

# Trial team quits Stone case over dispute

By MICHAEL BALSAMO and ERIC TUCKER  
Associated Press



Manuel Balce Ceneta/AP Photo  
**Four lawyers who prosecuted Roger Stone, pictured, quit the case after the Justice Department overruled them and said it would lower the amount of prison time for Stone.**

WASHINGTON — The four lawyers who prosecuted Roger Stone quit the case after the Justice Department overruled them and said it would take the extraordinary step of lowering the amount of prison time it would seek for President Donald Trump's long-time ally and confidant.

The departures on Tuesday raised immediate questions over whether Trump, who earlier in the day had blasted the original sentencing recommendation as "very horrible and unfair," had at least indirectly exerted his will on a Justice Department that he often views as an arm of the White House.

The department insisted the decision to undo the sentencing recommendation was made Monday night —

open a simmering dispute over the punishment of a Trump ally whose case has long captured the Republican president's attention. The episode was the latest to entangle the Justice Department, meant to operate free from White House sway in criminal investigations and prosecutions, in presidential politics.

The four attorneys, including two who were early members of special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia team, comprised the entire Justice Department trial team that won convictions against Stone last fall.

Each had signed onto a Monday sentencing memo that recommended between seven and nine years in prison for Stone, who was convicted of lying to Congress, witness tampering and obstructing the House investigation into whether the Trump campaign coordinated with Russia to tip the 2016 election. None

lent their names to a Tuesday memo that called the original recommendation excessive.

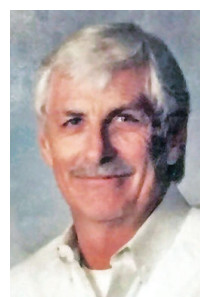
The departures leave in limbo the resolution of a case that was one of the signature prosecutions of Mueller's team and that cut to the heart of his mission — to determine whether the Trump team had access to nonpublic information about Democratic emails hacked by Russian operatives and provided to WikiLeaks.

Trump was back on the attack late Tuesday, slamming the original sentencing recommendation and questioning the judge overseeing the Stone case. And by early Wednesday, he had tweeted a congratulations to Attorney General William Barr "for taking charge of a case that was totally out of control and perhaps should not have been brought," suggesting the prosecutors had gone rogue.

## OBITUARIES

### M. Jack Cullimore Ilwaco, Washington 1938 — 2020

M. Jack Cullimore, 81, passed away on Feb. 6, 2020, at his home in Ilwaco, Wash- ington, after a cruel battle with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. He leaves behind his beloved wife, Margarita, an extended family and a lifetime of friends who loved him dearly.



M. Jack Cullimore

Jack was born in Salt Lake City, Utah, and spent his childhood in southern Idaho and Utah. Jack was a graduate of the University of Utah and Woodberry University.

He joined the Army, where he served for six years, some of the time in Iran. He went on to a very successful career in graphic design in southern California, establishing long-term relationships with widely known clients such as Sunkist Growers and Fruit Growers Supply.

Jack was fun, and funny, a firm friend who never met a stranger. He

was always the one people turned to for advice and a supportive shoulder.

Jack was also incredibly generous with his time and his abilities. Quietly, and asking nothing in return, he undertook charitable projects large and small in the communities where he lived.

He was passionate about his work, and equally passionate about his favorite pastime: flying. Jack's family and friends enjoyed many exciting flying adventures in his Grumman Tiger.

A celebration of life remembering Jack will be held Saturday at 11:30 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church, 1076 Franklin Ave. (11th Street and Franklin), in Astoria, Oregon.

Penttila's Chapel in Long Beach, Washington, is in charge of the arrangements. An online guest book is available at penttilaschapel.com

## PREP HOOPS ROUNDUP

### Valiants edge Seaside girls, 48-43

Seaside had a great opportunity to move up in the Cowapa League girls basketball standings Tuesday night, but came up just short at Valley Catholic.

The Valiants jumped out to a quick lead, then held on for an eventual 48-43 win over the Lady Gulls.

Valley Catholic improved to 3-2, a half-game lead on Banks (3-3), while Seaside dropped to 2-4. The Lady Gulls have games remaining with Tillamook (0-5) and Banks. Seaside defeated both teams in the first half of league play.

"We battled back but could not quite get over the hump," Seaside coach Mike Hawes said of Tuesday's loss. "Right now, with some injuries and experience, we're running six deep and the kids just plumb get worn out. I have nothing but praise for their effort."

Ruby Douglas and Lilli Taylor scored 16 points apiece for Seaside, which trailed 16-11 after one quarter. The teams played evenly (32-32) over the final three quarters.

The Gulls struggled from the 3-point line (2-for-12) and the free throw line (3-of-10), which made the difference.

"If we could have corralled a few more rebounds, made a few more free throws, held (Josie) Napoli in check just a bit ... but it didn't happen," Hawes said. "Ruby (11 rebounds) is playing well enough to be on a first name basis with the coaches. 'Guard Ruby.' She kept us afloat, and Lilli almost got us back to square, but the six that played all played well and hard."

### Seaside boys pound Valley Catholic

Headed for a league championship showdown

against Banks next week, the Seaside boys basketball team tuned up with a 60-39 win Tuesday night at Valley Catholic.

Beau Johnson scored a game-high 16 points, and the Gulls scored their second blowout victory of the season over the Valiants. Seaside won the first encounter on Jan. 24, 77-25.

The Gulls had three other players in double figures: Ryan Hague with 14, while Brayden Johnson and Stephen Snyder scored 10 apiece.

### Astoria girls beat Banks, lock up league title

With two games left in an eight-game league season, the Astoria girls locked up a Cowapa League championship Tuesday night, with an easy 50-31 win at Banks.

The Lady Fishermen overcame another slow start and some foul trouble along the way, but had the game well in hand with a big 17-8 lead at halftime.

Astoria continues to look unbeatable as it approaches the post-season, improving to 6-0 in league following its ninth straight win (13th against Oregon competition).

Astoria's Brooklynn Hankwitz spent nearly half the game on the bench in foul trouble, but still scored a game-high 14 points before fouling out early in the fourth quarter.

Kelsey Fausett finished with 12 points and Hailley O'Brien added 11 for the Lady Fishermen, who urred a 6-4 deficit into a 12-6 lead, and were never seriously threatened after that.

With a 19-2 overall record and ranked third in the latest OSAA rankings, the Lady Fishermen finish the regu-

lar season with home games against Tillamook (0-5) and Valley Catholic (3-2).

### Banks holds off Astoria boys, 53-44

Astoria was within five points of Banks in the fourth quarter, but a strong finish for the Braves helped Banks post a 53-44 win over the Fishermen in a Cowapa League boys basketball game Tuesday night.

After falling behind 17-4 to start the game, the Fishermen gradually fought their way back in, tying the game at 41-41 with just over two minutes remaining in the fourth quarter.

From there, "Banks just went on a tear and finished better than we did," said Astoria coach Kevin Goin. "But I'm super proud of guys for coming back the way we did, and we had every chance to win it. We just ran out of gas at the end."

Jacob Slifka scored 24 points as the only Banks player in double figures, while Astoria's M&M boys, Xander Marincovich and Colton McMaster, scored 11 and 10 points.

The Fishermen finish the league season with two games at home, with a chance at landing a league playoff spot with wins over Tillamook and Valley Catholic.

### Knappa girls defeat Knights, 34-28

Looking to close out the league season on a roll, the Knappa girls basketball team took a big step toward a top four finish in the Northwest League standings.

Knappa went on the road and defeated Columbia Christian 34-28 Monday night, helping the Loggers improve to 5-9 in league play.

### Columbia scores payback with win over Knappa boys

Almost four weeks after Knappa's thrilling 52-49 win over the Knights Jan. 15 at Knappa, Columbia Christian got its revenge with a 59-42 win over the Loggers in a key Northwest League boys basketball showdown Monday night.

The two teams could meet again in the post-season, either in a seeding game or at the state tournament.

After finishing the league season Wednesday at home vs. Nestucca, the Loggers will host a first round state playoff (date and opponent to be determined) before making the trip to Pendleton.

In Monday's game, the Knights held a 26-19 halftime lead and increased it to 44-25 with 1:30 left in the third quarter, and still led 53-39 with just 2:33 left in the fourth.

—The Astorian

## 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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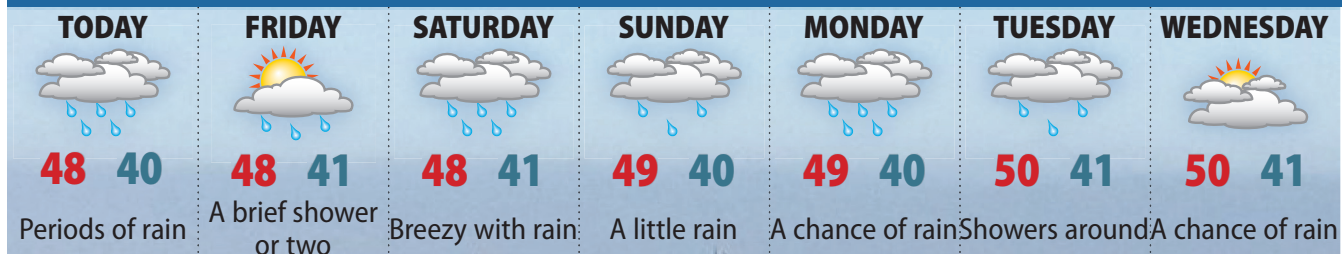
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## SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR ASTORIA



## ALMANAC

Astoria through Tuesday

**Temperatures**

High/low ..... 47/33  
Normal high/low ..... 51/37  
Record high ..... 66 in 1934  
Record low ..... 21 in 1905

**Precipitation**

Tuesday ..... 0.12"  
Month to date ..... 4.80"  
Normal month to date ..... 2.97"  
Year to date ..... 22.94"  
Normal year to date ..... 13.17"

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2020

## UNDER THE SKY

**Tonight's Sky:** Low in the west at sunset, Mercury reaches its highest point in evening sky.

## SUN AND MOON

Source: Jim Todd, OMSI

Sunrise today ..... 7:23 a.m.  
Sunset tonight ..... 5:38 p.m.  
Moonrise today ..... 11:32 p.m.  
Moonset today ..... 10:03 a.m.

Last	New	First	Full
Feb 15	Feb 23	Mar 2	Mar 9

## TODAY'S TIDES

**Astoria / Port Docks**

Time	High (ft.)	Time	Low (ft.)
4:11 a.m.	8.8	10:32 a.m.	1.0
4:23 p.m.	7.8	10:37 p.m.	1.0

**Cape Disappointment**

Time	High (ft.)	Time	Low (ft.)
3:47 a.m.	8.8	9:40 a.m.	0.6
3:55 p.m.	7.7	9:48 p.m.	0.8

**Hammond**

Time	High (ft.)	Time	Low (ft.)
3:58 a.m.	9.1	9:59 a.m.	1.1
4:07 p.m.	8.1	10:08 p.m.	0.6

**Warrenton**

Time	High (ft.)	Time	Low (ft.)
4:06 a.m.	9.2	10:16 a.m.	1.1
4:18 p.m.	8.2	10:21 p.m.	0.7

**Knappa**

Time	High (ft.)	Time	Low (ft.)
4:48 a.m.	9.0	11:33 a.m.	0.9
5:00 p.m.	8.0	11:38 p.m.	0.5

**Depoe Bay**

Time	High (ft.)	Time	Low (ft.)
3:01 a.m.	9.0	9:11 a.m.	1.3
3:08 p.m.	7.9	9:17 p.m.	0.8

## NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Fri. Hi/Lo/W
Atlanta	62/33/r	48/28/pc
Boston	45/26/r	28/9/pc
Chicago	24/1/sn	18/10/s
Dallas	46/26/s	52/37/s
Denver	32/18/pc	49/20/s
Honolulu	83/71/pc	82/70/pc
Houston	61/39/s	60/43/s
Los Angeles	69/47/pc	69/47/pc
Miami	84/71/s	85/68/s
New York City	53/30/r	33/17/pc
Phoenix	68/48/s	72/48/pc
San Francisco	58/45/pc	61/45/pc
Wash., DC	63/35/r	40/21/s

**Weather (W):** s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, l-ice.

## REGIONAL FORECAST

