

**OBITUARIES**

**JoAnn (Oja) Karolczak**  
**New Braunfels, Texas**  
**Dec. 14, 1934 — July 22, 2022**

JoAnn (Oja) Karolczak passed peacefully in her sleep at home on the Guadalupe River Road near New Braunfels, Texas, on July 22 with family by her side. She was 87.

She was born Dec. 14, 1934, in New Braunfels, to Erwin and Gertrude (Bettge) Meckel.

Jo, as she was called by many, spent her childhood years in New Braunfels before moving up the Guadalupe River to Mountain Breeze Camp, which her mother and father established in 1951. She attended New Braunfels schools and played drums in the New Braunfels High School Unicorns marching band.

In 1952, she married Eugene "Ace" Moeller. Together they had two children, Wayne and Jaquelynn.

After Jo and Ace divorced, she married Richard Oja in 1955. Jo and Richard moved their family to his hometown of Knappa in late 1956 after his discharge from the U.S. Air Force. They had three children together, Nancy, Neil and Mark. JoAnn spent most of her time raising her children. She was active in the Knappa schools PTA and was leader of a 4-H sewing club for several years.

In 1965, Jo and Richard built the Logger Restaurant in Knappa. They operated it together until their divorce in 1974.

In 1975, she moved with her partner, Peter Karolczak, to Belmont, California. They later married. After several years in Belmont, they moved to Hayward, Califor-

nia. While in California, she worked at and managed several delicatessens.

In 1994, she and Peter moved to his hometown of Burg-Spreewald in Germany. There they operated a bed-and-breakfast until his death in 2013. JoAnn continued to operate the business before selling it in 2015 and moving back to Texas, where she lived in the "cabin," as she and Peter called it, that they had built on her property on the Guadalupe River Road out of New Braunfels. She resided there until her death.

JoAnn and Peter traveled extensively around the world, especially enjoying Europe, Central America and South America. Jo was an avid photographer from an early age, taking thousands of photos and creating a large collection of photo albums.

JoAnn is survived by her children, Wayne, and his wife, Pam, of Warrenton, Jackie, of Vancouver, Washington, Nancy, and her husband, Bill, of Philomath, Neil, of Flower Mound, Texas, and Mark, and his wife, Millie, of Svensen. She is also survived by nine grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; two great-great grandchildren; sisters, Joyce Bujnoch and Elaine Meckel, both of New Braunfels; and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

Cremation arrangements were by Doepenschmidt Funeral Home in Sattler, Texas.

A celebration of life will be held in Texas at a later date.



JoAnn Karolczak

**Capt. Duffy Duncan**

**Astoria**

**June 16, 1948 — Aug. 7, 2022**

The man, myth and legend, Capt. Duffy Duncan, of Astoria, passed away unexpectedly to the sea in the sky on Aug. 7 at the age of 74.

He graduated in 1966 from Hillsboro High School in Hillsboro and later attended Clatsop Community College in Astoria.

All knew him to be larger than life, with an infectious laugh, and always ready with a crazy fishing story, weather or stock report. His need for speed started at an early age, drag racing his 409 or popping wheelies on his Bultaco dirt bike. He amassed an infinite number of speeding tickets in his prized 500 horsepower Z06 Corvette.

One of his biggest accomplishments was securing a United Nations contract to ferry the fishing vessel Tropac 5,000 miles across the Pacific to American Samoa, where he was integral in training the local fisherman modern tuna fishing techniques, later becoming their biggest industry. Numerous bets were placed on their lives prior to the risky voyage. The mission was completed in just 27 days, and they were warmly greeted by the U.S. Coast Guard and governor.

He owned and operated several commercial fishing vessels, including the Viola II, Piranha, Carly D., and the Patricia Ann,

both locally in Astoria and Bristol Bay, Alaska.

Duffy loved traveling to Hawaii and Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. He lived each day to the fullest. We will miss our legendary father, and friend, to the end of time.

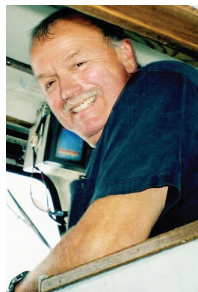
Duffy was preceded in death by his father, Norman Duncan Sr.; brother, Ed Duncan; and daughter, Carly.

He is survived by his mother, Patricia Minard; sister, Jan Hinkle (spouse, Dave); daughter, Amy Boultinghouse (spouse, Dale); daughter, Molly May (spouse, Rick); daughter, Miranda Bodyfelt (spouse, Scott); daughter, Kelsey Duncan; grandchildren, Evan May, Cody May, Jaycee Boultinghouse, Emmett Bodyfelt and Brendan Duncan; and great-granddaughter, Willow May.

Hughes-Ransom Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

A graveside service was held Sunday at Old Scotch Church Cemetery at 30685 N.W. Scotch Church Road in Hillsboro. A reception followed at Hawks Run Estate, 4200 N.W. Leisy Road in Hillsboro.

Donations can be made to the Deep Sea Fishermen's Benefit Fund in Warrenton or Salmon for All.



Capt. Duffy Duncan

**Catalytic converter crime ring busted**

**Culprits arrested are from Lake Oswego and Beaverton**

By SAVANNAH EADENS  
*The Oregonian*

A monthslong investigation by the Beaverton Police Department may have completely dismantled a local organized crime ring responsible for a large portion of catalytic converter thefts up and down the West Coast, police said.

Two alleged ringleaders and at least 12 of their suspected accomplices were indicted July 29 by a Washington County grand jury on dozens of aggravated theft, racketeering and money laundering charges.

The investigation began in late 2021 when detectives said Tanner Lee Hellbusch, 32, of Beaverton, was running an illegal fencing operation by posing as a legitimate business buying and selling catalytic converters. In March, police said they pulled over Hellbusch with more than 100 stolen catalytic converters, worth about \$80,000 on the black market.

Hellbusch's arrest led detectives to the person they believe is the top of the crime enterprise: Brennan Patrick Doyle, 32, of Lake Oswego.

The investigation came to a head in late July when police searched eight locations, including a rented lakefront house in Lake Oswego, where they arrested Doyle and said they found 3,000 catalytic converters, hundreds of thousands of dollars in cash, a high-end car and jewelry.

Doyle, Hellbusch and the 12 other not-yet-publicly-named defendants are accused of trafficking more than 44,000 stolen catalytic converters with an estimated street value of more than \$22 million since January.

"The defendants in this case were living a nice life," said Officer Matt Henderson, a spokesperson for Beaverton police, at a Thursday press conference.

Police said Doyle's organization was capitalizing on the increased price of heavy metals such as rhodium, platinum and palladium found in catalytic converters, which cleanse gas emissions and reduce pollution.

Rhodium, for example, is valued at over \$14,000 an ounce. A standard catalytic converter has just a few grams of precious metals. While an intact catalytic converter is typically sold for \$150 to \$300 cash on the black market, police estimate that once the metal is extracted at a refinery, it's worth about \$800.

Because catalytic converters don't have identifying numbers, they aren't traceable. So it's impossible to know how many of the recovered converters came from cars in Oregon, Henderson said.

Police officials said the organized crime ring was centered in the Portland area but also spanned six Oregon counties and Washington state, Nevada, California, Texas and New York.

The crime ring shipped large boxes of converters to the East Coast and internationally, Henderson said. Dozens, if not hun-



Stacy Jepson, Beaverton's interim police chief, spoke in front of about 1,000 catalytic converters, which were taken for evidence after a monthslong investigation brought down a local organized crime ring that allegedly raked in millions of dollars stealing converters up and down the West Coast.

dreds, of people may have been involved in the operation, he added, but declined to share more details in the ongoing investigation as detectives are still gathering evidence.

"This business was turning millions of dollars worth of profit in catalytic converters," Henderson said. "You need an organization and multiple people to do that."

At least 1,000 catalytic converters from the sting are sitting in evidence boxes at Beaverton Police Department's garage. Henderson said the department is brainstorming how to get the money from those converters back to the community.

Henderson said dozens of law enforcement officers from several local agencies spent thousands of hours on this case. Over the months, they were constantly weighing the "risk and reward" of continuing the investigation and building a case while Doyle and his associates allegedly kept raking in money.

"They reached a point in their investigation where they're confident that they could take off a portion of the organization," Henderson said.

Stacy Jepson, Beaverton's interim police chief, said she hoped the work of investigators in her department will provide a blueprint to other law enforcement agencies locally and nationally.

"Patience has allowed us to take this organization down instead of just scratching the surface," Jepson said.

Court documents show Doyle was operating under a limited liability company in his name.

Doyle had no previous criminal record in Oregon. In the stolen catalytic converter indictment, he's been charged with 69 counts of aggravated theft.

Beaverton police arrested Hellbusch last summer for trespassing and he was found guilty in a misdemeanor charge for being in possession of a burglary tool. He's been convicted three times in Multnomah County in the past decade for driving while impaired and was arrested on several occasions for driving with a revoked or suspended license.

**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 before publication.

Obituaries and notices may be submitted online at [DailyAstorian.com/obituaries](http://DailyAstorian.com/obituaries), by email at [ewilson@dailyastorian.com](mailto:ewilson@dailyastorian.com), placed via the funeral home or in person at The Astorian office, 949 Exchange St. in Astoria.

For more information, call 503-325-3211, ext. 1257.

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**SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR ASTORIA**

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
<b>75 58</b>	<b>76 59</b>	<b>72 59</b>	<b>73 58</b>	<b>72 57</b>	<b>72 56</b>	<b>73 57</b>
Mostly sunny and nice	Clouds and sun	Low clouds	Low clouds may break	Low clouds	Low clouds	Cloudy with a shower

**ALMANAC**

Astoria through Sunday

**Temperatures**

High/low ..... 73/51  
 Normal high/low ..... 69/54  
 Record high ..... 90 in 1942  
 Record low ..... 44 in 1984

**Precipitation**

Sunday ..... 0.00"  
 Month to date ..... 0.18"  
 Normal month to date ..... 0.37"  
 Year to date ..... 43.06"  
 Normal year to date ..... 38.37"

Forecasts and graphics provided by **AccuWeather, Inc.** ©2022

**UNDER THE SKY**

**Tonight's Sky:** Conjunction of waning gibbous moon and Jupiter.

Source: Jim Todd, OMSI

**SUN AND MOON**

Sunrise today ..... 6:16 a.m.  
 Sunset tonight ..... 8:23 p.m.  
 Moonrise today ..... 10:48 p.m.  
 Moonset today ..... 11:48 a.m.

Last New First Full  
 Aug 18 Aug 27 Sep 3 Sep 10

**TODAY'S TIDES**

Astoria / Port Docks	Time	High (ft.)	Time	Low (ft.)
4:54 a.m.	7.0	11:11 a.m.	0.0	
5:26 p.m.	7.6	11:55 p.m.	0.5	
<b>Cape Disappointment</b>	4:25 a.m.	7.0	10:23 a.m.	0.2
5:03 p.m.	7.5	11:05 p.m.	0.7	
<b>Hammond</b>	4:39 a.m.	7.4	10:41 a.m.	0.1
5:12 p.m.	7.9	11:25 p.m.	0.6	
<b>Warrenton</b>	4:49 a.m.	7.4	10:55 a.m.	0.1
5:21 p.m.	8.0	11:39 p.m.	0.6	
<b>Knappa</b>	5:31 a.m.	7.3	12:05 a.m.	0.5
6:03 p.m.	7.9	12:12 p.m.	0.0	
<b>Depoe Bay</b>	3:39 a.m.	7.3	9:50 a.m.	0.3
4:16 p.m.	8.0	10:37 p.m.	1.0	

**NATIONAL CITIES**

City	Today	Wed.
Atlanta	88/71/t	84/68/r
Boston	76/64/pc	72/61/r
Chicago	80/65/pc	81/63/s
Dallas	102/82/s	99/73/c
Denver	83/58/t	87/62/s
Honolulu	88/75/pc	89/75/sh
Houston	98/77/s	98/78/s
Los Angeles	92/68/s	92/67/s
Miami	91/78/t	91/79/pc
New York City	82/66/c	80/65/pc
Phoenix	104/84/t	104/84/t
San Francisco	78/59/pc	77/60/pc
Wash., DC	82/65/sh	82/66/pc

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.	City	Today	Wed.
Baker City	96/50/s	99/55/pc	North Bend	69/56/pc	67/57/c
Brookings	75/58/s	69/56/c	Roseburg	94/62/s	98/66/pc
Ilwaco	73/60/s	75/58/c	Seaside	76/59/s	79/59/c
Newberg	91/62/s	100/65/pc	Springfield	93/60/s	101/64/pc
Newport	66/54/pc	65/54/c	Vancouver	89/63/s	99/69/pc