

Six arrested in drug raid near Warrenton

The Daily Astorian

Six people were arrested Saturday and charged with drug-related crimes.

Clatsop County sheriff's deputies and Seaside police made the arrests at a residence in an unincorporated area near Warrenton. Richard Leroy Baker, 56, was found in possession of over 6 grams of heroin, digital scales, packaging mate-

rial, drug records and 13 firearms.



Richard Baker

Baker has been charged with delivery of heroin.

The other five arrested — Blair Dylana Hernandez, 25, Kelly Jean Parker, 34, Emmitt Chandler Brewer, 37, Jason Brian Pace, 34, and Sara Elizabeth Poirier, 35 — were charged with frequenting a place where drugs are sold.

Warrenton man convicted for string of car break-ins

By JACK HEFFERNAN
The Daily Astorian

A Warrenton man has been sentenced to two years in prison after he committed a string of thefts in the city last fall.



Randy Stackhouse

Randy Allen Stackhouse, 20, was convicted last week of two counts of first-degree burglary, first-degree theft and two counts of second-degree theft. He also faced eight charges of unlawful entry into a motor vehicle and six additional theft counts before reaching a plea deal with the Clatsop County District Attorney's Office.

Warrenton police fielded dozens of reports of stolen property from cars in the city last fall. They arrested Stackhouse in November on warrants for two drug-related crimes.

Police recovered roughly

100 stolen items from Stackhouse after his arrest. The items included jackets, money, shooting equipment, a flashlight, a vaporizer, sunglasses, a cellphone and chargers, a necklace, a camera, fishing equipment, alcohol, a house key and a cigar.

The two burglary convictions stem from entering properties with the intent to commit thefts. The incidents primarily took place late at night or early in the morning.

Warrenton Police Chief Mathew Workman said in December that the theft wave was the largest he had seen in nearly a decade with the department. Police upped patrols in November and narrowly missed catching a suspect who was rummaging through a car near Warrenton City Park a few days before Stackhouse's arrest.

Governor focuses on the economy

By PARIS ACHEN
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Gov. Kate Brown dedicated her state-of-the-state speech Monday to addressing the issue of Oregonians who have been left behind by the state's economic prosperity and steady job growth.

"Oregon's rising economic tide should be lifting all boats. Yet many hardworking families are still under water," Brown said.

While some Oregonians are working two jobs to get by, state economists are projecting 27,000 high-wage job openings each year through 2024, many of which will occur in the technology industry. One out of every four job openings in that industry is filled by out-of-state hires, she said.

"It is clear there is a gap between the skills Oregon's workers have and the skills that our growing businesses need," Brown said.

The governor announced that she would launch a new program designed to provide job and skill training to help fill the gap. Dubbed "Future Ready Oregon," the program's goal is to "close the skills gap between the workforce we have and the workforce we need to fuel Oregon's economy," she said.

The program would earmark \$300 million to career technical education classes in the 2019-2021 state budget. Without providing details, Brown said the program would make hands-on learning programs available at every public school district in the state. The program also would offer apprenticeships in high-needs industries such as information technology, health care, advanced wood manufacturing and high-tech manufac-



Jaime Valdez/Pamplin Media Group

Gov. Kate Brown on Monday delivered her State of the State address opening the Legislature's 35-day session.

turing. Such programs already exist in Bend and Eugene, she said.

The plan includes legislation to help midcareer construction professionals by, among other things, waiving all state fees and formal education requirements for those who have worked in construction for at least eight years.

She said she is directing Business Oregon to invest in rural areas, communities of color and Oregon's nine tribes.

An example of such an investment is state funding of broadband and infrastructure to increase competitiveness in rural industries, she said.

Her plan also involves directing the Higher Education Coordinating Commission and Business Oregon to collaborate to match high-growth industries with job training programs.

In addition to job training, she said the state needs to continue to address the high cost of housing.

Her office is scheduled to

announce several pilot programs in the coming weeks to address the state's housing shortage and high cost of housing.

Brown delivered the speech in the House of Representatives at the Oregon State Capitol, and footage was streamed live on the Legislature's website.

The address kicked off the 79th Legislative Assembly and a 35-day policymaking session.

This month marks three years since Brown, previously the secretary of

state, succeeded Gov. John Kitzhaber, who resigned amid an influence-peddling scandal, and her first anniversary as elected governor. She is seeking re-election later this year, having almost completed the remainder of Kitzhaber's term.

A pressing issue this session is adjusting the state budget to account for a projected \$280 million in unrealized tax revenue due to recent federal tax reform.

A week before session commenced, leaders in the Senate extinguished most hope of passing a state "cap and invest" program for industry this year, which is a policy priority for House Democrats and has the support of the governor. Senate Majority Leader Ginny Burdick, D-Portland, said that such a complex policy was better suited for the Legislature's longer session in 2019. The program would charge industry for releasing greenhouse gases and invest the proceeds into projects intended to curtail global warming.

Since 2010, the Legislature has convened for 35 days in even years and for 160 in odd years.

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