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## New LB police officer fired at last position

Wright says LBPB did due diligence

By BRANDON CLINE  
*Chinook Observer*

LONG BEACH — The newest officer of the Long Beach Police Department was fired from the Seattle Police Department last year for derogatory social media posts that violated the department's social media policy and prompted the U.S. Secret Service to open a criminal investigation into the matter.

Officer Duane Goodman was an 11-year veteran of the SPD when he was fired in January 2020 in part because of a pair of posts he made on Instagram that the department's police chief said caused her to lose confidence in his ability to protect and serve the public. Goodman was hired this summer by the LBPB, and his first day on-duty was Sept. 1.

Long Beach Police Chief Flint Wright said LBPB did its due diligence on Goodman throughout the hiring process, including speaking with the offi-

*See Officer, Page A8*

## Cape D trail reopens this weekend

By PATRICK WEBB  
*For the Observer*

CAPE D — The Cape Disappointment Trail will open soon.

But despite several optimistic online postings last week, the Ilwaco trail is not open yet.

Chief Warrant Officer Jason McCombs, commander of the U.S. Coast Guard at Cape D, said it will be open for limited access this weekend.

The trail is a joint project with the U.S. Coast Guard and the Washington State Parks whose jurisdictions abut each other. The portion maintained by State Parks is a dirt trail; the Coast Guard base has a paved road to the lighthouse.

Access for walkers will be through a lockable gate at the trailhead from the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center. It will be open from 8 a.m. to dusk daily — but only when the weather is fine.

*See Trail, Page A9*



JEFF CLEMENS

Questioned by defense attorney Pam Nogueira, Mickey Pine explained his alternative theory of how a fatal crash happened as Prosecutor Ben Haslam and his co-counsel looked on. Pine claimed the accident-scene recreation by the Washington State Patrol was inaccurate and added that in his opinion the collision occurred in his lane and he was struck, not vice versa. Judge Don Richter presided at the trial.

## On trial: Jurors convict Pine of vehicular homicide

Defense promises swift appeal of confusing verdict

By JEFF CLEMENS  
*For the Observer*

SOUTH BEND — Two and a half years after a fatal collision on State Route 6 that took the life of Shawn D. Clearwater, 49, on Sept. 30 a man was found guilty of vehicular homicide.

Mickey S. Pine, 41, of Adna, was convicted after a nearly week-long trial and four hours of jury deliberation.

However, according to his attorney Pam Nogueira of Aberdeen-based Ingram, Zelasko & Goodwin, LLC, the case is still far from over. She expects to file an immediate appeal and additional motions.

### Question about verdict

As the trial wrapped up last week, trial court Judge Don Richter informed everyone that he planned to give the jury until 6 p.m. to reach a verdict or end deliberations for the day and bring back the jury the following morning. Instead, at 6 p.m., the prosecution and



JEFF CLEMENS

Krista Hedstrom, a detective with the Washington State Patrol, explained to the jury the scene recreation diagram from the collision that she created.

defense were notified the jury elected to stay until they reached a verdict. Shortly before 7 p.m., the court

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was notified that a verdict had been reached, and all parties were recalled to the courtroom. All officers in the county's northern portion were dispatched to respond to the courthouse to keep the peace.

However, before they arrived, the jury entered the courtroom and provided Richter with their verdict. He removed his mask to read the verdict out loud but looked at the paper and immediately looked up at Nogueira before pausing a moment to hand down the verdict.

Nogueira put her hand to her face and let out a sigh.

"We the jury find the defendant Mickey Pine guilty of the crime

*See Verdict, Page A8*

## AMBULANCE ANGELS

### One last gift to a dying grandma

Fire District applauded for granting ocean air wish

By PATRICK WEBB  
*For the Observer*

PENINSULA — Gratitude is sometimes fleeting. For the family of Kathy Ambrose, it will last a lifetime.

When it was clear a "brain bleed" would prove debilitating, her family asked the 80-year-old grandmother what would make her happy.

She wanted to breath

ocean air — one last time.

And, thanks to the personnel at Pacific County Fire District 1, it happened.

Late last month, crew members helped Ambrose into one of their shiny red

*See Wish, Page A9*



PHOTO COURTESY WAGES FAMILY

Sue Wages, left, and daughter, Olivia, hug with joy as her mother, Kathy Ambrose, enjoys the refreshing ocean air thanks to personnel from Pacific County Fire District 1 who arranged an ambulance ride to the beach. "This was a perfect day," posted granddaughter Sabrina Wages.

## Republican proposes shift to coastal district

By BRANDON CLINE  
*Chinook Observer*

LONG BEACH — Odds are favorable that Pacific County will remain in the Southwest Washington-based 3rd Congressional District for another 10 years, but last week's unveiling of the proposed congressional maps from the state's four redistricting commissioners have provided a dash of intrigue about how the county may be represented in Congress for the next decade.

Maps from three of the four commissioners would keep Pacific County in the predominantly south-west-based 3rd Congressional District, anchored by Vancouver, while the fourth map envisions the county joining the Olympic Peninsula-centered 6th District. Under that map, proposed by the state Senate Republican Caucus appointee Joe Fain, the 6th District would comprise all coastal Washington

*See District, Page A6*

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# Trail

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The trail was closed at the end of June 2020 amid the discovery of vandalism and continuing safety concerns. Of particular concern was access to Deadman's Cove, a scenic inlet in the basalt cliffs at Washington state's southwestern tip. Some hikers who flouted "no trespassing" signs have had to be rescued in the last few years. Officials have warned about the dangers of the significantly eroding slope amid ramped up worries about liability.

McCommons said the closure had been necessary. "We found drug paraphernalia and graffiti and damage to our Aids to Navigation boards," he said. "People had been going inside the lighthouse and our watch tender tower and harassing our people."

He said he was eager for the community to be able to enjoy the trails, although the interior of the 1856 lighthouse remains closed to all visitors because of its deteriorating condition. "But if we see an uptick in crime, vandalism or drug use, we will shut the gates again," he said.

Weather will be the other

## EDITOR'S NOTE

The trail to Cape Disappointment Lighthouse can be accessed either from just south of the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center or from the center's main parking lot.

The trail has a dirt surface until just above the Coast Guard station, where it passes through a new lockable gate and transitions into a well-paved but steep road leading to the lighthouse. Both portions of the trail require moderate physical fitness.

A Discover Pass is required to park at the interpretive center.

key. "If it's nasty, I am going to keep them closed."

Last week, the Coast Guard, which has performed some landscaping improvements, completed the installation of new fencing. State Parks personnel will perform some final brush clearing before the opening.

The Interpretive Center, which is maintained by State Parks, closed for part of 2020 because of covid health safety concerns. It is open daily through October.



**'IF WE SEE AN UPTICK IN CRIME, VANDALISM OR DRUG USE, WE WILL SHUT THE GATES AGAIN.'**

Jason McCommons  
Cape Disappointment commander



Deadman's Cove, a scenic natural wonder near U.S. Coast Guard Station Cape Disappointment, will remain off limits due to safety concerns.



The walking trail to Cape Disappointment will be reopened for public access this weekend. The gate will be unlocked daily from 8 a.m. to dusk during good weather. The U.S. Coast Guard and Washington State Parks own and maintain the two portions of the trail.



Hikers will once again be able to get closeup views of Cape Disappointment Lighthouse when a trail reopens this weekend.

# Wish

Continued from Page A1

ambulances and drove onto the beach. They positioned the rig with the rear doors facing the ocean.

The weather cooperated: sunshine and a bracing breeze.

"It was very emotional," said her 25-year-old granddaughter Sabrina Wages. "She has always been the strong one and so sassy,

and suddenly she's not. She is so dependent on us. I'm thankful we got to take her."

## 57 years

Mel and Kathy Ambrose met in Seaview in the early 1960s. He was from the Peninsula where his family owned the Arcadia Court, now apartments; she was from Portland. They married 57 years ago, moved elsewhere, but retired to Ocean Park where they lived for about 15 years.

About 10 years ago, the couple moved to Branson, Missouri, to be close to daughter Sue Ambrose Wages and seven grandchildren.

"We used to go to the beach every summer, although we couldn't during the pandemic," said Sue Wages. "Then in January, she had a large brain bleed."

Seeing a slight recovery, they planned September's Long Beach visit.

Just before they left, Kathy Ambrose suffered another serious health setback.

"Dad was just adamant that we go," Sue Wages said. "I think he thought the beach would change everything. We worked very hard to get them there."

The complicated logistics would fill a chapter in a book. One family member flew back from Portland to accompany Kathy Ambrose on her flight; others drove 2,121 miles west. The beach party included the Ambroses, daughter Sue Wages and five of her children, Sabrina, Olivia, Timothy, Johanna and Aidan.

## Honored to help

When the family posted an online plea for help, Lani Karvia from Fire District 1 in Ocean Park pitched in. At first they thought borrowing a beach-adapted wheelchair would be best, but Kathy Ambrose's frail condition meant that would not work.

The family said Karvia realized a little more aid was needed. "She was great," said Sue Wages, emotion evident during a



Pacific County Fire District 1 provided the ambulance that created the memories for the Ambrose-Wages family. "Thank you from the bottom of our hearts," posted granddaughter Sabrina Wages.

telephone interview.

The district is cautious sharing details about its mercy missions because of medical privacy laws. But pride in his team's role was evident when Fire Chief Jacob Brundage was asked about it. He noted that everything his personnel do is geared toward providing the best "quality of life" for Peninsula residents.

"This includes providing special opportunities for families and patients to enjoy a final special moment during the difficult times faced during end-of-life circumstances," he said. "We are honored to provide these opportunities that promote peace and healing for everyone involved."

## Compassion above and beyond

The family shared its thanks on the Long Beach Peninsula Friends of Facebook page.

"This was a perfect day. Thanks to the amazing Ocean Park Fire Department we were able to take Grandma to the beach one last time," posted Sabrina Wages. "She enjoyed the breeze and ocean air."

It touched hearts. Lori Schaffer added her gratitude for the fire district. "This goes above and

beyond the call of duty. This is called compassion, something that this world seems to be lacking of late."

She added, "Sabrina Wages — thank you for sharing these precious memories with us. Your love for your grandmother is shown so deeply here. You ... wanted to give her one last gift."

"Just love our time on the Peninsula and its great people," noted Jim Hutchinson. "As the son of a long-time volunteer fireman, it does my heart good when I read of these kindnesses."

The next challenge was the family's return trip to Missouri. "I honestly didn't think she would make it home from the beach," Sue Wages said. They persevered, in part because of the complications involved in trying to arrange care away from her existing medical team. "My Dad needed it, too," she added, noting he wanted to share a farewell at the location where they met.

Kathy Ambrose was admitted to hospice care last Friday.

For those commenting on the online story, Miriam Sheaffer offered the best words.

"This is what love looks like."



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