

IN BRIEF

Warrenton woman charged with manslaughter

A Warrenton woman was arraigned and taken into custody on Monday for manslaughter in the second degree and driving under the influence of intoxicants. In April 2018, Lori Marie Courtwright, 45, crossed the double-yellow centerline on U.S. Highway 30 near mile-post 94 and crashed head-on into an oncoming vehicle. Douglas Morgan, 54, of Astoria was killed in the collision.

Police seek Astoria robbery suspect

Police are looking for a suspect who reportedly robbed Journey’s End Espresso in Astoria on Saturday. The suspect allegedly went to the business after 5 p.m. and placed an order and then displayed what appeared to be a gun in his waistband. He took an undisclosed amount of money. The suspect left the location heading eastbound. He was described as a white male between 30 and 40 years old, between 5-foot-7 and 5-foot-8 inches tall, with blue eyes and a slender build. He was reportedly wearing a plain black hoodie, blue jeans, a black mask covering his chin to his nose and may have been wearing a dark-colored beanie. People are asked to call the Astoria Police Department at 503-325-4411 with any information.

Crash shuts down Astoria Bridge

The Astoria Bridge was briefly shut down Sunday afternoon due to a motor vehicle crash. Police say a driver traveling southbound crossed the centerline of the curved ramp at the base of the bridge, crashing into an oncoming vehicle head-on. The occupants of both vehicles were taken to Columbia Memorial Hospital in Astoria with injuries. The driver of the vehicle that crossed the centerline had extensive injuries. Both vehicles sustained significant damage and were towed from the scene. Police are investigating whether alcohol was a contributing factor.

— The Astorian

ON THE RECORD

- Burglary**
 - Robert William Hackleman, 29, of Seaside, was arrested Sunday on S. Wahanna Road in Seaside for burglary in the first degree.
- Theft**
 - Sherman Fanning, 57, of Raymond, Washington, was arrested Sunday at Walmart in Warrenton for theft in the second degree.
 - Yvann Lara, 20, of Astoria, was arrested Friday at Walmart in Warrenton for theft in the second degree and criminal mischief in the third degree.
- Criminal mischief**
 - Roajsha Roven Calhoun, 19, of Astoria, was arrested Friday outside of Safeway in Astoria for criminal mischief in the second degree.
- Criminal trespass**
 - Jed Edward Herman, 44, of Astoria, was arrested on Saturday on the 700 block of Glasgow Avenue in Astoria for criminal trespass in the first degree,

- criminal trespass in the second degree and disorderly conduct in the second degree. Herman was arrested again on Saturday on the 700 block of Glasgow Avenue for violating a restraining order.
- Harassment**
 - Kevin Sean Maakes-tad, 40, of Garden Grove, California, was arrested Sunday off state Highway 202 in Astoria for harassment.
- DUII**
 - Austin Micheal Barter, 22, of Astoria, was arrested Thursday on Fourth Street and Olney Avenue in Astoria for driving under the influence of intoxicants. His blood alcohol content was 0.14%.
 - Sean Joel Devries, 39, of Spokane, Washington, was arrested Wednesday on U.S. Highway 26 and Necanicum Mainline Road for DUII, reckless driving and resisting arrest. His blood alcohol content was 0.15%.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

- TUESDAY**
 - Seaside Community Center Commission,** 10:30 a.m., Bob Chisholm Center, 1225 Avenue A.
 - Clatsop County Board of Commissioners,** 12 p.m., work session, 800 Exchange Street, Suite 430, Astoria.
 - Port of Astoria Commission,** 4 p.m., Port offices, 10 Pier 1, Suite 209.
 - Seaside Library Board,** 4:30 p.m., Seaside Public Library, 1131 Broadway.
 - Clatsop Care Health District Board,** 5 p.m., Clatsop Care Retirement Village, 947 Olney Ave.
 - Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District,** 5:15 p.m., board workshop, Bob Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A.
- ASTORIA LIBRARY BOARD,** 5:30 p.m., Astoria Library Flag Room, 450 10th St.
- Miles Crossing Sanitary Sewer District Board,** 6 p.m., 34583 U.S. Highway 101 Business.
- Seaside Planning Commission,** 7 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.
- WEDNESDAY**
 - Warrenton Urban Renewal Advisory Committee,** 3:30 p.m., City Hall, 225 S. Main Ave.
- THURSDAY**
 - Sunset Empire Transportation District Board,** 9 a.m., Astoria Transit Center, 900 Marine Drive.
 - Seaside Parks Advisory Committee,** 6 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

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Holiday lights in downtown Astoria

ABOVE: Santa Claus is greeted with hugs from two girls on Saturday after arriving with the help of the Astoria Fire Department on a decorated fire engine. BELOW LEFT: Dida DeAngelis leads the crowd in song, kicking off a night of caroling and holiday festivities at the annual downtown holiday lighting ceremony outside the Liberty Theatre. BELOW RIGHT: Stephanie Osborne holds her daughter, Melody, who she dressed as a little Santa Claus.

State-run program helps workers save for retirement

By SAM STITES
Oregon Capital Bureau

A salon in Portland, a brewery in Astoria and an industrial fabric manufacturer from Eugene now have employees with retirement programs. They are among the 459 small businesses that recently enrolled in Oregon’s state-run retirement program, OregonSaves. That represents the second phase of a program meant to provide workers a simple way to save for retirement. The final phase starts next May, opening the door for companies with four employees or less. More than 54,000 Oregonians at 3,637 businesses have enrolled in the program since it debuted a year ago. They are saving with Individual Retirement Accounts set up by the state and those accounts now hold around \$36 million in assets. According to Michael Parker, director OregonSaves at the state treasurer’s office, the program helps employers who aren’t able to otherwise provide retirement savings. “We feel this program has the ability to make a huge difference, not that it’s going to cover the entire retirement of every employee, but those who have this option after a few months are seeing a difference,” Parker said. “Folks out there who haven’t saved before are suddenly saving \$1,000-\$2,000 and now they love to save. It’s a cultural shift for Oregon, which is a huge impact on the state in assets folks are saving for the future.” Under the program, employees are automatically enrolled unless they elect not to participate, having a portion of their pay automatically deducted and deposited into OregonSaves. Participants then choose from more than a dozen options and strategies for the state to invest

Danny Miller/The Astorian

Reach Break Brewing in Astoria participates in OregonSaves.

their savings with the goal of maximizing those funds by their expected retirement date. The program was established by the state Legislature in 2015. California and Illinois have similar programs, but neither have experienced the success of OregonSaves. “We’ve all got a stake in this because Oregonians who have assets, who have saved, are going to higher quality of retirement life and they will be less of burden on state and local budgets that are already stretched,” said State Treasurer Tobias Read. Kim Stegeman, CEO and co-founder of the Rose City Rollers roller derby league in Portland, learned of the program from a passing comment at her gym. Once she dug into the details and found out how it could benefit her employees, she was in. “I wanted to be someone who was encouraging my staff to start saving and planning for retirement,” Stegeman said. “I wish I would have started investing when I was like 24, and now I’m playing catch-up. I don’t want that for my employees.” According to Stegeman, the program only took about 15 minutes to set up on her end, and the help available from state treasury employees made the process efficient. Her bookkeeper easily implemented the retirement savings program into the firm’s QuickBooks payroll. According to Parker, the program is designed to mesh well with all types of payroll tools used by small business. Luke Huffstutter, owner of Anastasia Salon, said he had an easy time setting up his business with OregonSaves and recommended other small business owners join in. “I think it’s really important the state has created something that makes the process easier for people to participate. Statistics show that when auto-deductions are available for people, they choose to save at a much higher rate,” he said. According to Huffstutter, about 80% of his 45 employees decided to participate. Reach Break Brewing in Astoria is among the businesses that have joined the program. Parker said that OregonSaves is seeing about 70% participation by employees at businesses that have signed up. Parker said the state is working to make the set-up process even quicker and less time-consuming for businesses. The biggest challenge is getting the word out, he said. “Our challenge with OregonSaves is making sure employers know about the program and know they have support. We have two people on the ground that can do in-person trainings for employers and employees,” Parker said. “We’re mindful and appreciate that the employers are the gateway to helping these employees.” Parker added that OregonSaves helps employees in sectors where retirement benefits aren’t traditionally offered, such as in restaurants, small retail shops and even the cannabis industry. The Oregon Capital Bureau is a collaboration between EO Media Group, Pamplin Media Group and Salem Reporter.