

Woman in fatal Seaside crash charged with manslaughter

Man killed at bus stop shelter

By JACK HEFFERNAN
The Daily Astorian

A Seaside woman is facing manslaughter and several other felony charges in connection with a fatal crash Saturday night in which an SUV hit a bus stop shelter.



Corriisa Barnett

Corriisa Barnett, 38, was arraigned in Circuit Court Monday afternoon on charges of first-degree manslaughter, second-degree assault, third-degree assault, strangulation, two counts of failure to perform the duties of a driver

to injured persons and driving under the influence of intoxicants.

Officials also publicly identified two victims of the crash. Robert Miles, 42, of Hammond, died at the scene. Abdirisak Mohamed, 41, of Longview, Washington, was critically injured. Mohamed is being treated at a Portland hospital.

Prior to the crash, Seaside Police responded to a report of a female being assaulted at a residence. Barnett allegedly assaulted the woman in front of her child as well as Barnett's child, leading to the strangulation charge.

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Photos by Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Signs in regards to Measure 4-188 dot U.S. Highway 101 in Gearhart.

Gearhart's vacation rental rules headed to voters

Sharp divide over new regulations

By R.J. MARX
The Daily Astorian

GEARHART — Just whose rights are at issue in Gearhart as voters consider repealing vacation rental rules in November?

Supporters of Measure 4-188 want to repeal and replace rules enacted last fall related to off-street parking, appearance, garbage service, septic inspections and cesspool prohibitions. The measure would require home inspections and make owners responsible for self-reporting issues.

More than 200 voters signed a petition in support of the measure, short-term rental owner Jim Whittemore said.

Meanwhile, Gearhart is heavily dotted with "Vote No" lawn signs in a campaign led by a coalition of residents, including Mayor Matt Brown and former Mayor Dianne Widdop.

A "no" vote will continue a balanced and responsible cap on rental properties, Brown said, and safety inspections keep visitors safe.

"I was elected to protect our citizens' rights," Brown said. "Our quality of life shouldn't be compromised for the sake of profit."

Septic regulations will "protect neighbors from high commercial use," he added.

Both sides say property rights are at risk.

Whittemore said the flaw in the current law "is that it takes away property rights from all homeowners."

Measure opponent Jeanne Mark said "common-sense" caps to short-term rentals and safety rules protect residential private property rights.

Unintended consequences
According to the ballot summary by David Townsend, Brian and Joy Sigler and County Commissioner Sarah Nebeker, the measure would repeal special regulations on vacation rentals not required of other residents.

Nebeker, a Gearhart resident, spoke in opposition to the city's short-term rental ordinance in April, when she said the ordinance was too harsh and with modifications could be made more equitable.

"Ordinances and laws are only as good as the ability to enforce them," measure supporter Katherine Schroeder said in a letter to The Daily Astorian.

The city has failed to regularly and consistently enforce ordinances which already regulate garbage, septic, parking and appearance of properties, she said.

According to Schroeder, an overly restrictive vacation rental ordinance will force rental homeowners underground.

"A likely unintended consequence of the City Council's ordinance is just this: unpermitted, uninspected and possibly unsafe homes," she wrote.

As of the end of September, 81 vacation rental dwelling permits have been issued, 57 of which are complete and processed, six pending parking plans, 15 working on upgrades after inspection and three awaiting initial inspection, City Administrator Chad Sweet said.

Whittemore said in addition to lodging taxes and fees, short-term rental homeowners pay more than \$300,000 per year in property taxes.

"That is a total of a half-million dollars per year paid by 84 homeowners in the vacation rental program ... all to local government."

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Erick Bengel/The Daily Astorian

One person was killed after a Dodge Durango drove into a bus stop shelter in Seaside Saturday night.

LAS VEGAS MASSACRE

'I've never felt fear like that'

Astoria couple in Las Vegas during horror

By JACK HEFFERNAN
The Daily Astorian

A former Medix paramedic and volunteer firefighter in Astoria and Olney-Walluski, Norm Stutznegger knows what an emergency sounds like. He even downloaded a smartphone app that allows him to listen to police scanners.

Stutznegger found himself listening to the scanner once again late Sunday night in his hotel room at the Excalibur Hotel and Casino on the Las Vegas Strip. He heard the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history unfold a block away.

A gunman on the 32nd floor of the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino was

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Shooter had interest in guns, video poker, real estate

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unloading hundreds of rounds of ammunition from automatic rifles into a crowd of 22,000 people at a country music concert below. At least 59 people were killed and more than 500 wounded. "It was quite a surreal experience after growing up in Astoria my whole life," Stutznegger said. "I've never felt fear like that."

Stutznegger and his wife, Catherine, both 48, flew down to Las Vegas for a two-day getaway. The trip was his fifth to Sin City. The couple spent their time seeing shows and simply people-watching as they strolled along the strip.

They had to decide between two entertainment

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Supporters of Measure 4-188 want to repeal and replace rules enacted last fall in Gearhart that regulate short-term rental properties.

Maritime museum deputy leaves for World of Speed

Pearson also served on Planning Commission

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

After 22 years with the Columbia River Maritime Museum, Deputy Director Dave Pearson is leaving later this month to take over as executive director at World of Speed, a motor sports museum in Wilsonville.

"One of my great honors here has been working with the people who work here, the team," Pearson said of the maritime museum. "I think they really are exceptional."

Pearson joined the maritime museum in 1995 as a collections manager in the curatorial department, shortly after finishing a master's in historic preservation and conservation from the Savannah College of Art and Design in Georgia.

He became the museum's curator in 2000 and served as acting director of the museum in 2008 after Jerry Ostermiller's retirement and before Sam Johnson took over. From 2009, Pearson was the museum's deputy director.

Pearson served 16 years on the Astoria Historic Landmarks Commission until 2012, when he joined the Planning Commission. He has been president of the Planning Commission since 2015. Mayor Arline LaMear will appoint his replacement.

"While we will miss Dave extraordinarily, we wish him the best in his new venture," Johnson said. "He has been a mainstay of this institution. We know that he will do an exceptional job in his new venue."

Johnson said the museum will analyze Pearson's duties before deciding whether to replace his position or outsource to other managers.



The Daily Astorian

Dave Pearson, the deputy director of the Columbia River Maritime Museum, has been hired as executive director of the motor sports museum World of Speed in Wilsonville.

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