

Seaside man started house fire before taking own life

The Astorian

Investigators have concluded the Seaside man killed in February started the fire that destroyed his home.

Officials say Stephen Scott Penwarden, 69, started a fire in his two-story home on S. Columbia Street before killing himself. He

was the only occupant in the home when the blaze started.

Investigators say Penwarden started the fire sometime after midnight and crews were called at 1:04 a.m.

Nearby properties were threatened by the fire and four occupied homes sur-



Scott Penwarden

rounding the fire were evacuated.

Firefighters were unable to enter the home because of the danger the fire presented.

The investigation was conducted by the Seaside Police Department and Clatsop County Fire Investigation Team.

Gearhart Police win state safety grant

Seaside Signal



R.J. Marx

Speed sign outside of Gearhart Elementary School.

The Oregon Department of Transportation delivered a \$1,500 speed grant to the city of Gearhart this week for speed enforcement. Funds are for overtime use, Police Chief Jeff Bowman said March 4.

The city will match the grant with straight time enforcement. The one-year grant period runs from Oct. 1, 2019 to Sept. 30.

PUBLIC SAFETY LOGS

Gearhart Police

Gearhart Police reported one theft, 33 traffic and city infractions, one hit-and-run, two trespasses, and 17 disturbances in February.

The department conducted 529 security checks, responded to three alarms, two open doors, and 66 cases of assistance rendered. One non-injury, property damage traffic accident was reported.



Feb. 21

12:30 a.m., Highway 101/ Camp Rilea: A person is arrested and charged with driving while intoxicated.

Feb. 22

2:27 a.m., 1400 block S. Columbia: Police on patrol speak with subject who said he is retrieving personal items from the backyard and will not be entering the residence.

9:13 a.m., Avenue K and the Prom: Tents reported on the beach.

11:42 a.m., 1900 block S. Roosevelt: Caller reports group of people removing items from burnt out RV; officer responding advise person responsible for the RV to clean up the area.

10:25 p.m., Cove: A disabled vehicle is reported; police

speak with the owner who said they are getting help.

10:54 p.m., 300 block Avenue A: Loud, intoxicated people are reported arguing; police make contact and find them to be loud and intoxicated, but not fighting. They agree to leave the area in a taxi.

Feb. 23

1:28 a.m., Broadway: Caller reports an assault; on arrival police determine there was no criminality and the parties were merely expressing a difference of opinion.

4:41 a.m., 300 block Necanicum: Caller reports someone knocking on her door; a second, unrelated caller at the same location reports her boyfriend missing. Officers locate an intoxicated man and reunite him with his girlfriend.

6:35 a.m., First Avenue: A surfboard is reported stolen from a vehicle.

Feb. 24

6:55 a.m., 1300 block Broadway: Caller reports finding a loose dog; the dog's owner was calling the police station at the same time and is told where to find the dog.

8:08 a.m., Police headquarters: A person came in to register as a sex offender.

Feb. 25

12:36 a.m., Avenue A: An intoxicated person is assisted back to their residence. Shortly after, an emergency medical assistance is called for.

2:27 p.m., 1100 block Broadway: Sex crimes are reported.

8:07 p.m., Avenue N and Prom: Police respond to a report of a woman causing a disturbance, but are unable to locate.

Feb. 26

3:57 p.m., 400 block S. Roosevelt: A person is arrested on a warrant.

7:27 p.m., Avenue G: At the scene of a motor vehicle accident, a person is arrested on a warrant.

Feb. 27

9:12 a.m., 1200 block S. Wahanna: A person is trespassed from a property after being reported going through dumpsters.

2:00 p.m., 400 block Fairway Court: A 3-year-old child reported missing is located prior to police arrival.

March 1

9:59 a.m., 3000 block Evergreen Drive: A transient woman reported rummaging through trash is reported by several neighbors; police are unable to locate anyone of that description.

12:49 p.m., 1400 block S. Columbia: Neighbors report subjects going inside a recently condemned house. Subjects tell police they are on the property to clean up their mess.

3:01 p.m., Police headquarters: A person comes in to register as a sex offender.

6:42 p.m., 400 block S. Downing: A burglary is reported.

9:26 p.m., S. Wahanna: Police respond to a report of an unattended child in a residence. The parent is contacted and returns to care for the child.

March 2

12:24 a.m., S. Holladay: A person is arrested on a warrant.

3:07 a.m., 2500 block Millcreek Lane: Emergency medical response.

6:50 a.m., Estuary: A person is advised they can't park and sleep in their car.

4:08 p.m., S. Downing and Avenue K: A person is arrested on a warrant.

4:32 p.m., Police headquarters: A person came in to register as a sex offender.

9:42 p.m. 1700 block Cooper Street: A person is arrested on a warrant.

March 3

10:05 a.m., Police headquarters: A person came in for their annual sex offender registration.

7:30 p.m., 800 block S. Holladay: Occupants having a loud argument in a guest room agree to get separate rooms for the night.

March 4

2:31 a.m., Beach: Caller reports losing boyfriend on the beach; officer determines they had a misunderstanding. Couple reunited.

11:14 p.m., S. Roosevelt: Caller requests police assistance

getting an unwanted party to leave the property; police arrive and subject leaves.

March 5

9:43 a.m., Seaside area: Mother calls and says she had a fight with her daughter and has not heard from her. She says the daughter is not suicidal and has not made any statements of intent to self harm. She wants police to contact the daughter and then call her to let her know her daughter is ok.

11:28 a.m., S. Roosevelt: A person wanted on a warrant is arrested in a surf shop parking lot.

1:36 p.m., 2500 block S. Roosevelt: Officers assist Medix with a riled up 93-year-old woman requiring transport.

10:29 p.m. 1000 block S. Columbia: Police respond to a report of a dog howling for several days; they make contact with the residents who say they don't have a dog.



Feb. 21

4:45 a.m., Avenue A: Emergency medical response.

6:08 a.m., S. Wahanna: Emergency medical response.

9:37 a.m., 2600 block Highway 101: Emergency medical response.

Feb. 23

12:37 p.m., 84000 block Necanicum View: Structure fire.

2:56 p.m., 2000 block Highway 101: Emergency medical response.

5:24 p.m., S. Lincoln: Emergency medical response.

10:44 p.m., Avenue A, South Lincoln: Motor vehicle accident with injuries.

Feb. 24

1:00 a.m., 2100 block S. Columbia: Structure fire.

8:06 p.m., 400 block S. Roosevelt: Emergency medical response.

Feb. 25

1:37 a.m., 500 block Bonnie Court: Emergency medical response.

2:11 a.m., 700 block S. Wahanna: Emergency medical response.

10:17 a.m., 1600 block N. Prom: Emergency medical response.

5:30 p.m., 800 block 13th Avenue: Fire investigation.

Feb. 26

7:11 p.m., 2000 block Mill Creek: Emergency medical response.

March 1

3:34 a.m. 1900 Spruce: Emergency medical response.

March 2

7:48 a.m., 16th and Franklin: Emergency medical response.

12:13 p.m., Hillside Loop: Emergency medical response.

SPOTLIGHT ON HEALTH Sponsored by Columbia Memorial Hospital



Staying Healthy - Preventing the Spread of ALL Viruses

Recent news about the new coronavirus that causes COVID-19, has many people worried. While there are good reasons for our public health officials to urge caution, there are many things you can do to keep yourself and your loved ones healthy—without going to extremes.



Kendra Gohl

Infection Prevention Nurse

CMH Director of Nursing Services

Viruses are microscopic organisms that vary from simple to highly complex. Each has unique traits, including how it moves from one person to another, how it infects people, and who it infects.

Viruses cannot be treated with antibiotics. They can only be prevented through vaccines and healthy habits. The best way to prevent getting and spreading viruses is by building these healthy habits into your everyday life

- **Clean your hands often.** See the sidebar for the best way to clean your hands.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- **Clean all “high-touch” surfaces everyday with a bleach-based cleanser.** High touch surfaces include counters, tabletops, doorknobs, bathroom fixtures, toilets, phones, keyboards, tablets, and bedside tables. Also, clean any surfaces that may have blood, stool, or body fluids on them.

- Take care of your immune system by getting proper nutrition, hydration, sleep and exercise.

When you are sick, it's important that you prevent spreading the virus to others. One thing that makes COVID-19 concerning, is that it spreads quickly. Early data suggests that one sick person can infect several others.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, “The virus that causes COVID-19 seems to be spreading easily and sustainably in Hubei province and other parts of China. In the United States, spread from person-to-person has occurred only among a few close contacts and has not spread any further to-date.”

With any infection, you should:

- Stay home when you are sick, unless you need medical care. Avoid public places, including work, school, stores, etc.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw used tissues in a lined trash can; immediately clean your hands.
- **Clean your hands often.** See the sidebar for the best way to clean your hands.
- Limit contact with other people in your household to prevent spreading the virus to them.
- Avoid sharing items, including glasses, cups, utensils, towels.

It's everyone's responsibility to practice good hygiene. Together, we can slow or stop the spread of viruses, including COVID-19, the flu and the common cold.

Cleaning Your Hands Tips from the CDC

Washing your hands often with soap and water is the best way to get rid of germs.

Here's how:

1. Wet your hands with clean, running water (warm or cold), turn off the tap, and apply soap.
2. Lather your hands by rubbing them together with the soap. Lather the backs of your hands, between your fingers, and under your nails.
3. Scrub your hands for at least 20 seconds. Need a timer? Hum the “Happy Birthday” song from beginning to end twice.
4. Rinse your hands well under clean, running water.
5. Dry your hands using a clean towel or air dry them.

When you can't use soap and water to wash your hands, clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains 60 to 95 percent alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.