

Police probe mysterious string of Tolovana bunny deaths

By **BRENNA VISSER**
The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH — Police are investigating what is causing what appears to be a recent string of bunny deaths in Tolovana.

Maggie Kitson, a Tolovana resident, noticed a bunny carcass near her front porch on Saturday. After living in the area for more than 14 years, she had seen her fair share of deceased rabbits, but usually they are tucked away in the bushes or carried off with the predator that hunted it, she said.

Rarely did she see a dead bunny without any claw or teeth marks laying out in the open.

"I thought, 'that was odd,'" Kitson said.

Over the next few days, Kitson found two more carcasses within the same block of her house. She began to fear that they were being poisoned, knowing that many people do not like the rabbits and could be using pesticides or other poisons as a bunny deterrent, she said. She posted a photo on Facebook to warn people in the area to keep pets indoors just in case.

After finding two more the next day, Kitson decided to call the police.

"For me, it's not about the



Bunnies eat carrots on Maggie Kitson's lawn.



Maggie Kitson points to where she found one of the dead bunnies in Tolovana. Police are investigating.

bunnies. It's about the poison, getting into our water, harming the animals," she said.

Tensions about the ballooning Cannon Beach rabbit population are running high. Over the past few weeks, some Tolovana neighbors have asked the city to do more to control the animals, which they say are covering their lawns in pellets and destroying their gardens.

The pro-bunny faction is growing in its own right,

with more than 4,900 people around the country signing a petition on Change.org asking the City Council to "not kill the Cannon Beach Bunnies." The council has researched options to handle the population, but thus far has chosen not to get in the business of pest control.

"The hatred I just don't get. If they are coming on your property and causing a problem ... Well, there are things you can do to prevent

that," Kitson said. "And so what? They are a joy to have around."

As of Thursday, what is killing the bunnies is unclear, Police Chief Jason Schermerhorn said. Officers collected the carcasses and brought them to Seaside Pet Clinic, where an initial autopsy was unable to determine a cause of death. There was no blunt trauma or obvious hemorrhaging that would indicate poisoning.

Disease or natural causes could also be the cause, he said.

"One other thing that is a possibility is that these deceased bunnies were found in the morning before the coldest night of the year," Schermerhorn said. "Disease — if that is the case — spreads faster during colder (temperatures)."

Aside from discharging a firearm within city limits, property owners gener-

ally have the right to trap or otherwise dispose of bunnies in their own yards. But putting out poison that can be accessible and harmful to other animals or pets could be potentially classified as animal abuse under the city's municipal code, Schermerhorn said.

"Bunnies aren't protected, so our main concern is finding out if anything could harm people's pets or children," Schermerhorn said.

Offices close for Veterans Day

The Daily Astorian

In observance of Veterans Day, all federal, state, county and city offices and services, including Astoria, Warrenton, Gearhart, Seaside and Cannon Beach city halls, are closed on Monday. All U.S. post offices are closed, and there is no mail delivery.

Astoria, Jewell, Knappa, Warrenton/Hammond, Seaside (including Cannon Beach and Gearhart schools) and Ocean Beach School District schools and Clatsop Community College are closed.

The Astoria Library, Seaside Library, Warrenton Library and all Timberland

libraries in Washington state, including Ilwaco, Ocean Park and Naselle, are closed.

The Port of Astoria offices and services are closed.

Garbage collection through Recology Western Oregon (covering Astoria, Seaside, Gearhart and Cannon Beach), city of Warrenton garbage collection, and Peninsula Sanitation (covering the Long Beach, Washington, Peninsula) are not affected by the holiday. Recology Western Oregon's transfer station and Peninsula Sanitation's transfer station are open.

The Sunset Pool in Seaside is open. The Astoria Aquatic Center is open.

The Clatsop County Heritage Museum is closed. The Oregon Film Museum and Flavel House are open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and the Carriage House is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Uppertown Firefighters' Museum is closed. Lil' Sprouts is open from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Fort Clatsop is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Columbia River Maritime Museum is open from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Seaside Museum is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sunset Empire Transportation ("The Bus") is running. The Daily Astorian newspaper will be printed and delivered as usual.

PROTESTING THE AG'S FIRING



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Demonstrators wave flags and signs.

The Daily Astorian

Demonstrators gathered Thursday at 16th Street and Marine Drive in Astoria in response to President Donald Trump's firing of Attorney General Jeff Sessions.

FIVE-DAY FORECAST FOR ASTORIA AccuWeather DOWNLOAD THE FREE APP

TONIGHT	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
40 Partly cloudy	54 35 Mostly sunny	57 42 Mostly sunny	59 41 Partly sunny	58 47 Mostly cloudy

ALMANAC REGIONAL WEATHER

Astoria through Thursday.

Temperatures
High/Low 55°/31°
Normal high/low 55°/41°
Record high 71° in 2016
Record low 29° in 1977

Precipitation
Thursday 0.00"
Month to date 1.76"
Normal month to date 2.56"
Year to date 48.49"
Normal year to date 48.78"

SUN AND MOON

Sunset tonight 4:50 p.m.
Sunrise Saturday 7:09 a.m.
Moonrise today 9:05 a.m.
Moonset today 6:36 p.m.

Nov 15 Nov 22 Nov 29 Dec 6

Forecasts and graphics provided by **AccuWeather, Inc.** ©2018

UNDER THE SKY

Tonight's Sky: Orion and friends emerging above the eastern night sky before midnight.

Source: Jim Todd, OMSI

TOMORROW'S TIDES

Astoria / Port Docks

Time	High	Low	Time	Low
3:07 a.m.	7.9 ft.	8:37 a.m.	2.6 ft.	
2:20 p.m.	9.0 ft.	9:22 p.m.	-0.4 ft.	

NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Sat.
Atlanta	64 36 sh 51 35 s	51 35 s
Boston	51 46 r 49 33 pc	49 33 pc
Chicago	36 19 sn 33 26 pc	33 26 pc
Denver	46 26 s 56 24 s	56 24 s
Des Moines	29 11 sn 33 24 pc	33 24 pc
Detroit	42 25 sn 39 25 pc	39 25 pc
El Paso	60 44 pc 62 44 pc	62 44 pc
Fairbanks	17 11 sn 23 15 c	23 15 c
Honolulu	85 72 pc 82 70 sh	82 70 sh
Indianapolis	42 19 c 36 22 pc	36 22 pc
Kansas City	35 12 s 38 29 pc	38 29 pc
Las Vegas	67 43 s 67 44 s	67 44 s
Los Angeles	84 51 s 79 52 s	79 52 s
Memphis	52 27 pc 44 29 s	44 29 s
Miami	86 73 s 87 74 t	87 74 t
Nashville	51 29 c 43 25 s	43 25 s
New Orleans	71 50 r 60 51 pc	60 51 pc
New York	53 44 r 47 34 pc	47 34 pc
Oklahoma City	49 20 s 48 35 pc	48 35 pc
Philadelphia	53 42 r 45 32 pc	45 32 pc
St. Louis	39 18 sn 38 27 pc	38 27 pc
Salt Lake City	48 30 s 49 28 s	49 28 s
San Francisco	71 44 s 67 47 s	67 47 s
Seattle	48 41 r 50 37 pc	50 37 pc
Washington, DC	54 39 r 47 32 pc	47 32 pc

REGIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Sat.	City	Today	Sat.
Baker City	47 22 pc 45 16 pc	45 16 pc	Olympia	49 35 c 50 31 s	50 31 s
Bend	56 22 pc 47 19 s	47 19 s	Pendleton	52 30 pc 47 27 pc	47 27 pc
Brookings	65 45 s 61 43 s	61 43 s	Portland	53 40 pc 54 36 s	54 36 s
Eugene	56 33 pc 53 25 s	53 25 s	Roseburg	58 36 s 54 29 s	54 29 s
Ilwaco	52 42 c 53 39 s	53 39 s	Salem	56 37 pc 55 30 s	55 30 s
Klamath Falls	53 17 s 53 14 s	53 14 s	Seaside	53 41 c 54 38 s	54 38 s
Medford	59 28 s 56 26 s	56 26 s	Spokane	40 23 c 39 23 pc	39 23 pc
Newberg	55 38 pc 53 34 s	53 34 s	Springfield	56 32 pc 52 28 s	52 28 s
Newport	57 42 pc 54 39 s	54 39 s	Vancouver	54 39 pc 52 34 s	52 34 s
North Bend	59 41 pc 56 37 s	56 37 s	Yakima	50 24 r 52 23 pc	52 23 pc

TOMORROW'S NATIONAL WEATHER

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.

Legend:
T-storms, Rain, Showers, Snow, Flurries, Ice, Cold Front, Warm Front, Stationary Front

Temperature bands: -10s, -0s, 0s, 10s, 20s, 30s, 40s, 50s, 60s, 70s, 80s, 90s, 100s, 110s

ON THE RECORD

DUI

- At 11:25 p.m. Thursday, Neil Alan Christensen, 59, was arrested by Astoria police on the 35350 block of U.S. Highway 101 Business and charged with driving under the influ-

ence of intoxicants. His blood alcohol content was 0.14 percent.

- At 7:09 p.m. Thursday, Lance Sullivan, 69, was arrested by Seaside police on South King Street and Avenue

J and charged with DUI.

- At 2:41 p.m. Thursday, Ashley Nicole Haney, 28, was arrested by Warrenton police on the New Youngs Bay Bridge and charged with DUI.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

MONDAY

Cannon Beach Rural Fire Department Board, 6 p.m., Fire-Rescue Main Station, 188 Sunset Ave.

Seaside City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

OBITUARY POLICY

The Daily Astorian publishes paid obituaries. The obituary can include a small photo and, for veterans, a flag symbol at no charge. The deadline for all obituaries is 9 a.m. the business day prior.

Obituaries may be edited for spelling, proper punctuation and style. Death notices and upcoming services will be published at no charge. Notices must be submitted by 9 a.m. the day of publication.

Obituaries and notices may be submitted online at www.dailyastorian.com/forms/obits, by email at ewilson@dailyastorian.com, placed via the funeral home or in person at The Daily Astorian office, 949 Exchange St. in Astoria. For more information, call 503-325-3211, ext. 257.

The Daily Astorian

Established July 1, 1873
(USPS 035-000)

Published daily, except Saturday and Sunday, by EO Media Group, 949 Exchange St., PO Box 210, Astoria, OR 97103 Telephone 503-325-3211, 800-781-3211 or Fax 503-325-6573. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Daily Astorian, PO Box 210, Astoria, OR 97103-0210

www.dailyastorian.com
MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Associated Press is entitled exclusively to the use for republication of all the local news printed in this newspaper.

SUBSCRIBER TO THE NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE
MEMBER CERTIFIED AUDIT OF CIRCULATIONS, INC.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Effective July 1, 2015

HOME DELIVERY

EZpay (per month).....	\$11.25	EZpay (per month).....	\$16.60
13 weeks in advance.....	\$36.79	13 weeks in advance.....	\$51.98
26 weeks in advance.....	\$70.82	26 weeks in advance.....	\$102.63
52 weeks in advance.....	\$135.05	52 weeks in advance.....	\$199.90

MAIL

Circulation phone number: 503-325-3211
Periodicals postage paid at Astoria, OR

ADVERTISING OWNERSHIP

All advertising copy and illustrations prepared by The Daily Astorian become the property of The Daily Astorian and may not be reproduced for any use without explicit prior approval.

COPYRIGHT ©

Entire contents © Copyright, 2018 by The Daily Astorian.
Printed on recycled paper

