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ONE DOLLAR

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

Smith takes charge of Coast Guard Sector Columbia River

By JACK HEFFERNAN
The Daily Astorian

Coast Guard Sector Columbia river has a new commander.

Capt. Jeremy Smith, most recently the executive officer of the Coast Guard's Aviation Training Center, took the helm Thursday in a change of command ceremony at Air Station Astoria.

He replaces Capt. William Timmons, who is retiring after two years at the station and 27 years in the Coast Guard.

The sector oversees coastal Oregon and southwest Washington state and covers the Columbia, Willamette and Snake rivers up to Idaho — a \$23 billion-per-year shipping highway. More than 1,000 active duty and nonactive personnel serve in the sector.

"You've been entrusted with the treasure of our nation — the sons and daughters of America. Never forget that," said Rear Adm. David Throop, commander of the Coast Guard's 13th District, to Smith in a speech. "Secondly, develop strong partnerships and relationships."

Smith entered the Coast Guard Academy in 1994. Prior to the training center — the Coast Guard's largest

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Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Capt. Jeremy Smith, right, greets members of the Coast Guard during a change of command ceremony.

Fatal DUI crash leads to prison

Six-year sentence for a young life lost

By JACK HEFFERNAN
The Daily Astorian

A man who killed a Seaside woman in a drunken-driving crash on U.S. Highway 101 last June was sentenced Thursday to more than six years in prison.

Christopher Jeremy Costa was driving back to Astoria from Seaside just before 2:30 a.m. after a night of drinking. He crossed the centerline of the highway at an S-curve near Cullaby Lake. He then crashed head-on with a southbound Toyota Camry driven by Kayla Lynn Weber, 27, of Seaside.

The Camry, which was moving at 40 mph, was knocked backward. The Chevrolet pickup Costa was driving flipped over the Camry, slid about 180 feet, came upright after hitting something and caught fire.

"Frankly, the defendant is lucky to be alive," Deputy District Attorney Ron Brown said.

Weber died instantly, while Costa managed to escape the truck after sustaining serious injuries. A blood draw at the hospital about one hour after the crash revealed that Costa's blood alcohol content was 0.16 percent, Brown said.

Costa was indicted a few weeks later on charges of second-degree manslaughter, driving under the influence of intoxicants and reckless driving. He faced a maximum of 10 years in prison. However, Costa agreed to plead guilty to the manslaughter and DUI charges and serve the minimum of more than



Christopher Costa

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Westport subdivision needs a public road

Nine-lot project in flux

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

WESTPORT — River Ranch, a subdivision of more than 30 homes fronting the Columbia River just north of the Oregon terminus of the Westport ferry, has been around since at least the 1960s.

But Coyote Point, a new nine-lot subdivision ready to go in next door, is facing an issue River Ranch residents have avoided for decades — there is no public road to the site.

Access to River Ranch and Coyote Point, on the eastern edge of Clatsop County, is through Carver Road, which winds westward from Columbia County on top of a

dike along Westport Slough for several miles, with gated access to the private community. Several property owners along the road own the dike, providing easements to local diking districts for maintenance.

Those property owners could block access to River Ranch and Coyote Point, said Robin McIntyre, legal counsel for Columbia County. The county has recommended the road be made public before the subdivision is approved, she said.

"Apparently a lot of the legal access back 70 years ago was pretty loose," said William Parker, a representative of Coyote Point.

The 20-acre development originally received a preliminary plat approval from Clatsop County in 2013, conditioned on improvements to the land. At the time, the



Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian

Access to River Ranch and the proposed Coyote Point developments is through Carver Road, which has not been accepted by Columbia County as a public roadway.

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