

OREGON BRIEFS

1 dead, 3 hospitalized in Legionnaires’ disease outbreak

PORTLAND — An outbreak of Legionnaires’ disease at a North Portland apartment complex has killed one person and sickened three others, county health officials said.

Multnomah County health officials said Tuesday, Jan. 5, they told more than 100 residents of Rosemont Court on Dekum Street to leave after residents contracted pneumonia, The Oregonian/OregonLive reported.

The health department said experts linked the outbreak Monday to the apartment’s water system. County officials are working to clean the building’s plumbing system and remove any remaining traces of Legionella, the bacteria that causes the disease.

The health department is working with Northwest Housing Alternatives, which owns Rosemont Court, to find other places for residents to stay, according to a news release. Multnomah County spokeswoman Julie Sullivan-Springhetti said residents were staying in Portland-area hotels, per a contract with the county, while health officials investigate the outbreak source.

People can contract the disease when they breathe in very small droplets of water with the bacteria. Most exposed to it don’t get sick but some people can contract severe pneumonia. Symptoms include fever, fatigue, muscle aches and headache. More serious symptoms include cough and chest pain. The disease is not spread person to person.

As of Monday 20 residents had left the building and officials said more were leaving Tuesday.

Airline passenger throws punches after kids kick seat

PORTLAND — A woman is facing charges after attacking another woman on a Spirit Airlines flight at Portland International Airport on Sunday, Jan. 3, because the woman’s children had kicked the back of her seat.

Daydrena Jaslin Walker-Williams pulled her luggage from an overhead bin and then punched passenger Nataly Hernandez several times, leaving Hernandez with a bleeding lip and lumps on her head, a probable-cause affidavit states.

Walker-Williams said she hit Hernandez “2 to 3 times in the face with her fist,” according to the complaint. She told police she was upset Hernandez’s children kicked the back of her seat, and said she told Hernandez “to tell her kids to stop it.” The Oregonian/OregonLive reported. She said Hernandez ignored her and later “hit her on the shoulder.”

Walker-Williams said

she didn’t tell a flight attendant about shoulder hit because her “first reaction was to fight,” according to the affidavit. Officers told Walker-Williams that other people on the plane saw her pummel Hernandez, but did not see Hernandez hit her on the shoulder.

The Multnomah County District Attorney’s Office has charged Walker-Williams with felony assault and harassment.

Man accused of pepper-spraying police at Oregon Capitol

SALEM — A Portland man is accused of pepper-spraying six Salem and state police officers while breaking into the Oregon State Capitol during a protest against COVID-19 restrictions.

Chandler Pappas, 27, sprayed a line of officers in the face on Dec. 21, Marion County Deputy District Attorney Drew Anderson said Tuesday, Jan. 5.

Anderson said Pappas was armed with an AR-15 and the incident was caught on cameras worn by officers, the Statesman Journal reported.

Pappas allegedly posted on Twitter afterward saying he was not sorry for what he did, Anderson said. Pappas is being held in the Marion County jail on \$250,000 bail. It wasn’t known if Pappas has a lawyer.

Pappas was one of several men taken into custody that day for alleged violent behavior during a protest decrying COVID-related closures during a special legislative session.

Pappas faces six counts of assaulting a police officer, as well as a burglary and riot charge.

Pappas is a supporter of Patriot Prayer, a right-wing, Washington-based group. According to a probable cause statement, on Dec. 21, Pappas allegedly pepper-sprayed Salem police detective Anthony Burke, officers Jeffrey Lucenti, Vincent Salazar, Roger Hibbeler, and David Smith, and Oregon State Police Trooper Logan Denney.

Burke said in the statement he was unable to see clearly for about five minutes after being pepper-sprayed. He said he felt “severe pain” and skin irritation, and had difficulty breathing.

After Pappas allegedly sprayed the officers, they retreated into the Capitol building, which was closed because of the coronavirus pandemic. Burke said Pappas and others forcefully entered the building vestibule while police stood by the doors leading into the main lobby to keep protesters out. Pappas allegedly started kicking the doors that were latched with handcuffs.

“It was clear that Chandler was leading the crowd to engage in violent and riotous behavior against law enforcement officers keeping the protesters from entering,” Burke said in the statement.

— Associated Press

New push to draw tourism to Willamette River

By COREY BUCHANAN
Lake Oswego Review via AP StoryShare

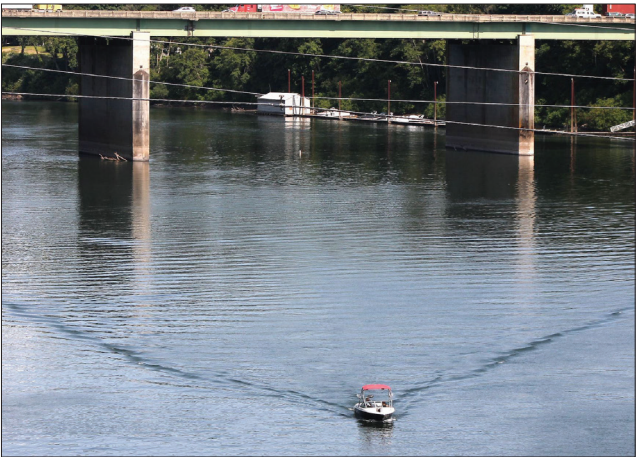
SALEM — While Heather King saw more water-goers flock to the Willamette River this summer than ever before due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the deputy director for the Willamette Riverkeeper nonprofit organization said the waterway can sometimes be an afterthought compared to other destinations the McKenzie or John Day rivers.

“It is a beautiful river. It’s a river you can take overnight trips on and never see another boat on the river depending on the trip,” King said. “People just don’t think about it as a place to go.”

With the assistance of Travel Oregon, a collection of local organizations are hoping to change that. The Willamette Valley Visitors Association, Willamette Riverkeeper, Mt. Hood Territory and other groups are part of a steering committee created to attract more visitors to the Willamette Water Trail (a water trail mostly along the Willamette that is recognized by the National Park Service) and foster economic development.

“I’d really love to be able to see the future vision where there are a variety of experiences for water enthusiasts, for people getting out and having their first paddle, to folks who want a multi-day experience on this nationally recognized river system on the Willamette — and that experience is tied to communities along the river. That’s where the measure of success comes,” said Samara Phelps, the executive director of Mount Hood Territory.

Tori Middelstadt, the WVVA development and industry relations manager, said perceptions that the Willamette is dirty might lead to reluctance to recreate on it. The river was polluted much more prolifically in the 20th century than it is now. The river received a B- report card from EcoHealth in terms of its



PortlandTribune/Contributed Photo

Organizations are identifying ways to promote the Willamette River as an attractive destination.

healthiness, with the portion of the river near Wilsonville receiving a B.

“At least from Oregonians’ perspective, there’s a misnomer that the Willamette is dirty. The Willamette Riverkeeper has done a lot of environmental work. It’s clean, safe and recreational,” she said.

King also said many perceive the Willamette as a day trip option but not a place for multi-day travel.

“You can put a canoe and kayak in Eugene and paddle the river until the Columbia. (That’s) 187 miles. You can camp along it. It’s very user-friendly,” she said.

Some concepts these groups are working on include improving signage along the river, creating updated maps and providing information on rules, how to obtain a river access permit and historical context. They also plan to include destinations such as restaurants and hotels that can help river users plan their trips. This information will be available on the Willamette Water Trail website, <https://willamettewatertrail.org/>, and other community sites.

Eventually, they also hope to establish more non-motorized facilities and restrooms along the river, which Phelps said

are needed. The WVVA noted that the Legislature and Oregon State Marine Board’s establishment of a water access permit program has created a funding stream for the development of more boat launches along the river.

“Water access sites have been designed with motorized recreation as the focus and that’s great. We have a need for infrastructure that’s focused on non-motorized as well,” Phelps said.

These groups were planning to host workshops in communities to gather input on how to better accentuate the river this year, but that initiative was put on hold due to the pandemic. They plan to hold the sessions next year, however.

As for what local communities can do to promote the river, steering committee members encouraged them to set up storage stations near their marinas or boat launch facilities so that people can get out of their watercraft and frequent local restaurants in town, particularly once the COVID-19 pandemic subsides.

The Wilsonville government had planned to forward a parks and recreation bond measure to voters that likely would have included the addition of a boat launch and

storage facility at Boones Ferry Park and improved river access at Memorial Park, but the bond was shelved in the wake of the pandemic.

King mentioned Independence, Oregon as an example of a city that melds the river into its local economy. The city has a hotel along the river as well as campgrounds nearby. It also has separate areas for paddlers and motorized boats to enter the river, which Middelstadt said improves accessibility. She added that a uniform locker system for recreators to store their equipment along the river is a long-term goal.

Mark Ottenad, the city of Wilsonville public affairs director, said the lack of available waterfront property is a challenge in terms of fostering more connection points between the river and the community. The city also cut its tourism budget in half during the pandemic. However, he felt that the reopening of the Willamette Falls Locks, which has gained traction recently and could be approved next year, could open up the Wilsonville community to river users in Portland.

“The company that operated Portland Spirit indicates interest in bringing tours into wine country through the valley. Potentiality, should that occur, we could be able to tap into that,” Ottenad said.

At the same time, one of the Willamette Riverkeeper’s primary objectives is to preserve the natural habitat and environment along the river. King thinks that can be done alongside increased usage, but river-goers would need to be educated about cleaning up their own messes and being cognizant of the natural habitat around them.

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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
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