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'You look for things that you normally wouldn't look for'

Giuliani retires after two decades as the county's medical examiner

By NICOLE BALES
The Astorian

Dr. JoAnn Giuliani would often go to the scene of a death even when she didn't need to.

Sometimes, all the former Clatsop County medical examiner had to do was look around the environment to learn about their lifestyle, which usually helped her determine the cause of death.

Most people die at home of natural causes, she explained, and it's often cardiac related. So she often saw Pepto-Bismol and other antacids at people's bedsides. They thought their health problems were gastric, she said, but it was their heart. They just didn't know it.

She usually saw a lot of tissues in the garbage when someone died of pneumonia.

"You look for things that you normally wouldn't look for," Giuliani said.

Many homes she entered were unkempt, with sparse refrigerators and mattresses without sheets.

"I always tell the police officers that the body doesn't really help me a whole lot," she said. "It's that if hearing the history from the family, looking at the scene and all the surrounding things — if I don't know what they died of by that time — the body is not going to help me very much."

Giuliani, 63, retired as the coun-

ty's medical examiner on July 1 after nearly two decades.

Before investigating dead bodies, she spent the first half of her career as a labor and delivery nurse, and then as an obstetrician and gynecologist.

Giuliani moved to the North Coast from Pittsburgh with her family in 1996 for a job as an OB-GYN at Providence Seaside Hospital, which she held until 2000, when she left to spend more time with her children.

Shortly after, she spent a few years as the director of Theighthouse for Kids, a child abuse evaluation center in Astoria. During that time she became the county's medical examiner and eventually committed to the job full time.

"I did a residency program that was very invested in the pathology," she said. "And so every specimen that we had, we had to go look it up. We had to look at all our placentas, we had to do all this pathology. And I was always, always interested in forensic pathology."

"But, I was already on the OB-GYN track and had little kids ... I couldn't do another residency," she said. "But when this thing came up, it was perfect."

Talking to families

Most deaths don't occur during normal business hours, Giuliani said, since people usually wake up to find their partner dead or find

them after work after trying to reach them all day.

When called to the scene of a death, her job was to rule out homicide and to catch the onset of any communicable disease spread.

Despite the depiction of medical examiners popular in movies and television, most of her time was not spent at crime scenes dealing with homicides. It was talking to families.

In the 1980s, the field was designed to have forensic pathologists in Portland, she explained, and have doctors in each county do death investigations in addition to their regular practices.

"But things happened in the early 2000s, like the ('CSI: Crime Scene Investigation') series, and people became very knowledgeable about things that they didn't care about before, didn't know

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'IF YOU SHOW THAT YOU CARE, THAT YOU NOTICED SOMETHING ABOUT THEIR LOVED ONE THAT I DIDN'T HAVE TO SEE OR COMMENT ON, BUT I DID, IT MAKES THEM FEEL BETTER. IT MAKES THEM FEEL THAT THEIR LOVED ONE'S LIFE IS VALUED.'

Dr. JoAnn Giuliani | former Clatsop County medical examiner

Two new virus cases at Seaside school site

Project on track for completion

By R.J. MARX
The Astorian

SEASIDE — Two more construction workers at the new Seaside School District campus have tested positive for the coronavirus.

A worker at the site tested positive for the virus earlier in July, causing construction delays.

One worker is still in quarantine and two have been cleared to return to work. Clatsop County said one of the cases is reflected in the county's local case count.

"The three cases among our workers appear to be unrelated to their work on-site," Dan Drinkward, the vice president of Hoffman Construction, said.

"Our policy is to quarantine anyone who has close contact with a confirmed positive person for 14 days from the time of contact even if they get a negative test result or have no symptoms," he said.

The positive cases come as the \$99.7 million voter-approved school campus in the Southeast Hills nears completion.

The project will bring a new high school and middle school campus and

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Union spars over House race

Endorsement of Weber was withdrawn

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Astorian

The North Coast Labor Federation, a chapter of Oregon AFL-CIO for Clatsop and Tillamook counties, met last week in Astoria and endorsed Republican Suzanne Weber for state House District 32, upending a traditional dynamic of labor groups backing Democrats.

By Monday, the endorsement had been pulled by order of the Oregon AFL-CIO, which had endorsed Weber's opponent, Democrat Debbie Boothe-Schmidt. The local endorsement of Weber violated the AFL-CIO's national charter leaving state Legislature endorsements at the statewide level.

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Under Gulley's, a ghost world awaits

Underground tours off Commercial Street

By MORGAN GRINDY
The Astorian

Held closed by a screwdriver, a rickety wooden door below Gulley's Butcher Shop divides a storage basement from the dark and eerie essence of Astoria's

underground.

Diana Gulley has wanted to do tours of the space for years, but running the shop took priority over her curiosity.

That was until paranormal investigators Rainier Reyes and Nathalie Kellow came along. One conversation later, the trio agreed Gulley's should be offering more than cuts of meat.

Aiming for a start date in August, they began creating a new underground tour.

The tour will let visitors snoop through the debris and untouched artifacts that have been sitting

below Commercial Street.

Among the mismatched vintage chairs and the remnants of building construction are items like a cigarette machine, a Speed-O-Print printing press and sewing machines from when Gulley's was a tailor shop.

Other items, like a vase that's known for moving on its own and mysteriously lacking any dust, make Gulley think her basement might be haunted.

Reyes and Kellow plan to allow visitors to use their equipment on

See Ghost tour, Page A6



Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

Diana Gulley stands in the underground just below her butcher shop on Commercial Street, where she plans to host ghost tours.



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