

Dead anchovies fill harbor

BROOKINGS — Boats have been replaced by piles of dead, stinking fish this summer as this southern coastal town suffers through its first anchovy die-off in at least two decades.

Fish experts said such an event is rare. Brookings has only seen three mass deaths in more than 30 years, said Jim Welter, a fishing adviser for the Port of Brookings.

Last month, millions of the silvery 6-inch fish sank to the bottom of Brookings Harbor and rose to the surface as blackened corpses, where pelicans, cormorants, and seagulls feasted on them.

Stacks of rotting fish three feet deep prevented some boats from mooring in their usual docks. More massive die-offs are expected, Welter said.

Boats with inboard motors have had their engines clogged by the slippery remains and U.S. Coast Guard vessels in Brookings have switched to outboard motors to avoid problems, said Petty Officer 2nd Class Mark Dilenge.

Anchovy die-offs usually occur after seasons favorable to anchovy breeding. Anchovies, which thrive in cold, nutrient-rich water, seek out places such as Brookings Harbor to feed and spawn.

When that happens, large congregations of fish mean "that there are too many fish for the oxygen in the water," Welter said. "It happens anywhere where so many fish get together and use up all the oxygen."

Welter said this year's dry weather could have compounded the problem because natural rain

run-off helps aerate the water. The Port of Brookings plans to install an aerator where the first mass of anchovies died to help keep fish alive, he said.

Russ Crabtree, the port's executive director, said the fish smell is only bad at certain times of the day — when it is hot and at low tide.

Brookings draws about 750,000 tourists every summer, but residents aren't worried that the piles of fish will hurt business.

"This is a working harbor," said Crabtree. "We have a lot of attractions like music, public boardwalks, specialty shops and beautiful beaches, but we've also got a fish processing plant and sport fishermen who work out of here."

The Associated Press

Oregon briefs

Mannix announces bid for governor

BEND — Former state Rep. Kevin Mannix announced Saturday he would seek the Republican nomination for governor in 2002.

"We will begin this adventure together today," Mannix told cheering members of the state party's central committee at its meeting in Bend.

A conservative Salem lawyer, Mannix said he will make an official announcement July 6 that he has entered the race and formed a committee to raise campaign funds. But he said Saturday that he wanted to make his intentions known to supporters.

Mannix's announcement complicates a primary race that already includes state Labor Commissioner Jack Roberts and Portland lawyer Ron Saxton. Mannix, who made a reputation in Salem as a tough-on-crime legisla-

tor, is the only GOP candidate opposed to abortion rights.

His candidacy will likely draw support from the strong anti-abortion camp within the state party and could make for a bitterly contested primary. Mannix, however, downplayed the notion that his candidacy would spark a contentious race.

There is the question of whether a staunch conservative can carry a state that hasn't voted a Republican into the governor's mansion since Victor Atiyeh was re-elected in 1982.

Mannix, who lost a bid for attorney general last year, said he wasn't worried about his ability to be elected.

The Associated Press

House approves rebate relief bill

SALEM — Oregonians would be able to keep their federal tax rebate checks out of the hands of state tax

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Heat

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stumps protruding from the water.

But Henry said the valley's waterways are still open for boating, and almost all lakes and reservoirs have low-water ramps specifically for these kind of situations.

He said the Blue River, Cougar and Fern Ridge waterways may become inaccessible to boaters as the summer progresses because they don't have low-water ramps, and water levels certainly won't rise during the next three months, but most places will remain open all summer.

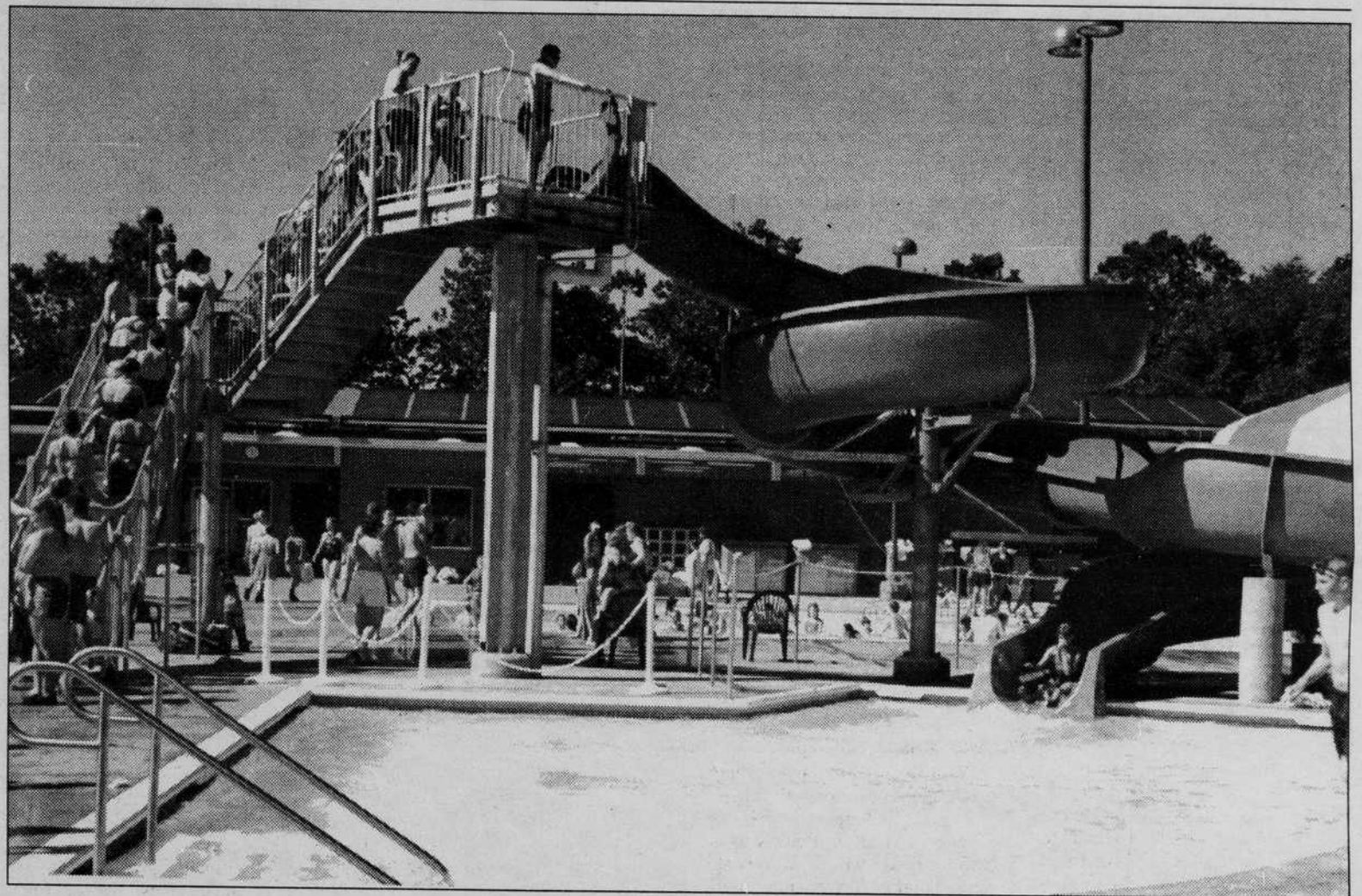
Part of the reason water levels have not dipped to critical levels is June's odd weather. Although May soaked the valley in sunshine, June was slightly wetter than average, said Chris Hannan, a manager at the Oregon Climate Service. She said the nighttime lows were especially chilly during the month as well.

Hannan said Oregon had the second driest winter on record, but June's overcast skies mended some of the damage. Although the rain did pour occasionally last month, she said the cloudy skies helped the most because the clouds reduce evaporation. June's mark of 5.5 inches was .5 inches less than normal for the month.

Hannan added that unseasonable weather during every season of the year is not a new phenomenon in Oregon.

"We rarely get a 'normal' month," she said. "It tends to flip-flop. We aren't setting any records on anything we haven't seen before."

She said Wednesday's 90-degree predicted high is the perfect exam-



Sounds of splashing and laughter filled the afternoon air as many people tried to escape the midday heat at the newly remodeled Amazon Pool at 26th and Hilyard. Long lines for the slides didn't stop the happy swimmers from enjoying the summer day. Forecasters anticipate hot weather for the remainder of the week.

Jessie Swimeley Emerald

ple, as the temperature will suddenly buck the recent trend of cloudy skies for Fourth of July parades, picnics and fireworks shows.

"There's the old joke that summer in Oregon doesn't start until July 5," she said.

While many retreat to lakes or streams when the heat rises, plenty of people grab their towels and head for public pools.

Heather O'Leary, who works at the newly remodeled Amazon Pool, said lines could form this week as swim-

mers of all ages push the pool's 1,100-person capacity limit. She suggested that people arrive between 1:30 and 1:45 p.m. to ensure they get in for the 2-5 p.m. open swim held Monday through Friday.

"Most of the time, when people

have to wait, they get in eventually," she said.

The Oregon Climate Service is reporting a chance of some clouds later in the week that could push high temperatures down into the 75-degree range.

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