

# Oregon incarcerates youth as adults at high rate

By PARIS ACHEN  
Capital Bureau



Courtney Vaughn/Pamplin Media Group  
**A Columbia County Jail deputy delivers meals to inmates at the jail in St. Helens.**

Oregon incarcerates young people and transfers them to adult court at a greater rate than most other states, according to a report released Tuesday by the Oregon Council on Civil Rights and the nonprofit Oregon Justice Resource Center.

The report found that the state's policy of charging youth as adults under Measure 11 is "a harsh and costly practice that stands at odds with a contemporary understanding of brain science."

"While other states have modernized their approaches, Oregon has not," the report states.

Passed by voters in 1994, Measure 11 imposed mandatory minimum sentences for certain serious crimes and, according to the report, helped to contribute to Oregon's high incarceration of youth and a disproportionate rate of incarceration of black youth — which is 26 times higher.

Prison can have a lifelong effect on young offenders' ability to secure housing and employment.

"Youth charged under Measure 11 — even those who do not receive an adult sentence — face lifetime barriers to education and employment," said state Labor Commissioner Brad Avakian, who appoints members to the civil rights council.

"Oregon's juvenile justice system brings high costs and poor outcomes. We should modernize our approach to better prepare young people to have a meaningful life after release."

Although research suggests that the brain is still developing until a person is in their 20s, Oregon's mandatory minimum sentences fail to consider a young person's

capacity to change, according to the report.

"Brain science tells us that for youth, the brain is still 'under construction,'" said Dr. Alisha Moreland-Capua, a physician, scholar and executive director of Oregon Health & Science University's Avel Gordly Center for Healing. "Young people lack the skills to effectively navigate an adult criminal justice system that disrupts the development process at a critical stage. Oregon should join the many other states in recognizing the role of brain development in criminal justice reform."

The 69-page report recommends policy reforms aimed at a "more effective, fair and science-informed approach to youth involvement in the justice system." The report was authored by Roberta Phillip-Robbins, civil rights council chairwoman, and Ben Scissors of the Oregon Justice Resource Center.

Recommendations include:  
• Improvements in data collection and transparency;

Making prosecution data, such as demographic data of youth referred to prosecutors' offices, publicly available supports evidence-based policymaking.

• Youth charged under Measure 11 should not be automatically moved to adult court: A judge should weigh the facts of each case before removing a young person from the juvenile system.

• Give youth a "second-look" hearing: Every young person should have the chance to grow and change during detention. After serving half of a sentence, youth should be entitled to a second-look hearing, a review of the offender's progress and rehabilitation.

• Address root causes: Oregon should boost investment in anti-poverty safety net programs that promote family stability and decrease future involvement with the criminal justice system. Along with preventative measures, employees throughout the criminal justice system should be trained in trauma-informed

care, cultural responsiveness and brain development.

Leaders from the Oregon District Attorneys Association, who have resisted other attempts to weaken Measure 11, were not immediately available Tuesday to comment on recommendations from the report.

The report also found that black youth are more than 26 times more likely to be incarcerated in Oregon compared with whites.

The state spends as much as nearly \$100,000 a year to incarcerate one young Measure 11 offender, the report found.

"Oregon can do more to improve public safety outcomes while giving young people a chance to thrive," Phillip-Robbins said. "... we hope to be a force to adjust our misguided approach to youth and Measure 11. It's clear that we can make better use of taxpayer resources while improving public safety and reducing recidivism in communities around the state."

## Heart stopping



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Despite being trapped in a car sitting at a 45-degree angle for several minutes Wednesday morning in Astoria, an elderly woman walked away unharmed. The woman, 70, was attempting to park outside Providence Heart Clinic about 11:30 a.m. for an appointment. But she accidentally hit the gas pedal instead of the brake of a red Kia Soul as she pulled into a parking spot, Astoria Police Deputy Chief Eric Halverson said. The car careened over a retaining wall and came to rest with its back end still above the wall and its front end on the pavement below. Emergency personnel safely extracted her from the car minutes later. "From my understanding she was a little embarrassed, but she made it to her appointment and was able to get a cab ride home," Halverson said.

## Roberta Parks

Warrenton

June 18, 1936 — Jan. 28, 2018

Roberta Mae Parks, 81, passed away Jan. 28, 2018, at Avamere Bethany Memory Care in Portland, Oregon.

She was born on June 18, 1936, in Kalispell, Montana, to John Edward Stahl and Ida Mae (Boyd) Stahl. As a small child, the family moved to their dairy farm in Cut Bank, Montana, where Roberta enjoyed farm life with her horse, Jo.

At age 12, the family moved to Payette, Idaho, for a year, where the family heard the gospel. Her faith was utmost in her life.

In 1949 a final move was made to Hillsboro, Oregon, where Roberta graduated from Hilhi in 1954. She held various secretarial positions in the area until 1958, when she returned to Montana as a missionary. She returned to Oregon in 1959, and worked for Bonneville Power Administration until she was united in marriage to Glen William Parks on July 29, 1961.

The couple celebrated 55 years of marriage prior to his passing away of heart failure in 2016. They made their home in Astoria, later retiring and moving to Aldercreek Village in Warrenton, Oregon. A daughter, Rachel, was born in 1963 and a son, Malcolm, in 1965.

Roberta held a variety of secretarial posi-

tions for Clatsop County Assessment & Taxation, mental health clinic, and city of Astoria utilities. After retirement, she worked for Compleat Photographer. She enjoyed music, gardening and photography. While she was at Avamere, she enjoyed visits with her family and friends.



Roberta Parks

She was preceded in death by her husband, Glen; her parents, John and Ida Stahl; a brother, Robert Stahl; a sister, Mary Lee Brunick; and two nephews, Joseph Stahl and Edwin Willis.

Survivors include a daughter, Rachel Olson (Ken) of Rockyford, Alberta, Canada; a son, Malcolm Parks (Yvonne) of Soap Lake, Washington; sisters Jackie Willis (Robert) of Tillamook and Jill McDonald (Lyle) of Hillsboro; grandsons Paul and Matthew Olson of Alberta and Brandon Parks of Tigard, Oregon; granddaughters Ashlee Parks and Brandy Parks; great-grandson Ethan Parks; and 14 nieces and nephews.

Memorial services will be held Saturday, Feb. 3, 2018, at 3 p.m. at Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary, 1165 Franklin Ave. in Astoria, Oregon.

Please sign our online guest book at caldwellsmortuary.com

## Major salmon producer fined for farmed fish escape

By PHUONG LE  
Associated Press

SEATTLE — The largest U.S. producer of farmed Atlantic salmon was fined \$332,000 for alleged violations of Washington state water quality laws after hundreds of thousands of invasive Atlantic salmon were released last year into waters famed for their native salmon, state officials said.

Cooke Aquaculture Pacific failed to adequately clean nets holding farmed salmon, leading to a net pen failure last summer that allowed the fish to swim away into Puget Sound, officials said in a report compiled by the state's departments of fish and wildlife, ecology and natural resources.

The nets failed because

they were excessively laden with mussels and other marine organisms, the report said. That increased the drag on the nets from tidal currents and overwhelmed their mooring system, the report said.

More than 110 tons of mussels, clams and other material had accumulated on the nets, state Public Lands Commissioner Hilary Franz told reporters Tuesday. "Cooke's disregard caused this disaster and recklessly put our state's aquatic ecosystem at risk," she said.

"Cooke knew they had a problem and they didn't appropriately respond to deal with the problem," said state Ecology Director Maria Belton. The company "could have and should have prevented this incident," she added.

State officials also accused the company of underreporting how many fish escaped into Puget Sound on Aug. 19 and over reporting how many fish were captured.

Ahead of the report's release, Cooke on Tuesday dismissed the state's investigation as incomplete and inaccurate. The company said Cooke employees under state supervision counted each fish as it was recovered.

Company vice president Joel Richardson said in a statement that Cooke was shut out of the investigative process, lead-

ing to "an inaccurate and misleading document," referring to the report by state officials.

He said Cooke acknowledges that the facility fell behind in cleaning the nets before moorings failed in July of 2017. But he said the company provided records showing it had washed the nets at the site after that July incident and before the Aug. 19 event.

The company also complained that the state agencies gave it only several days to provide feedback on the lengthy report.

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Clatsop Post 12

<h2 style="margin: 0;">Roasted Pork Loin Dinner</h2> <p style="margin: 0; font-size: small;">with all the fixings</p>	<h2 style="margin: 0;">Roasted Chicken Hind Quarters</h2> <p style="margin: 0; font-size: small;">Early Bird Dinner</p>
<p style="margin: 0;"><b>Friday Feb. 2nd</b></p> <p style="margin: 0; font-size: small;">4 pm until gone</p> <p style="margin: 0;"><b>\$8.00</b></p> <p style="margin: 0; font-size: x-small;">6PM "Karaoke Dave"</p>	<p style="margin: 0;"><b>Saturday Feb. 3rd</b></p> <p style="margin: 0; font-size: x-small;">All others \$6.00</p> <p style="margin: 0; font-size: x-small;">6PM "Music"</p>
<p style="margin: 0;"><b>SUNDAY the 4th</b></p> <p style="margin: 0;"><b>SUPERBOWL - NO BINGO</b></p>	
<p style="margin: 0; font-size: x-small;">ASTORIA AMERICAN LEGION Clatsop Post 12</p> <p style="margin: 0; font-size: x-small;">1132 Exchange Street Astoria, Oregon 97103 503-325-5771</p>	

## DENTIST WITH A HEART

Jeffrey M. Leinassar DMD and Team will be providing complimentary dental care to those with a financial need on Wednesday February 14th from 1-4 p.m.

Appointments will be made on a first come first serve basis.

For an appointment call 503-325-0310 ask for Susan or Keely

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