

WORLD IN BRIEF

Associated Press

Supreme Court blocks Louisiana abortion clinic law

WASHINGTON — A divided Supreme Court stopped Louisiana from enforcing new regulations on abortion clinics in a test of the conservative court's views on abortion rights.

The justices said by a 5-4 vote late Thursday that they will not allow the state to put into effect a law that requires abortion providers to have admitting privileges at nearby hospitals.

Chief Justice John Roberts joined the court's four liberals in putting a hold on

the law, pending a full review of the case.

President Donald Trump's two Supreme Court appointees, Justices Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh, were among the four conservative members of the court who would have allowed the law to take effect.

Whitaker: I have 'not interfered' with Mueller investigation

WASHINGTON — Acting Attorney General Matthew Whitaker said today he has "not interfered in any way" in the special counsel's Russia investigation as he

faced a contentious and partisan congressional hearing in his waning days on the job.

The hearing before the House Judiciary Committee was the first, and likely only, chance for newly empowered Democrats in the majority to grill an attorney general they perceive as a Donald Trump loyalist and whose appointment they suspect was aimed at suppressing investigations of the Republican president. Republicans made clear they viewed the hearing as pointless political grandstanding, especially since Whitaker may have less than a week left as the country's chief law enforcement officer.

Whitaker, even while expressing exasperation at the questioning of Democrats,

nonetheless sought to assuage their concerns by saying he had never discussed with Trump or other White House officials special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into potential coordination between Russia and the Trump campaign.

He told lawmakers that there had been no change since his arrival in the job in the "overall management" of Mueller's investigation and that he has been faithful to the Constitution and to the law.

"We have followed the special counsel's regulations to a T," Whitaker said. "There has been no event, no decision, that has required me to take any action, and I have not interfered in any way with the special counsel's investigation."

Kit: Narcan also helps protect officers when handling drugs

Continued from Page A1

dad, somebody's brother," he said. "And then the training just kicked in."

Police Chief Mathew Workman wasn't sure what to expect when the program started, but emergency calls like the one outside Mini Mart are exactly why officers have the kits.

"We fought for over a year to get a naloxone program started," he said. "A year and a month before we use our first dose, and it's all worth it."

The Warrenton Police Department is one in a growing number choosing to carry naloxone — known by the brand name, Narcan — in the wake of a national opioid epidemic.

Workman's mission to get officers trained on how to use Narcan began a couple of years ago after a young man was found dead after taking a synthetic opioid.

The idea is to enable officers to act quickly in overdose situations where they are first on the scene. Carrying Narcan also helps protect officers when they are handling drugs like fentanyl — a synthetic opioid that, even in trace

amounts, can make someone sick if they are exposed to it, Workman said.

Across the country, some police departments have been concerned about taking on a job they perceive is better suited to medics.

But officers like Wirt prefer to have the tool available.

"It's like pepper spray, or my gun, or my radio ... it's just another tool that we have," he said.

Workman is somewhat surprised that the department has only administered the medication one time.

"I expected to use it two or three times by now, but I guess that is also the benefit of living in an area with relatively fast Medix and fire response," he said. "Sadly, I think we've had a few (overdose) situations where they weren't called and we found them after."

Other local police departments are also showing interest. Astoria is hoping to start a program similar to Warrenton's by the end of the year, Deputy Police Chief Eric Halverson said.

Astoria police have felt overdoses have been handled effectively by the fire department, Halverson said.

But based on trends showing the benefits of early intervention and a discussion about naloxone at last month's Oregon Association Chiefs of Police conference, the idea has been brought back to the forefront.

"Officers are often there before medical help," Halverson said. "The more opportunities there are for intervention means there are more opportunities for someone to change their path."

As Astoria looks to build a program, Warrenton faces the challenge of how to sustain it. The police department's Narcan supply is set to expire in July, leaving the department to seek grant funding for new doses. Donations from a medical supplier could also help the department carry on another two years.

For Workman, it's an investment worth making.

"(Addiction) is a beast that's not easily conquered. Overdoses are often the catalyst to make changes. Other times it's not," the police chief said. "But human life is precious, and we need to try to do what we can to preserve it. How else do you make those decisions when someone's barely breathing?"



Warrenton Police Department
Warrenton police officer Robert Wirt poses for a photo with his canine partner, Gabe.



Steve Phillips, left, resigned from the Seaside school board.

Phillips: Board unanimously accepted resignation

Continued from Page A1

"I wish everyone well in the future and know that I will always be a true supporter of the Seaside School District," he wrote Superintendent Sheila Roley and the school board.

The board unanimously accepted the resignation.

Mark Truax, the board's vice chairman, praised Phillips' 24 years as a school board member.

"Steve has given everything," he said. "It's about kids, from Day One. His talents will be greatly missed."

Roley thanked Phillips for "his support, guidance and mentorship in this position. We'll really miss him."

Phillips represented Zone 5, Position 1 in Seaside. His resignation leaves a second unfilled board seat. Patrick Nofield, who vacated one of two positions representing Cannon Beach, stepped down in January.

The school district will appoint replacements for both positions, Roley said. The seats will be up for election in May.

Wyden: Bill would extend tax breaks set to expire at the end of the year

Continued from Page A1

the bill would reduce excise taxes on barrels to \$3.50 per barrel on the first 60,000 barrels, effectively including all makers in Clatsop County. They currently pay \$7 per barrel. A similar provision was enacted in 2017 and is set to expire at the end of this year.

Many brewers and vintners age beer in barrels as part of a finishing process. Wyden's bill, introduced with Blunt, a Missouri Republican, would permanently exclude aging for beer, wine and distilled spirits from the production period interest expense capitalization.

The bill would also simplify rules around ingredient approval, brewery collaborations and inventory tracking for breweries.

For distillers, the bill would reduce excise taxes per gallon from \$13.50 to \$2.70 for the first 100,000 gallons of distilled spirits produced or imported each year, effectively capturing both Pilot House Distilling and Cannon Beach Distillery.

The bill would also remove a prohibition against the transfer of spirits in bot-



U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden speaking at Fort George Brewery.

les smaller than 1 gallon between distilleries, allowing such transfers without tax, similar to wine and beer.

"Small and independent craft brewers are grateful

for the ongoing bipartisan support for the Craft Beverage Modernization and Tax Reform Act," Bob Pease, president and CEO of the Brewers Association, said

in a news release. "The legislation is not just economically smart but enables Main Street brewers to do what they do best: create and innovate."

Market: Offerings will include antiques, memorabilia, artists' booths

Continued from Page A1

letters spell out Reclamation. The main showroom floor is divided into wooden slatted stalls reminiscent of animal stalls.

"We got a lot of jokes about Noah's Ark when we were putting it together," Liotta said.

The market's offerings will include a mix of antiques, midcentury vintage memorabilia and artists' booths.

Chuck Fritz, a former loader with Gustafson Logging, took one of the stalls for his hobby- turned- sec-

ond career of transforming pieces of firewood, burls, root wads and other discarded parts of trees into bowls, urns and other pieces. Fritz liked the low commission and rent charged by Liotta compared to galleries, along with how his art fit with the space.

"It's all reclamation," he said, noting the shavings from his pieces are also reused as mulch and animal bedding. "I'm salvaging stuff that would have been burned up otherwise, thrown in the slash pile."

Ronni Harris, who produces oil paintings, deco-

orative tiles and other merchandise, said she liked having more control over her space and the freedom to stock it and let employees of the marketplace handle sales.

With the marketplace, the Liottas have now filled up four of the five suites in the M&N Building. On Ninth Street is the South Bay Wild Fish House. Along Commercial Street are Terra Stones and Wild Roots Movement and Massage.

The market will open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and from noon to 5 p.m. Sunday.

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