (Westfall) Wollenbecker

Astoria

June 11, 1937 — Aug. 7, 2017

Ruth Janet (Westfall) Wollenbecker, 80, died in Astoria, Oregon, on Aug. 7, 2017. She had resided at St. Anne's Adult Foster Care Home for the past eight years, receiving complete care for the debilitating disease of Alzheimer's. Alzheimer's is a disease that robs a person completely of their identity.

Ruth was born June 11, 1937 in Toledo, Ohio. Her parents were Eugene Marion Westfall and Vera Marguerite (Grace) Westfall. She was the youngest of three siblings, Mary and Marjorie (her older sisters) both of whom doted on their baby sister. She was a "Great Depression Era" baby, and the family had fallen on hard times. They didn't have much, but they had each other. A strong faith, a stout constitution and solace in the church would shape Ruth later in life.

On Oct. 10, 1959 Walt and Ruth were married in Toledo, Ohio, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. They celebrated 56 years of marriage prior to Walt's death in 2015. Theirs was a marriage of longevity and an unprecedented loyalty, truly best friends to the end.

Ruth attended Notre Dame Academy in Toledo, Ohio, graduating in the top of her class in 1955. Ruth was a studious girl, often seen with her nose in a book. Upon completion of high school, she landed a job at the local phone company, AT&T. When asked smugly, by a fellow male employee, if she was one of the new switchboard operators, she smiled politely replying, "No, I'm a draftsman!" She turned sharply on her heel leaving the rather red-faced young man behind her. The girl who liked to study and read was a force to be reckoned with.

In 1981, Ruth pulled up her hometown roots and headed out to the Pacific Northwest with her husband and two children. After a short stint in Smith River, California, and Brook-

ings, Oregon, they settled in Astoria. Ruth pursued her degree in nursing, and in 1984 she graduated from Clatsop Community College as a registered nurse, later finishing her bachelor's of science degree in nursing.

She worked at Ocean Beach Hospital in Ilwaco, Washington. A jack of all trades, she covered all areas of the hospital as a nurse. She handled situations as they came at her, and she never lacked a voice on what should be done for a patient. She had compassion in geriatrics, joy in pediatrics, and savvy smarts in "teen theatrics," as she would call it.

Ruth was a devout Catholic who loved St. Mary, Star of the Sea Parish. She was a longtime member of St. Dorothy's Circle, the Altar Society, the Catholic PTA and volunteered for various events such as the rummage sale, holiday potluck dinners and pancake breakfasts. She would lend a hand anywhere, and made her faith and service to others a priority. Ruth always felt at home in the church, and she wanted others to feel the same way. This is how she will be remembered. She has, and will be missed.

She is survived by her son, John W. Wollenbecker, and his wife, Joan M. Wollenbecker; her daughter, Mary J. Richard, and her husband, Brent N. Richard; six grandchildren; a great-granddaughter; and a great-grandson. She has several nieces and nephews.

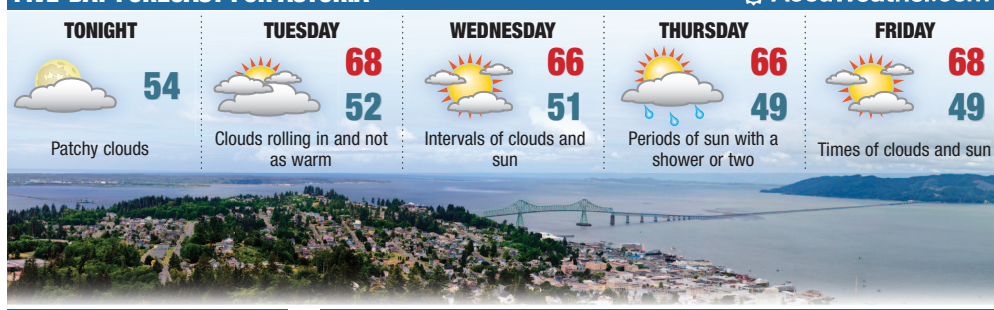
The funeral is scheduled for Sept. 16, 2017, at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church in Astoria. The rosary is at 11 a.m., Mass is at 11:30 a.m., and there is a reception to follow immediately after in the St. Mary, Star of the Sea School Auditorium.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association website at <https://act.alz.org/donate>



Ruth Wollenbecker

FIVE-DAY FORECAST FOR ASTORIA



ALMANAC

Astoria through Sunday.
Temperatures
High/low 71°/51°
Normal high/low 69°/51°
Record high 91° in 1922
Record low 38° in 1970
Precipitation
Sunday 0.00"
Month to date 0.21"
Normal month to date 0.60"
Year to date 50.27"
Normal year to date 38.70"

SUN AND MOON

Sunset tonight 7:35 p.m.
Sunrise Tuesday 6:50 a.m.
Moonrise today 11:00 p.m.
Moonset today 12:52 p.m.



UNDER THE SKY

Tonight's Sky: Mercury at greatest elongation west at 18 from Sun.

Source: Jim Todd, OMSI

TOMORROW'S TIDES

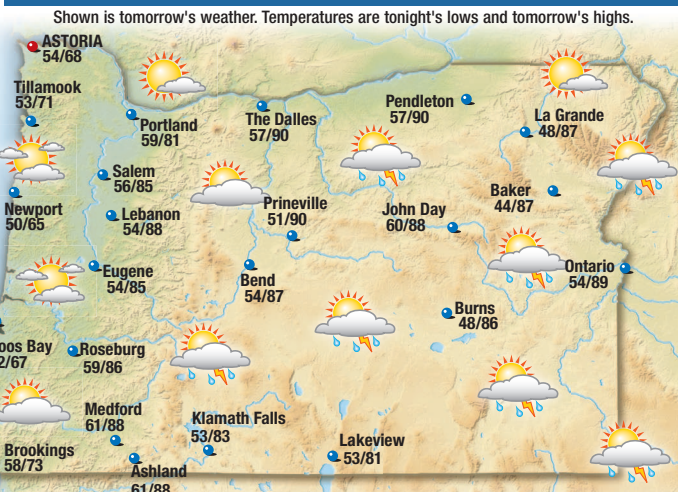
Astoria / Port Docks
Time High Low
6:47 a.m. 6.5 ft. 12:25 a.m. 0.0 ft.
6:23 p.m. 8.3 ft. 12:16 p.m. 1.9 ft.

NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Tues.
	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W
Atlanta	63 60 r	68 59 r
Boston	79 60 s	83 62 s
Chicago	75 56 s	77 59 pc
Denver	86 59 pc	87 61 pc
Des Moines	83 61 s	87 59 s
Detroit	75 54 s	77 59 pc
El Paso	91 65 s	93 68 s
Fairbanks	52 42 c	59 45 pc
Honolulu	86 71 pc	85 73 r
Indianapolis	75 57 pc	73 61 r
Kansas City	80 56 s	81 56 s
Las Vegas	98 78 pc	98 78 pc
Los Angeles	88 69 pc	84 65 pc
Memphis	77 59 pc	64 60 r
Miami	92 77 c	92 77 pc
Nashville	69 58 c	68 58 s
New Orleans	84 64 s	82 65 s
New York	78 62 s	80 64 pc
Oklahoma City	82 57 s	82 59 s
Philadelphia	78 58 s	82 63 pc
St. Louis	79 60 s	77 61 r
Salt Lake City	88 66 pc	91 67 pc
San Francisco	81 64 pc	78 63 pc
Seattle	80 59 pc	73 65 pc
Washington, DC	76 61 pc	73 66 pc

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

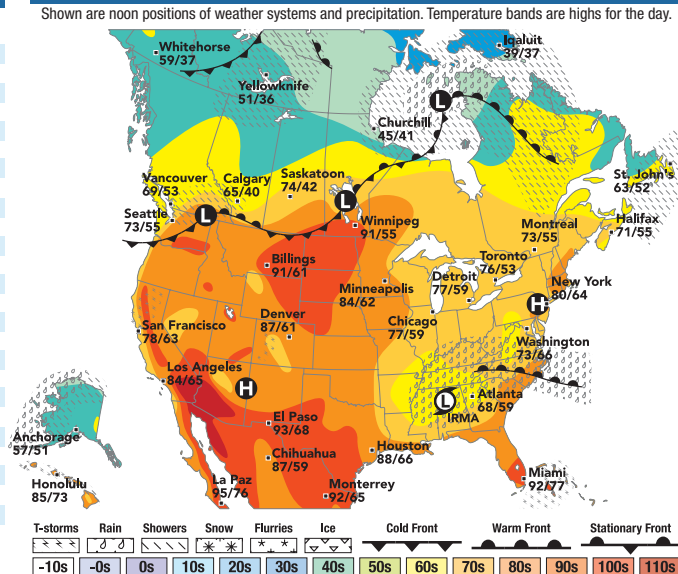
REGIONAL WEATHER



REGIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Tues.
	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W
Baker City	88 44 pc	87 48 s
Bend	87 54 pc	87 48 pc
Brookings	77 58 pc	72 56 pc
Eugene	86 54 pc	85 50 pc
Ilwaco	71 57 pc	65 55 pc
Klamath Falls	90 53 pc	83 47 pc
Medford	93 61 pc	88 55 s
Newberg	91 54 pc	85 49 s
Newport	71 50 pc	65 50 pc
North Bend	72 52 pc	67 52 pc
Olympia	83 50 pc	76 47 s
Pendleton	87 57 pc	90 58 s
Portland	87 59 pc	81 54 s
Roseburg	90 59 pc	86 55 pc
Salem	90 56 pc	85 51 s
Seaside	76 55 s	67 54 pc
Spokane	82 54 pc	84 55 s
Springfield	89 54 pc	87 50 pc
Vancouver	88 57 pc	82 52 s
Yakima	87 50 pc	91 53 pc

TOMORROW'S NATIONAL WEATHER



LOTTERIES

OREGON

Sunday's Pick 4:
1 p.m.: 8-9-5-8
4 p.m.: 9-3-9-1
7 p.m.: 5-6-4-5
10 p.m.: 4-8-3-5
Sunday's Lucky Lines: 01-08-12-16-18-24-27-30
Estimated jackpot: \$12,000
Saturday's Pick 4:
1 p.m.: 5-5-7-9
4 p.m.: 1-0-8-1
7 p.m.: 5-5-8-3
10 p.m.: 2-1-4-5
Saturday's Lucky Lines: 02-08-10-15-18-21-27-31
Estimated jackpot: \$10,000
Saturday's Megabucks: 1-4-13-21-30-37

Estimated jackpot: \$7.1 million
Saturday's Powerball: 6-20-29-57-59, Powerball: 22
Estimated jackpot: \$115 million
Friday's Pick 4:
1 p.m.: 9890
4 p.m.: 0521
7 p.m.: 2726
10 p.m.: 7358
Friday's Lucky Lines: 02-05-12-16-18-22-28-32
Estimated jackpot: \$56,000
Friday's Mega Millions: 4-5-14-26-73, Mega Ball: 14
Estimated jackpot: \$76 million

10-19-21-22-27-34-45-49-57-62-63-67-73-77-80
Sunday's Match 4: 03-05-17-24
Saturday's Daily Game: 2-6-4
Saturday's Hit 5: 08-15-17-25-29
Estimated jackpot: \$190,000
Saturday's Keno: 02-04-05-07-10-15-16-21-24-26-29-35-37-43-44-47-50-61-67-80
Saturday's Lotto: 06-18-39-40-41-44
Estimated jackpot: \$2.9 million
Saturday's Match 4: 03-18-20-23
Friday's Daily Game: 0-0-9
Friday's Keno: 05-11-15-16-24-26-28-34-37-52-56-57-59-65-66-67-70-73-75-78
Friday's Match 4: 12-13-16-24

DEATHS

Sept. 8, 2017

STILLICK, Roger Denis, 74, of Hammond, died in Hillsboro. Ocean View Funeral & Cremation Service of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

Sept. 7, 2017

VILLA-SANCHEZ, Lorenza, 90, of Seaside, died in Portland. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary & Crematory of Astoria/Seaside is in charge of the arrangements.

MEMORIALS

Tuesday, Sept. 12

VILLA-SANCHEZ, Lorenza — Visitation from 1 to 8 p.m., with a Rosary Vigil Service at 7 p.m., Hughes-Ransom Mortuary Chapel, 220 N. Holladay Drive, Seaside. To leave online condolences, go to www.hughes-ransom.com

Thursday, Sept. 14

MELHOFF, Frances Ruth — Memorial at 1 p.m., Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, 320 First Ave., in Seaside. To leave online condolences, go to www.hughes-ransom.com

PUBLIC MEETINGS

MONDAY

Youngs River Lewis & Clark Water District Board, 6 p.m., 34583 U.S. Highway 101 Business.
Cannon Beach Rural Fire Department Board, 6 p.m., Fire-Rescue Main Station, 188 Sunset Ave.
Seaside City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

TUESDAY

Cannon Beach City Council, 5:30 p.m., work session, City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.
Warrenton City Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall, 225 S. Main Ave.
Lewis & Clark Fire Department Board, 7 p.m., main fire station, 34571 Highway 101 Business.

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-Lisa, Astoria

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