

Beloved children's author Beverly Cleary dies at 104

By HILLEL ITALIE
AP National Writer

NEW YORK — Beverly Cleary, the celebrated children's author whose memories of her Oregon childhood were shared with millions through the likes of Ramona Quimby and Beezus Quimby and Henry Huggins, has died. She was 104.

Cleary's publisher HarperCollins announced Friday, March 26, that the author died Thursday in Carmel Valley, California, where she had lived since the 1960s. No cause of death was given.

Trained as a librarian, Cleary didn't start writing books until her early 30s when she wrote "Henry Huggins," published in 1950. Children worldwide came to love the adventures of Huggins and neighbors Ellen Tebbits, Otis Spofford, Beatrice



Beverly Cleary signs books on April 19, 1998, at the Monterey Bay Book Festival in Monterey, California. The beloved children's author, whose characters Ramona Quimby and Henry Huggins enthralled generations of youngsters, died last week at her home in Carmel, California. She was 104.

"Beezus" Quimby and her younger sister, Ramona. They inhabit a down-home, wholesome setting on Klickitat Street — a real street in Portland, the city

where Cleary spent much of her youth.

Among the "Henry" titles were "Henry and Ribsy," "Henry and the Paper Route" and

"Henry and Beezus."

Ramona, perhaps her best-known character, made her debut in the first "Henry Huggins" title, with only a brief mention.

"All the children appeared to be only children so I tossed in a little sister and she didn't go away. She kept appearing in every book," she said in a March 2016 telephone interview from her California home.

Cleary herself was an only child and said the character wasn't a mirror. "I was a well-behaved little girl, not that I wanted to be," she said. "At the age of Ramona, in those days, children played outside. We played hopscotch and jump rope and I loved them and always had scraped knees."

In all, there were eight books about Ramona between "Beezus and Ramona" in 1955 and "Ramona's World" in 1999. Others included "Ramona the Pest" and "Ramona and Her Father." In 1981, "Ramona and Her Mother" won the

National Book Award.

Cleary wasn't writing recently because she said she felt "it's important for writers to know when to quit."

"I even got rid of my typewriter. It was a nice one but I hate to type. When I started writing I found that I was thinking more about my typing than what I was going to say, so I wrote it longhand," she said in March 2016.

Although she put away her pen, Cleary rereleased three of her most cherished books with three famous fans writing forewords for the new editions.

Actress Amy Poehler penned the front section of "Ramona Quimby, Age 8;" author Kate DiCamillo wrote the opening for "The Mouse and the Motorcycle;" and author Judy Blume wrote the foreword for "Henry Huggins."

Oregon brothers accused in U.S. Capitol siege ordered held

Associated Press

PORTLAND — Two brothers arrested last week in Oregon on federal charges of participating in the U.S. Capitol insurrection will be held in custody pending trial on six felony charges.

Matthew Klein, 24, and Jonathanpeter Klein, 21, appeared separately on Friday, March 26, before U.S. Magistrate Judge Zia M. Faruqi in the District of Columbia court via video conference from Portland, The Oregonian/OregonLive reported.

Both are expected to remain detained at least until their next court hearing scheduled for April 1. The brothers are being held at the Multnomah County Detention Center in Portland.

The federal magistrate judge who presided over the brothers' hearings cited a ruling out Friday from a U.S. District of Columbia Circuit Court of Appeals panel regarding a Tennessee mother and son charged in the Jan. 6 riot who challenged their pre-trial detention.

The appeals panel wrote that in its view "those who

actually assaulted police officers and broke through windows, doors, and barricades and those who aided, conspired with, planned or coordinated such actions, are in a different category of dangerousness than those who cheered on the violence or entered the Capitol after others cleared the way."

The Kleins were among the first group to breach the Capitol about 2:16 p.m., after Matthew Klein helped others climb a wall to gain access to a stairwell leading to the Capitol's Upper West Terrace, prosecutors have said. Prosecutors also alleged they wrenched open a door on the north side of the U.S. Capitol after having already entered and exited the building.

Jonathanpeter Klein has described himself as a member of the far-right extremist Proud Boys group, which calls itself a politically incorrect men's club for "Western chauvinists."

He was photographed on Jan. 5 with his brother while wearing a Proud Boys shirt. That helped law enforcement identify the brothers, the FBI has said.

Matthew Klein also faces charges in Multnomah County where he is accused of carrying a loaded firearm in a truck after Portland police stopped it leaving a Proud Boys rally in September, according to court records. Those charges were pending when he participated in the insurrection at the U.S. Capitol, the prosecutor said.

The brothers have not yet entered pleas to the federal charges, including conspiracy to defraud the United States, obstruction of an official proceeding, obstruction of law enforcement during a civil disorder and destruction of government property.

Jonathanpeter Klein's defense lawyer Michelle Sweet urged for her client to be released pending trial.

She said he could if released continue to work at a ranch in Eastern Oregon. Nanci Klein, the brothers' mother, wrote a letter to the court saying they could stay at her home.

The Kleins are among hundreds charged in the insurrection.

The attack temporarily delayed certification of the presidential election.

Some green groups oppose Snake River dam removal plan

Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho — A coalition of 17 environmental groups is speaking out against a key part of a sweeping plan to remove the Lower Snake River dams to save salmon and steelhead.

The groups said in a letter to Democratic senators in Oregon and Washington that the 35-year moratorium on fish- and dam-related lawsuits included in Idaho Republican Rep. Mike Simpson's proposal in exchange for dam removal was too high a price to pay, the Idaho Statesman reported Saturday, March 27.

A years-long ban on lawsuits will make federal and state laws on clean water standards and species protections harder to enforce, the groups said in the letter to Washington Sens. Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell and Oregon Sens. Jeff Merkley and Ron Wyden.

The groups urged the lawmakers to oppose the proposal "as written," but said they generally support the idea of breaching the dams and helping impacted communities. The letter argues that the reason salmon aren't yet extinct on the Snake River is because of lawsuits to protect their habitat under environmental laws that were enacted after the dams were already built.

"The Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act are critical to protecting wild salmon and protecting water quality, and when you are removing the enforcement of those for many years, you could actually be doing more harm than the dams are causing," said Kurt Beardslee, executive director of the Wild Fish Conservancy.



Nicholas K. Geranios/Associated Press, File

In this April 11, 2018, photo, water moves through a spillway of the Lower Granite Dam on the Snake River near Almota, Washington. A coalition of 17 environmental groups are speaking out against a key part of a sweeping plan to remove the Lower Snake River dams to save salmon and steelhead.

Simpson last month released his \$33 billion legislative concept to breach the dams and mitigate affected industries and communities through a wide range of investments. It includes funding to replace power produced at the dams, to help farmers get wheat and other grains to market, and to help communities like Lewiston.

To address what some in the region see as the "slippery slope" of dam removal, the concept includes a 35-year moratorium on ESA, Clean Water Act and National Environmental Policy Act lawsuits on most of the remaining dams in the Columbia River Basin and it would extend federal licenses at those dams for 35 years.

It would also set up regional watershed partnerships between agricultural interests, conservation groups and Native American tribes aimed at improving water quality. Farmers participating in the voluntary partnerships would be shielded from Clean Water Act lawsuits for 25 years.

Some environmental groups such as the Idaho Conservation League, Trout Unlimited and the

Save Our Wild Salmon Coalition support Simpson's proposal. But the congressman has also faced stern criticism from agricultural groups, state legislators and county commissioners from both Idaho and Washington.

Todd True, an attorney from the environmental law firm EarthJustice who has represented many of the salmon advocates who support Simpson's concept, said he sees it as the type of comprehensive proposal that could help save the fish. But he sees Simpson's proposal as a starting point instead of a finished product.

"It's not perfect. There are difficult issues that it raises. We are ready to have the hard conversations to find a way forward and resolve those issues," he said.

STATE NEWS BRIEFS

Rocket debris lights up skies over the Pacific Northwest

SEATTLE — Burning debris from a rocket lit up Pacific Northwest skies Thursday night, March 25, the National Weather Service in Seattle said.

"The widely reported bright objects in the sky were debris from a Falcon 9 rocket 2nd stage that did not successfully have a deorbit burn," the service said in a tweet about the astral occurrence that the Seattle Times reported was seen shortly after 9 p.m.

There were no reports of damage or other impacts on the ground.

The rocket delivered Starlink satellites, built in Redmond, Washington, into orbit earlier this week, the Times reported.

SpaceX said Wednesday the Falcon 9's first stage returned to Earth and landed as planned on its ocean-going barge off the coast of Florida.

Portland Children's Museum to close, citing loss of revenue in pandemic

PORTLAND — A Portland landmark announced it will close at the end of June, citing a loss of revenue brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Portland Children's Museum and the Opal School — a charter academy inside the museum — will be shuttered June 30, museum officials announced Thursday, March 25.

Officials said in a statement said that the museum experienced "devastating attendance and revenue losses" from the pandemic and resulting shutdown. Coupled with new cleaning protocols, limited capacity rules and nearly 50 staff positions that needed to be refilled after layoffs, the museum's board determined it was not possible to keep the museum running.

"Children's museums across the country are reporting average losses of more than 70% of the income they had received in years past, and relief from public sources has not been adequate to relieve the impacts of the pandemic on cultural institutions," Laura Huerta Migus, the executive



Roman Puzhlyakov via AP

In this image from a video, debris from a SpaceX rocket lights up the sky Thursday evening, March 25, 2021, behind clouds over Vancouver, Washington. The remnants of the second stage of the Falcon 9 rocket left comet-like trails as they burned up upon reentry in the Earth's atmosphere, according to a tweet from the National Weather Service.

director of the Association of Children's Museums, said in the statement.

The museum featured rotating exhibits highlighting an array of scientific and cultural themes.

Prior to the pandemic, the museum had been averaging about 250,000 visitors per year. It is currently "temporarily closed," according to its website.

Teen shot in back at Salem elementary school dies

SALEM — One of two 17-year-old boys shot in the back at an Oregon elementary school has died.

The shooting Wednesday, March 24, in a parking lot at Four Corners Elementary School in Salem left one youth critically injured and the other with non-life-threatening injuries.

The more seriously wounded teenager died Saturday, according to the Marion County Sheriff's Office.

A teenager found after the shooting has been charged with first-degree robbery, unlawful possession of a firearm, unlawful use of a weapon and first-degree theft, KOIN-TV reports. None of the youths has been publicly identified. The shooting remains under investigation.

— Associated Press

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