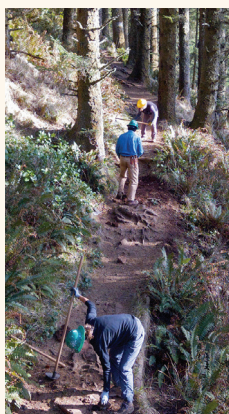


## IN BRIEF

Colin Murphey/  
The Astorian

**Ecola State Park is closed for repair work.**

## Ecola State Park closed for hazard tree removal

Ecola State Park will be closed Tuesday through Thursday while crews remove hazard trees along the park's entrance.

Park rangers have identified several dead, diseased or unstable trees.

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department has hired Tillamook-based Whitehead Reforestation for \$7,000 to complete the project.

— *The Astorian*



R.J. Marx/The Astorian

**Veterans in Seaside on Saturday marked the anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.**

## DEATHS

**Dec. 7, 2019**

**DUNN, Muriel C.**, 81, of Warrenton, died in Warrenton. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

**Dec. 6, 2019**

**STAECKER, Erica G.**, 92, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

## MEMORIALS

**Saturday, Dec. 14**

**BAKER, Amy Sue** — Remembrance gathering from 1 to 4 p.m., the Laurelhurst Club, 3721 S.E. Ankeny St. in Portland.

**LENDE, Dr. Russell M.** "Russ" — Celebration of life from 3 to 5 p.m., Bob Chisolm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A in Seaside.

## BIRTHS

**Nov. 25, 2019**

**COPE, Kelly** and **Brendan**, of Astoria, a boy, **Toivo Alexander Cope**, born at Columbia Memorial Hospital in Astoria. Grandparents are Steve and Becky Roman, Kathie Cope and Tyrone Cope, all of Astoria.

**Nov. 16, 2019**

**KNUTSEN, Sarah** and **Ross**, of Warrenton, a boy, **Maverik Ross Knutsen**, born at Columbia Memorial Hospital. Grandparents are Bob and Liz Knutsen, Tim Malinen and Sue Larsen.

## ON THE RECORD

### Criminal trespass

• **Mitchell Simonsen**, 35, of Hammond, was arrested Saturday at the AutoZone in Warrenton for criminal trespass in the second degree.

### Harassment

• **Samantha Ann Brown**, 36, of Seaside, was arrested Saturday on Hamlet Road in Seaside for harassment.

### DUII

• **Ricky Criss**, 33, of Oregon City, was arrested Sunday in Seaside for driving under the influence of intoxicants and reckless driving. His blood alcohol content was 0.18%. Police say Criss

was spinning his vehicle in circles in an empty parking lot at the Seaside Outlet, which caused his engine to catch on fire. The fire also caused damage to a Tesla charging station in the parking lot.

• **Cameron King**, 20, of Seaside, was arrested Saturday on S.W. Birch Court in Warrenton for DUII, minor in possession of alcohol and hit-and-run.

• **Kenneth Nielsen**, 72, of Hammond, was arrested Saturday on Lake Drive at the Hammond viewpoint for DUII, hit-and-run and reckless driving. His blood alcohol content was 0.17%.

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

#### TUESDAY

**Clatsop County Planning Commission**, 10 a.m., Judge Guy Boyington Building, 857 Commercial St., Astoria.

**Lewis & Clark Fire Department Board**, 6 p.m., main fire station, 34571 U.S. Highway 101 Business.

**Warrenton City Commission**, 6 p.m., City Hall, 225 S. Main Ave.

**Clatsop Community College Board**, 6:30 p.m., Columbia Hall Room 219, 1650 Lexington Ave., Astoria.

**Astoria Planning Commission**, 6:30 p.m., City Hall, 1095 Duane St.

**Gearhart City Council and Planning Commission**, 6:30 p.m., work session on county housing study, City Hall, 698 Pacific Way.

#### WEDNESDAY

**Astoria School Board**, 5:45 p.m., work session, 7 p.m. regular meeting, Capt. Robert Gray School third-floor boardroom, 785 Alameda Ave.

**Wickiup Water District Board**, 6:30 p.m., 92648 Svensen Market Road, Svensen.

**Clatsop County Board of Commissioners**, 6:00 p.m., Judge Guy Boyington Building, 857 Commercial St., Astoria

#### THURSDAY

**Seaside Convention Center Commission**, 5 p.m., Convention Center, 415 First Ave.

**Gearhart Planning Commission**, 6 p.m., City Hall, 698 Pacific Way.

**Warrenton Planning Commission**, 6 p.m., City Hall, 225 S. Main Ave.

# Astoria mayor hails 'courage' shown at Pearl Harbor

Event took place in Seaside on Saturday

By **R.J. MARX**  
*The Astorian*

SEASIDE — Astoria Mayor Bruce Jones, a retired U.S. Coast Guard captain, provided a remembrance at the 78th anniversary of Pearl Harbor commemoration at the Seaside Civic and Convention Center on Saturday morning.

Jones honored the memory of local Pearl Harbor survivors Spurgeon D. Keeth and William "Bill" Thomas, who died over the past few years. Thomas was the catalyst for Seaside's Pearl Har-

bor Memorial Bridge, christened in 2000.

"We honor the military and civilian dead," Jones said. "We honor the thousands of soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen, as well as civilians and volunteers, who survived the attack and then demonstrated remarkable resiliency, courage and teamwork not only fighting back, but fighting countless terrible fires, rescuing trapped victims from burning ships, from the water, and from under debris; performing emergency medical care to terribly wounded and burned victims, even when still under attack."

"Remember Pearl Har-

bor' became a rallying cry for our nation," Jones continued. "The resilience, determination, courage and resolve demonstrated by young men like Bill Thomas and Spurgeon Keeth and thousands of others on Dec. 7, 1941, stood as a model for all Americans from that day forward."

Saturday's remembrance came after a proclamation by the city honoring the victims and veterans of the Japanese attack. "On that day, life changed in America, and the course of history was altered forever," the proclamation states.

Guests included Jones, Seaside Mayor Jay Barber, pastor Dave Barnet and Clatsop County veterans service

officer Luke Thomas. There was a welcome greeting by Kim Wright of American Legion Post 99.

Dozens joined the ceremony, followed by the tossing of a wreath from the Pearl Harbor Memorial Bridge into the Necanicum River.

"It's gratifying to see so many people to take time out of their morning to come out on their Saturday and pay their respects to veterans of World War II, Vietnam and Korea," Jones said afterward.

The remembrance is a reminder of "the significance of an attack on our country and what that means in terms of protecting our nation in the future," he added.

# State wants more money to help defendants with mental illness

By **SAM STITES**  
*Oregon Capital Bureau*

Reforms to Oregon's system for dealing with people unfit to stand trial aren't working as planned, with judges challenged to find local treatment options for those they used to send to the Oregon State Hospital.

As a result, the state hospital has not seen a significant reduction in the number of patients needing hospital-level care. And mental health advocates say legislation passed earlier this year inappropriately left in place language that continues to stigmatize people needing public help.

In recent years, Oregon judges have sent more and more patients to the state hospital for treatment to regain competency to help in their own defense against criminal charges. From 2017 to 2018, there was a 15% increase in patients sent to the state hospital, from 610 to 719. So far in 2019, there have been 633 patients found unfit to stand trial sent to the facility.

Under legislation passed this year, judges were asked to find local treatment for people deemed unfit to stand trial, reserving hospital-level care for those found to be dangerous to themselves or

others.

In the 12 months leading up to Senate Bill 24, the state hospital received on average 59 aid and assist patients per month. In the four months following the law's passage, the hospital received an average of 54 per month.

While mental health professionals agree that treating patients in their own communities leads to better outcomes, many counties don't have the ability to provide treatment, forcing judges to either keep defendants jailed — violating their civil rights — or release them to the streets.

A work group of 50 individuals representing the courts, public defenders, prosecutors, mental health advocates and behavioral health professionals is now working on fixes to ensure mentally ill criminal defendants get the help they need.

One of those members is Multnomah County Judge Nan Waller. She recently addressed lawmakers on the legislative joint Judiciary Committee on what's being done to fix issues created by the reform measures.

"All the players to the aid and assist process have one goal, and that is to make sure that people get the treatment we're obligated to provide them in the most appro-



Statesman Journal

**The state wants more criminal defendants with mental illness treated in local communities instead of the Oregon State Hospital.**

priate setting. Nobody wants people languishing in jail. Nobody wants the capacity issues at the hospital to get out of hand. Nobody wants mentally ill people on our streets," Waller testified.

According to Waller, her court time includes dealing with individuals who suffer from significant mental health issues, many of whom have committed misdemeanors that often relate to poverty and homelessness. She said the Oregon Judicial Department is hiring six new employees to collect data to identify the gap is between the services people need and what's available.

Researchers will report on the numbers of cases where a defendant is unfit to proceed or pending an evaluation for fitness, evaluations ordered, those transferred to the state hospital, number of in-custody review hearings held, number of cases dismissed due to a defendant's lack of fitness and more.

"As somebody who every week has to make decisions about releasing people from jail who do not have any place to go, there is nothing more disheartening than to say to somebody, 'Do you have a coat? Is there anyone you might call? Is there any place you have to go?'" Waller testified. "I have released people because we haven't had any place and not met hospital-level of care. That is unfortunate and not as a society what we should be doing."

Most stakeholders agree that the recent legislation was just one step to address Oregon's mental health issues.

"We all realized this bill had some big missing pieces, so the crux of this work group is to look at some of those big cracks and figure out how to ensure there's a smooth, efficient and constitutional process," said Emily Cooper, legal counsel for Disability Rights Oregon.

# Motorcyclist struck by vehicle in crash on Highway 101

*The Astorian*

A motorcyclist was seriously injured after being struck by a vehicle Friday on U.S. Highway 101 and Patriot Way.

A driver reportedly stopped to turn left into Camp Rilea before turning

and crashing into a motorcyclist traveling southbound. The driver told police he did not see the motorcyclist.

The motorcyclist was seriously injured and taken to a Portland area hospital.

The highway was closed to one southbound lane during the investigation.

# Pedestrian seriously injured after hit-and-run in Seaside

*The Astorian*

SEASIDE — A pedestrian was seriously injured after being hit by a car Saturday night in the area of 12th Avenue and N. Holladay Drive in Seaside.

Erick Yetzael Mendez Lopez, 22, was arrested for assault in the third degree, driving under the influence of intoxicants, reckless driving, two counts of recklessly endangering another person and two counts of failure to perform the duties of a driver. His blood alcohol content was 0.15%.

Police say Mendez Lopez was driving northbound on N. Holladay Drive and caused significant damage after hitting a stopped vehicle. Mendez Lopez continued northbound and then struck Justin Powell, 36, who was walking across the street through the intersection.

Powell was taken to Columbia Memorial Hospital in Astoria with serious injuries.

Police say Mendez Lopez fled the scene and was found walking on 15th Avenue between Holladay and Roosvelt Drive.

## the Astorian

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