

Police: Internal review is essentially complete

Continued from Page A1

Columbia Memorial Hospital about what steps, if any, they have taken in response to Jimenez’s death.

Warrenton Police Chief Mathew Workman said the death was discussed officially, through the internal review, and anecdotally with all officers.

“None of my officers ever want to see someone die nor do they want to ever hear that someone they arrested an hour ago dies,” Workman said in an email. “My officers deal with death on a weekly basis through death investigations, accident scenes, death notifications, etc. It is part of being a police officer and though we don’t show it, it hurts to see how the death of a family member or loved one hurts people.

“Whenever one of my officers is involved in an incident where there is a death involved (natural or otherwise), I talk to them and see how they are doing. We are human, we are compassionate, and incidents like this affect us all.”

Workman said the internal review is essentially complete. He said the police department still needed to look at the investigative report “to make sure the details are consistent with our internal review and to make sure we have not missed anything.”

Sheriff Matt Phillips said that with a better understand-

‘POLICE ARE NOT USUALLY TRAINED TO HANDLE PEOPLE WHO ARE MENTALLY ILL ... THEY’RE NOT MENTAL HEALTH FIRST RESPONDERS. THEY’VE KIND OF BEEN THROWN INTO THAT JOB BECAUSE NOBODY ELSE WILL DO IT. BUT THAT’S NOT THE IDEAL THING FOR ANYBODY.’

Kirk Wintermute | Astoria attorney and president of the National Alliance on Mental Illness in Clatsop County

ing of some external issues, he will look to see what needs to or can be changed at the jail. The sheriff said he has also been in communication with Disability Rights Oregon and is hoping to work with the nonprofit advocacy group.

A spokeswoman for Columbia Memorial did not respond to questions about whether the hospital has evaluated the medical screening process for people, like Jimenez, who are brought to the hospital before being booked into the jail.

Known to police

Jimenez, a U.S. Army veteran, was homeless until he found an apartment in Warrenton last year through a social service agency. An advocate who helped Jimenez with his government benefits and finances described him as Eskimo, Hispanic and Black and told investigators he had schizophrenia and used drugs. The advocate also said he had had several interactions with Warrenton police,

was afraid of police and was terrified of going to jail.

After The Astorian published details from the investigative report, some people have asked whether police should approach suspects with mental health or drug abuse issues differently. The Warrenton officers, the report shows, believed from the start Jimenez was high on drugs and having a mental breakdown while walking into the street on S. Main Avenue downtown.

Body camera footage reviewed by the newspaper shows a Warrenton officer — who was training a recent graduate of the police academy that day — warned Jimenez he would use the Taser soon after Jimenez resisted the officers’ commands. The footage shows Jimenez was on the ground with the trainee beside him when the officer fired the Taser. After Jimenez tried to get up and was brought to the ground again, the officer followed up with what is known as a drive stun into Jimenez’s

skin.

According to interview transcripts in the investigative report, the Warrenton officer explained that he does not like to use pepper spray because of the mess and he doubted it would be effective with Jimenez under the influence and resisting. “I just thought that the Taser was a better use for the type of incident and for what was going on physically with Mr. Jimenez that it would be more effective,” the officer told investigators.

A nurse and the doctor who screened Jimenez at Columbia Memorial were also concerned about the circumstances of Jimenez’s death after learning that several deputies and officers were involved in restraining Jimenez at the jail, including at least one officer who kneeled on him. Body camera footage shows deputies and officers pulling a handcuffed Jimenez out of a police SUV in the jail’s sally port, pushing him to the ground, placing spit hoods over his head

and applying ankle and leg restraints while he struggled.

The forensic report did not find physical injuries from the struggle at the jail that might have caused Jimenez’s death.

‘Thin on resources’

Asked by The Astorian whether Warrenton police have discussed best practices when responding to people with mental health or substance abuse issues, Workman said: “We are constantly discussing this topic and looking for best practices, best resources, new resources and ways to get people the help they need.

“Unfortunately, the North Coast is very thin on resources and we tend to see a revolving-door system where people are in, out, in and out of treatment over and over.”

Workman said the police department subscribes to two online training portals with courses on anti-bias policing, implicit bias, de-escalation, arrest liability, ethics, stress management, use of force in community policing, ethical use of force, building trust, trauma-informed culture and other topics.

“Every incident is unique just as all people are unique, so we try to give officers a tool kit full of tools to help deal with the incident and come to the best resolution given the specific circumstances,” the police chief said.

Kirk Wintermute, an

Astoria attorney and president of the National Alliance on Mental Illness in Clatsop County, does not believe there are enough safeguards to protect people experiencing mental health crisis.

“It’s really sad to see something like this happen where somebody’s obviously mentally ill and they are on the street for a long time, which you see a lot, or are not getting the treatment they need,” he said.

“Police are not usually trained to handle people who are mentally ill like that. And so things like this kind of happen because it’s not what police are for. They’re not mental health first responders. They’ve kind of been thrown into that job because nobody else will do it. But that’s not the ideal thing for anybody.”

Wintermute also serves on the county’s Public Safety Coordinating Council with law enforcement and mental health experts. He said the lack of funding and resources makes it hard to do what needs to be done or even know what needs to be done.

“And police are not the people who need to be involved in this stuff — I think for the most part — but they are the ones who have been stuck with it and they’re the ones who end up dealing with it,” he said. “And some are better than others at handling this kind of stuff. Some are better trained than others.

“But it’s just too much of a patchwork.”

Arnie’s: Main Avenue has welcomed several new businesses

Continued from Page A1

coming of Arnie’s.

“When that building opened, I had four people apply for rent,” he said. “I chose Arnie’s because that will bring 300 people a day downtown, which makes everybody else’s business do better and worth more money.”

Improvements

In recent years, Main Avenue has welcomed several other new businesses, most notably new eateries like the Tres Bros Nicaraguan food truck in a parking lot next to City Hall. Nanobrewery Battery 245 is under construction in the old Fenton Grocery building at First Street and Main Avenue. The city has invested urban renewal money in improving the facade of the building, whose owners are also rehabbing apartments upstairs.

The city has also invested urban renewal dollars in new sidewalks, landscaping and the Warrenton Memorial Plaza, a small park centered around military flags and a Vietnam War-era statue at the corner of Main Avenue and state Highway 104. The city hopes to eventually put utility lines underground along Main Avenue.

The city has allocated \$100,000 to pave the parking lot next to City Hall for more food carts and plans

to eventually name it. Newton said more food carts are in the works for the parking lot, where Tres Bros has seen business boom. He expects the restaurants to help each other, along with downtown’s grocery store, the Main Street Market, and the convenience store, Super Mart.

“When you have restaurants grouped together, they all — pardon the pun — feed off each other,” he said. “They all do well, because they’re grouped in clusters.

“As a city commissioner, I’m not making decisions for today,” he said. “I’m trying to make decisions that are good for 20 years to 100 years.”

Newton sees Harbor Drive as another area primed for redevelopment. The two-lane road crosses the Skpanon River and connects downtown with the main commercial corridor on Highway 101.

Late last month, the City Commission voted to ban storage units downtown and in Hammond to promote more vibrant downtown cores. They required storage units be set back behind other commercial development along Harbor Drive, where Main Street Storage occupies a large piece of real estate in the heart of downtown.

Newton, while defending the owners of the ministorage for making the right business decision and keeping up

their property, was critical of such prime commercial real estate going to something that doesn’t drive more business activity.

“It didn’t help Warrenton,” he said. “I mean, they keep it nice, which is very good. But if we’d had a fish market, retail, something right there, it would have pumped some life into Warrenton. It would have benefited all the citizens, and I don’t want to make that mistake again.”

Storage units

Newton was opposed to storage units on Harbor Drive, but left the virtual meeting before the vote. Other city commissioners struggled with being too demanding on property owners, but eventually coalesced around the restrictions on storage units.

Mayor Henry Balensifer, who has advocated to keep storage units off the city’s main thoroughfares, said it’s about promoting a livable, walkable community.

“There’s a lot of commercial property out there that you could put it elsewhere,” the mayor said of allowing storage units downtown. “If you want to salvage what you’ve got left of a livable downtown — or downtowns, I should say, because we have two of them, really — I don’t know why we would do that.”



Edward Stratton/The Astorian

The Warrenton City Commission, trying to promote livability, recently voted to ban more storage units in downtown like Main Street Storage along Harbor Drive.

APPLIANCE PACKAGE DEALS

Over 30 YEARS IN CLATSOP COUNTY

APPLIANCE AND HOME FURNISHINGS

529 SE MARLIN, WARRENTON

503-861-0929

HOURS OPEN: MON-FRI 8-6 * SATURDAY * SUNDAY 10-4

We Service What We Sell

Mattresses, Furniture & More!

SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR ASTORIA

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
83 56	88 57	76 51	67 51	68 50	69 48	68 49
Mostly sunny	Plenty of sun	Mostly sunny; pleasant	Some sun; not as warm	Clearing	Low clouds	Chance of a shower



ALMANAC
Astoria through Sunday
Temperatures
High/low 74/49
Normal high/low 69/51
Record high 90 in 1958
Record low 40 in 1992
Precipitation
Sunday 0.00"
Month to date 0.00"
Normal month to date 0.36"
Year to date 38.96"
Normal year to date 38.71"

UNDER THE SKY

Tonight’s Sky: Sagitta, the arrow, is between Aquila, the eagle, and Cygnus, the swan.

Source: Jim Todd, OMSI

SUN AND MOON
Sunrise today 6:45 a.m.
Sunset tonight 7:40 p.m.
Moonrise today 10:46 p.m.
Moonset today 1:10 p.m.
Last New First Full
Sep 10 Sep 17 Sep 23 Oct 1

TODAY’S TIDES
Astoria / Port Docks
Time High (ft.) Time Low (ft.)
5:52 a.m. 5.6 11:23 a.m. 2.0
5:21 p.m. 7.1 none
Cape Disappointment
5:19 a.m. 5.6 10:46 a.m. 2.4
5:15 p.m. 6.7 11:49 p.m. 1.0
Hammond
5:38 a.m. 5.8 11:03 a.m. 2.2
5:21 p.m. 7.1 none
Warrenton
5:47 a.m. 5.9 11:07 a.m. 2.2
5:16 p.m. 7.5 none
Knapa
6:29 a.m. 5.9 12:40 a.m. 0.7
5:58 p.m. 7.3 12:24 p.m. 1.8
Depoe Bay
4:40 a.m. 6.0 10:11 a.m. 2.9
4:25 p.m. 7.3 11:20 p.m. 1.4

NATIONAL CITIES
Today Wed.
Hi/Low Hi/Low
Atlanta 88/70/pc 86/71/c
Boston 80/64/s 76/68/c
Chicago 67/60/t 68/59/c
Dallas 90/69/t 80/66/t
Denver 37/28/sn 41/32/pc
Honolulu 89/77/pc 90/77/pc
Houston 91/75/t 90/75/t
Los Angeles 86/70/s 97/70/s
Miami 89/79/t 89/79/t
New York City 83/69/pc 80/72/c
Phoenix 104/69/s 92/72/s
San Francisco 81/58/s 77/58/s
Wash., DC 87/70/pc 82/73/sh
Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, l-ice.

REGIONAL FORECAST

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

City	Today	Wed.
Baker City	68/29/s	77/34/s
Brookings	79/60/s	77/55/pc
Ilwaco	78/58/s	82/60/s
Newberg	84/59/s	94/58/s
Newport	78/56/s	83/54/s

City	Today	Wed.
North Bend	85/57/s	88/55/pc
Roseburg	99/54/s	102/56/s
Seaside	82/62/s	88/62/s
Springfield	95/52/s	99/54/s
Vancouver	81/58/s	91/60/s