

IN BRIEF

Driver hits Seaside patrol car on Highway 101

SEASIDE — A driver was arrested on Sunday after running his Hyundai Tucson into the back of a Seaside police officer's parked patrol car along U.S. Highway 101.

The officer had parked south of Beerman Creek Lane to perform a traffic stop on a driver of a Toyota Camry.

After the Hyundai Tucson struck it, the patrol car collided with the Camry.

The Hyundai Tucson ended up on its side. Seaside Fire & Rescue removed the driver, who was arrested for driving under the influence of intoxicants. His name was not immediately released.

No one was injured, police said.

— *The Astorian*

DEATHS

June 6, 2022

JOHNSON, Arthur Richman, 89, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

June 5, 2022

BYRD, Bruce Tyler, 58, of Gearhart, died

in Gearhart. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

June 1, 2022

GASCOIGNE, Derek, 61, of Seaside, died in Seaside. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

MEMORIAL

Saturday, June 11

NICHOLS, Rodney "Rod" — Memorial celebration from 2 to 4 p.m., Bob Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A in Seaside. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the North Coast Food Web (northcoastfoodweb.org) or Columbia Senior Diners (astoriaseniorcenter.org).

CORRECTION

Incorrect neighborhood — The Uppertown home of Theodosia Woods received a Dr. Edward Harvey Historic Preservation Award. The neighborhood was incorrectly described as Alderbrook in a Weekend Break story on May 14 and a photo caption with a Writer's Notebook feature on June 4.

ON THE RECORD

Sexual abuse

• Joshua Robert Mendenhall, 37, of Astoria, was indicted on May 27 for first-degree sexual abuse.

Assault

• Asuemu Fuimaono, 50, of Covington, Washington, was arrested on Sunday at 17th Street and Marine Drive in Astoria for fourth-degree assault constituting domestic violence.

Burglary

• Shauna Marie Cox, 23, of Seaside, was indicted on Thursday for first-degree burglary, third-degree assault and third-degree theft. The crimes are alleged to have occurred in May.

DUII

• Drew Alan Byington, 49, of Klamath Falls, was indicted on Thursday for driving under the influence of intoxicants, reckless driving, second-degree assault, fourth-degree

assault, second-degree criminal mischief and four counts of recklessly endangering another person. The crimes are alleged to have occurred in Clatsop County in July.

• Ross Tadlock Henry, 45, of White Salmon, Washington, was arrested on Thursday near the intersection of U.S. Highway 101 and Turley Lane for DUII, reckless driving and refusing to take a Breathalyzer test.

• Jacob Allen Riley, 21 of Astoria, was arrested on Thursday at Youngs River Road and Tucker Creek Lane in Astoria for DUII. He allegedly drove onto someone's property.

• Chandler Ray Emken, 24, of Astoria, was arrested on May 26 on Wireless Road in Astoria for DUII, reckless driving, an open container violation and refusing to take a Breathalyzer test.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

TUESDAY

Seaside Community Center Commission, 10 a.m., Bob Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A.

Seaside Library Board, 4:30 p.m., 1131 Broadway.

Clatsop Care Health District Board, 5 p.m., 947 Olney Ave.

Clatsop County Fair Board, 5:30 p.m., Clatsop County Fair & Expo Center, 92937 Walluski Loop.

Cannon Beach City Council, 6 p.m., City Hall, 163 E. Gower Ave.

Seaside Planning Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

WEDNESDAY

Clatsop Soil and Water Conservation District Board,

10 a.m., 2001 Marine Drive, Room 231.

Cannon Beach City Council, 6 p.m., work session, City Hall, 163 E. Gower Ave.

Warrenton-Hammond School District Board, 6 p.m., Warrenton High School library, 1700 S. Main Ave.

Astoria School District Board, 7 p.m., (electronic meeting).

Knappa School District Board, 7 p.m., Knappa High School library, 41535 Old U.S. Highway 30.

THURSDAY

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

the Astorian

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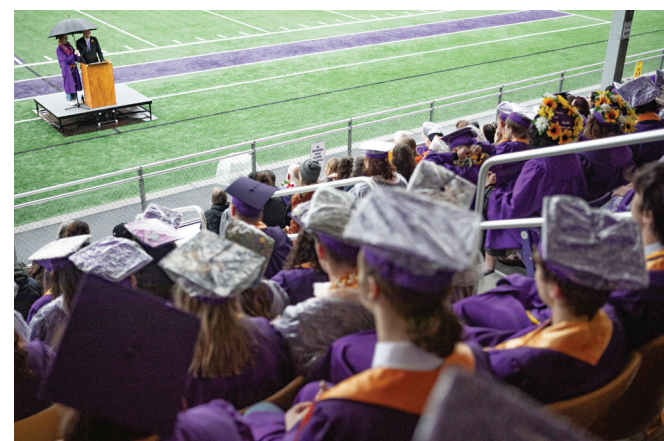
CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Seniors threw their graduation caps at the end of the ceremony.

Seniors in Astoria High School's Class of 2022 wait to enter their graduation ceremony on Saturday at CMH Field.

Astoria High School principal Lynn Jackson spoke at the graduation ceremony.

One senior had a message on his graduation cap: 'Game over.'

Photos by Lydia Ely/The Astorian



Lawmakers release money for legal defense, mental health

By PETER WONG
Oregon Capital Bureau

State lawmakers have released \$100 million to fund the legal defense of criminal defendants and more than \$150 million to boost reimbursement to providers of behavioral health services for low-income Oregonians.

There were some dissenters on Friday's votes by the Emergency Board, the 20 lawmakers who decide budget issues between sessions of the Legislature.

Lawmakers had already withheld \$100 million from the two-year budget of the Public Defense Services Commission, which oversees a network that provides legal defense statewide. Legal defense has been hindered by court closures stemming from the coronavirus pandemic, the resulting backlog of cases and inadequate reimbursement for lawyers working such cases.

A shortage of lawyers has led some defendants in Multnomah and Washington counties to go unrepresented — and some low-level criminal cases dismissed in Multnomah County.

A high-level work group involving all three branches of government is focused on the problems of indigent defense, which the state assumed when trial courts were transferred from the counties in 1983. Public defense is a separate office within the judicial branch.

"It's not good," state Senate President Peter Courtney, a Democrat from Salem and a lawyer who sits on the task force, said during the Emergency Board meeting.

"It's not important whether the judiciary is at fault, the governor is at fault, or we are at fault. We

are dealing with the right to counsel, which is as fundamental a constitutional right as we have. Everybody agrees with that."

A 1963 decision by the U.S. Supreme Court requires states to provide lawyers for criminal defendants who cannot afford representation themselves.

Withholding part of an agency budget is an unusual but not unprecedented move by lawmakers, who can delegate the Emergency Board to release money once their concerns are resolved.

I do not agree with them on this.

"We are going to be pounding on this for a long time to come."

According to Stephen Singer, the executive director of the Office of Public Defense Services, the new contracts for legal defense will represent overall increases between 1% and 10%. Reimbursement rates in some instances, however, will increase sharply.

"We're giving a 30% increase in fees for this agency," Sen. Fred Girod,

Rep. E. Werner Reschke, of Klamath Falls. But Republican Rep. Vikki Breese-Iverson, of Prineville, Rep. Greg Smith, of Heppner, and Rep. Duane Stark, of Grants Pass, voted with all six Democratic senators and six Democratic representatives to approve the release.

Smith, echoing Courtney, said lawmakers had no choice because of the constitutional requirement.

Mental health money

Lawmakers also approved the release of \$42.5 million already approved from the tax-supported general fund and \$112 million in federal funds to boost reimbursement for providers of behavioral health services under the Oregon Health Plan.

The health plan provides state-supported health insurance to 1.4 million Oregonians, about a third of the state's population. Under Medicaid, the federal government shares health insurance costs with states for low-income people.

Girod also raised a similar objection to increased rates — which average 30% — but Stark said some rates are unchanged and some go beyond the average.

On this vote, only Reschke joined Girod in opposition. All the other Republicans joined all Democrats to approve it; Sen. Bill Hansell, R-Athens, was absent.

Smith said the increase would help the state secure more providers of behavioral health services, which are in short supply.

"We can do better for our most vulnerable citizens," he said.

The Oregon Capital Bureau is a collaboration between EO Media Group and Pamplin Media Group.

A SHORTAGE OF LAWYERS HAS LED SOME DEFENDANTS IN MULTNOMAH AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES TO GO UNREPRESENTED — AND SOME LOW-LEVEL CRIMINAL CASES DISMISSED IN MULTNOMAH COUNTY.

Full amount released

The original recommendation from the Legislative Fiscal Office, which does the staff work for the Emergency Board, was for release of \$63.2 million, and the rest to be considered at the next meeting in September. But a subcommittee recommended the release of the full \$100 million to account for other expenses not foreseen in the agency budget.

"I am not willing to wait until September," Courtney said. "I am not going to second-guess those on the front lines on this. I respect our Legislative Fiscal Office, but

R-Lyons, said. "So everyone within government ... is going to say we have a shortage of people who want to participate and we're going to have to up our fees."

But Sen. Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, D-Beaverton, said the money will help put public defenders more on a par with prosecutors.

Even with the release of the money, she said, "they are still well below district attorneys. This is not generous remuneration by any means."

Girod was joined in opposition by Republican Sen. Lynn Findley, of Vale, Sen. Tim Knopp, of Bend, and