



Sue Ogrocki/AP Photo  
**Judge Thad Balkman announces his decision in the opioid lawsuit In Norman, Okla., Monday. Balkman found Johnson & Johnson and its subsidiaries helped fuel the state’s opioid drug crisis and ordered the consumer products giant to pay \$572 million to help abate the problem in the coming years.**

# Oklahoma judge rules against drugmaker, orders \$572 million payment

By SEAN MURPHY  
Associated Press

NORMAN, Okla. — An Oklahoma judge on Monday found Johnson & Johnson and its subsidiaries helped fuel the state’s opioid crisis and ordered the consumer products giant to pay \$572 million, more than twice the amount another drug manufacturer agreed to pay in a settlement.

Cleveland County District Judge Thad Balkman’s ruling followed the first state opioid case to make it to trial and could help shape negotiations over roughly 1,500 similar lawsuits filed by state, local and tribal governments consolidated before a federal judge in Ohio.

“The opioid crisis has ravaged the state of Oklahoma,” Balkman said before announcing the judgment. “It must be abated immediately.”

An attorney for the companies said they plan to appeal the ruling to the Oklahoma Supreme Court.

Before Oklahoma’s trial began May 28, the state reached settlements with two other defendant groups — a \$270 million deal with OxyContin-maker Purdue Pharma and an \$85 million settlement with Israeli-owned Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd.

Oklahoma argued the companies and their subsidiaries created a public nuisance by launching an aggressive and misleading marketing campaign that overstated how effective the drugs were for treating chronic pain and understated the risk of addiction. Oklahoma Attorney General Mike Hunter says opioid overdoses killed 4,653 people in the state from 2007 to 2017.

Hunter called Johnson & Johnson a “king-pin” company that was motivated by greed. He specifically pointed to two former Johnson & Johnson subsidiaries, Noramco and Tasmanian Alkaloids, which produced much of the raw opium used by other manufacturers to produce the drugs.

On Monday, Hunter said the Oklahoma case could provide a “road map” for other states to follow in holding drugmakers responsible for the opioid crisis.

“That’s the message to other states: We did it in Oklahoma. You can do it elsewhere,” Hunter said. “Johnson & Johnson will finally be held accountable for thousands of deaths and addictions caused by their activities.”

Among those seated in the courtroom on Monday were Craig and Gail Box, whose son Austin was a 22-year-old standout linebacker for the Oklahoma Sooners when he died of a prescription drug overdose in 2011.

One of the attorneys for the state, Reggie Whitten, said he also lost a son to opioid abuse.

“I feel like my boy is looking down,”



Sue Ogrocki/AP Photo  
**Sabrina Strong, an attorney for Johnson & Johnson and its subsidiaries, answers a question during a news conference.**

Whitten said after the judge’s ruling, his voice cracking with emotion.

Oklahoma pursued the case under the state’s public nuisance statute and presented the judge with a plan to abate the crisis that would cost between \$12.6 billion for 20 years and \$17.5 billion over 30 years. Attorneys for Johnson & Johnson have said that estimate is wildly inflated. The judge’s award would cover the costs of one year of the state’s abatement plan, funding things like opioid use prevention and addiction treatment.

Attorneys for the company have maintained they were part of a lawful and heavily regulated industry subject to strict federal oversight, including the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency and the Food and Drug Administration, during every step of the supply chain. Lawyers for the company said the judgment was a misapplication of public nuisance law.

Sabrina Strong, an attorney for Johnson & Johnson and its subsidiaries, said the companies have sympathy for those who suffer from substance abuse but called the judge’s decision “flawed.”

“You can’t sue your way out of the opioid abuse crisis,” Strong said. “Litigation is not the answer.”

Attorneys for the plaintiffs in the cases consolidated before a federal judge in Ohio called the Oklahoma judgment “a milestone amid the mounting evidence against the opioid pharmaceutical industry.”

“While public nuisance laws differ in every state, this decision is a critical step forward for the more than 2,000 cities, counties, and towns we represent in the consolidation of federal opioid cases,” they said in a statement.

Also on Monday, the Kentucky Supreme Court declined to review an earlier ruling, making previously secret testimony from former Purdue Pharma President Richard Sackler and other documents public. The court record was sealed in 2015 as part of a \$24 million settlement between Purdue and Kentucky.

## OBITUARIES

### Aliisa Diane Wirkkala Naselle, Washington May 17, 1956 — Aug. 16, 2019

Aliisa Diane Wirkkala (known to all as “Nana”), 63, went to be with the Lord on Aug. 16, 2019, at 7:05 a.m. in Portland, Oregon, at Legacy Emanuel Hospital.

Aliisa was born May 17, 1956, to Lawrence C. Wallin, of Portland, Oregon, and Barbara A. (Christensen) Wallin, of Ilwaco, Washington.

She is survived by her father, Lawrence; mother, Barbara; brother, Jeffery C. Wallin and his wife, Candy; sister, Wendy S. Wallin and her husband, Arne L. Wirkkala; daughter, Elsa Wirkkala and her husband, Brian Wisdom; son, Mitchell Wirkkala and his wife, Kristian Penttila; and son, Neil Wirkkala and his wife, Chanel Ruch, of Naselle, Washington.

Grandchildren are Madison Reber Wirkkala, 22, Brianna Wirkkala, 19, Brice Wirkkala, 17, Tucker Wisdom, 7, Mason Wisdom, 3, Eva Wirkkala, 15, Kayli Wirkkala, 13, and Joey Wirkkala, 7. She is also survived by several nieces, nephews, cousins and in-laws.

Aliisa grew up in Ilwaco, Washington, and graduated from high school in 1974. Growing up, she enjoyed being on her grandmother’s farm on Baker’s Bay riding horses. She was involved in the local Rainbow chapter, enjoyed playing guitar and piano, was a cheerleader at Ilwaco High School, and was also a Sunday school teacher for the Chinook Lutheran Church.

Her first job was as a cook at the Big Z drive-in in Long Beach, Washington, which is where she met her soon-to-be husband of 45 years, Arne Wirkkala, of Naselle. They were married June 8, 1974, and went on to have three children of their own.

Aliisa babysat and provided day care for many local families in Naselle, worked at the Bank of the Pacific in Naselle for several years, and went on to graduate from beauty college in Astoria, Oregon, and had her own nail salon at the Hair Villa in Naselle for several years. She went on to work for Jones New York

in Seaside, Oregon, Naselle Rock, and recently retired from TLC/Fiber Federal Credit Union in Astoria and Seaside, Oregon. She impacted many lives during her careers, and developed many close relationships with clients and co-workers.

She was a member of the Naselle Assembly of God Church for 45 years. During this time, she was involved with the women’s ministries, served as Sunday school superintendent and teacher, vacation Bible school organizer and kitchen queen for many church events.

She supported countless Christian ministries and overseas children’s programs.

Aliisa was a beautiful woman of strong faith who cared deeply for and loved her family, children, grandchildren and friends, as well as her family in Christ. She had a great impact on our community, and in many lives. She was an amazing, loving wife, daughter, sister, mother, grandmother, auntie and great friend to many. She was an ear to listen, a shoulder to cry on and a mighty prayer warrior.

*One thing I ask of the Lord, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple. For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling; he will hide me in the shelter of his tabernacle and set me high upon a rock. — Psalm 27:4-5*

A funeral service will be held at 1 p.m. on Aug. 31, 2019, at Naselle Assembly of God Church, located at 278 Knappton Road in Naselle. A graveside procession follows at Peaceful Hill Cemetery on South Valley Road. Food and fellowship are provided after the graveside proceedings at Naselle Assembly of God.

Penttila’s Chapel by the Sea is in charge of the arrangements. If anyone so wishes, viewing will be open Friday, Aug. 30, at Penttila’s Chapel by the Sea in Long Beach, Washington.

Her guest book is available at penttilaschapel.com



Aliisa Wirkkala

## OBITUARY POLICY

The Astorian publishes paid obituaries. The obituary can include a small photo and, for veterans, a flag symbol at no charge. The deadline for all obituaries is 9 a.m. the business day prior.

Obituaries may be edited for spelling, proper punctuation and style. Death notices and upcoming services will be published at no charge. Notices must be submitted by 9 a.m. the day of publication.

Obituaries and notices may be submitted online at DailyAstorian.com/forms/obits, by email at ewilson@dailyastorian.com, placed via the funeral home or in person at The Astorian office, 949 Exchange St. in Astoria.

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## SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR ASTORIA

| TODAY               | WEDNESDAY      | THURSDAY     | FRIDAY         | SATURDAY              | SUNDAY       | MONDAY         |
|---------------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|-----------------------|--------------|----------------|
|                     |                |              |                |                       |              |                |
| <b>84 56</b>        | <b>75 58</b>   | <b>71 59</b> | <b>71 57</b>   | <b>70 56</b>          | <b>68 57</b> | <b>71 56</b>   |
| Sunny and very warm | Sunny and nice | A shower     | Sun and clouds | Partly sunny and nice | Partly sunny | Clouds and sun |

### ALMANAC

Astoria through Sunday

#### Temperatures

|                       |            |
|-----------------------|------------|
| High/low .....        | 69/52      |
| Normal high/low ..... | 69/53      |
| Record high .....     | 91 in 2016 |
| Record low .....      | 43 in 1992 |

#### Precipitation

|                            |        |
|----------------------------|--------|
| Sunday .....               | Trace  |
| Month to date .....        | 0.90"  |
| Normal month to date ..... | 0.84"  |
| Year to date .....         | 25.61" |
| Normal year to date .....  | 37.78" |

Forecasts and graphics provided by  
**AccuWeather, Inc.** ©2019

### UNDER THE SKY

**Tonight’s Sky:** Sunset now before 8:00 p.m. PDT.

Source: Jim Todd, OMSI

### SUN AND MOON

|                      |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| Sunrise today .....  | 6:29 a.m. |
| Sunset tonight ..... | 8:04 p.m. |
| Moonrise today ..... | 2:46 a.m. |
| Moonset today .....  | 6:39 p.m. |

|  | New    | First | Full   | Last   |
|--|--------|-------|--------|--------|
|  |        |       |        |        |
|  | Aug 30 | Sep 5 | Sep 13 | Sep 21 |

### TODAY’S TIDES

| Astoria / Port Docks | Time | High (ft.) | Time | Low (ft.) |
|----------------------|------|------------|------|-----------|
| 12:11 p.m.           | 6.2  | 5:47 a.m.  | -0.6 |           |
| 11:22 p.m.           | 8.1  | 5:34 p.m.  | 2.5  |           |
| Cape Disappointment  |      |            |      |           |
| 11:48 a.m.           | 5.8  | 4:53 a.m.  | -0.9 |           |
| 11:01 p.m.           | 7.9  | 4:44 p.m.  | 2.5  |           |
| Hammond              |      |            |      |           |
| 12:00 p.m.           | 6.3  | 5:15 a.m.  | -0.9 |           |
| 11:12 p.m.           | 8.4  | 5:08 p.m.  | 2.5  |           |
| Warrenton            |      |            |      |           |
| 12:06 p.m.           | 6.6  | 5:31 a.m.  | -0.5 |           |
| 11:17 p.m.           | 8.5  | 5:18 p.m.  | 2.6  |           |
| Knappa               |      |            |      |           |
| 12:48 p.m.           | 6.5  | 6:48 a.m.  | -0.5 |           |
| 11:59 p.m.           | 8.4  | 6:35 p.m.  | 2.2  |           |
| Depoe Bay            |      |            |      |           |
| 11:04 a.m.           | 6.4  | 4:24 a.m.  | -0.7 |           |
| 10:13 p.m.           | 8.6  | 4:13 p.m.  | 3.0  |           |

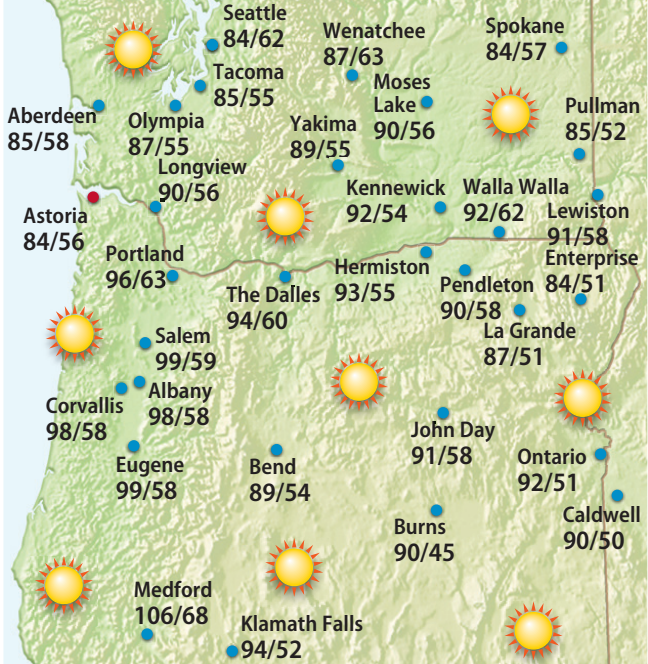
### NATIONAL CITIES

| City                                                                                                                     | Today Hi/Lo/W | Wed. Hi/Lo/W |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Atlanta                                                                                                                  | 86/72/t       | 90/68/t      |
| Boston                                                                                                                   | 76/61/pc      | 80/66/pc     |
| Chicago                                                                                                                  | 79/60/pc      | 75/57/pc     |
| Dallas                                                                                                                   | 87/72/pc      | 85/73/t      |
| Denver                                                                                                                   | 79/52/pc      | 90/59/s      |
| Honolulu                                                                                                                 | 91/77/s       | 91/76/pc     |
| Houston                                                                                                                  | 97/77/pc      | 94/77/pc     |
| Los Angeles                                                                                                              | 87/67/pc      | 85/66/pc     |
| Miami                                                                                                                    | 91/77/t       | 90/77/t      |
| New York City                                                                                                            | 76/67/pc      | 82/68/t      |
| Phoenix                                                                                                                  | 111/88/s      | 110/86/s     |
| San Francisco                                                                                                            | 80/62/pc      | 79/63/pc     |
| Wash., DC                                                                                                                | 79/71/c       | 85/68/t      |
| Weather (W): s=sunny, pc=partly cloudy, c=cloudy, sh=showers, t=thunderstorms, r-rain, sf=snow flurries, sn=snow, l=ice. |               |              |

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## REGIONAL FORECAST

Shown is today’s weather. Temperatures are today’s highs and tonight’s lows.



| City       | Today Hi/Lo/W | Wed. Hi/Lo/W | City        | Today Hi/Lo/W | Wed. Hi/Lo/W |
|------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| Baker City | 89/45/s       | 98/54/s      | North Bend  | 75/55/s       | 69/57/pc     |
| Brookings  | 69/54/s       | 68/58/pc     | Roseburg    | 103/64/s      | 98/63/s      |
| Ilwaco     | 78/60/s       | 73/59/s      | Seaside     | 84/59/s       | 76/58/s      |
| Newberg    | 96/59/s       | 95/60/s      | Springfield | 98/58/s       | 95/57/s      |
| Newport    | 76/52/s       | 69/56/s      | Vancouver   | 94/60/s       | 94/62/s      |