

IN BRIEF

Teenager arrested on sex abuse charges in Warrenton

A 15-year-old male was arrested on charges of sexual abuse in the Forest Rim neighborhood in Warrenton. The suspect was released to the Clatsop County Juvenile Department.

Since June, the suspect has reportedly sexually abused three children who live in the neighborhood. Police believe there may be more victims.

People who have information can contact Detective Tyler Johnston at the Warrenton Police Department at tjohnston@ci.warrenton.or.us.

— *The Astorian*

Pacific County razor clam digs get go-ahead to start

LONG BEACH, Wash. — The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife announced Thursday evening that razor clam digging is good to go from Cape Disappointment to Westport this weekend, after tests revealed that shellfish from coastal beaches are safe to eat.

Testing conducted by the Washington Department of Health on Thursday showed domoic acid levels were low enough for the digs to go ahead, said Dan Ayres, the state coastal shellfish manager.

“The health and safety of clam diggers is always our first concern, so we appreciate people’s patience while we worked with our partners at WDOH to confirm that these clams are safe to eat,” Ayres said. “We hope that everyone is able to get out and enjoy safe, productive digs at these beaches.”

— *Chinook Observer*

Cryptosporidium found again in Portland water

Portland’s water bureau is warning that residents who have weakened immune systems should talk to their doctors before drinking city tap water, after tests from the Bull Run Watershed found two units of cryptosporidium in a 50-liter water sample Tuesday.

Water bureau officials said drinking from the tap should be safe for most people. There’s a small risk of diarrhea, vomiting and other stomach problems, but people with healthy immune systems should recover without medical treatment.

People with AIDS, cancer or other immune conditions could be at risk of life-threatening gastrointestinal illness if they ingest the water. The water bureau suggests they should consult with medical professionals about whether it is safe for them.

The warning extends beyond Portland city limits to other communities that obtain all or some of their drinking water from Bull Run, including Sandy, Tualatin, Gresham and surrounding water districts that collectively serve close to a million people.

— *Oregon Public Broadcasting*

New bridges installed on Eagle Creek Trail

PORTLAND — The Eagle Creek Trail has two new bridges, but it could still be months before it reopens to the public.

The Oregonian reported the U.S. Forest Service installed two new footbridges on the fire-ravaged hiking trail Wednesday, replacing bridges that burned as the Eagle Creek fire tore through the Columbia River Gorge in 2017.

Helicopter pilots airlifted the Fern Creek Bridge and High Bridge onto the trail, where crews will now work to install them. The same process was used to install the Tish Creek Bridge before the wildfire in 2017.

While the new bridges make the Eagle Creek Trail safer to hike, it will remain closed due to threat of rock fall and landslides, according to the forest service, especially as seasonal rain and snow approaches.

— *Associated Press*

DEATH

Oct. 22, 2019

DERRICK, Katherine Lee, 72, of Warrenton, died in Portland. Caldwell’s Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

ON THE RECORD

Rape

• Amy Chen, 19, of Seaside, was indicted Wednesday on four counts of rape in the third degree.

Theft

• Gregory Scott Adams, 37, of Hammond, was arrested Friday at Walmart for theft in the second degree.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

MONDAY

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

TUESDAY

Seaside Planning Commission, 7 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway

IMPRESSIVE SHOW



Jane Winckler Webb

The surf at Waikiki Beach in Cape Disappointment State Park put on an impressive show last week as waves spawned by a Pacific Ocean typhoon crashed into the cliffs below the lighthouse.

Dems highlight complaints in Mitchell recall

By SAM STITES
Oregon Capital Bureau

The Democratic Party of Oregon is calling attention to a trio of complaints filed against the two political action committees involved in the effort to recall state Rep. Tiffany Mitchell.

In a press release Thursday, the party outlined allegations made in three separate complaints filed by voters against the leaders of two political action committees heading the recall against the Astoria Democrat. That included Darren Mead of the Recall Tiffany Mitchell PAC, as well as Andrew Miller and Carol Russell of #TimberUnity PAC.

Ben Hamar, Ken Potter and Linda Martin — all three of whom are electors of the North Coast district — say that materials mailed to voters in House District 32 and found on social media include false information regarding her voting record on two bills that never made it to a vote.

That would constitute a violation of the Oregon secretary of state’s recall manual, which says all statements of fact in recall campaign materials must be true.

Hamar’s complaint outlines an allegation that #TimberUnity has not reported campaign expenditures on Facebook advertisements they’ve purchased urging voters to sign the recall petition.

Martin’s letter also alleges that the campaign has directed circulators of the recall petition to gather signatures from people even if they’re unsure whether



Edward Stratton/The Astorian

State Rep. Tiffany Mitchell, D-Astoria, is facing a recall.

they’re actually voters within Mitchell’s district, also a violation of the state recall manual and Oregon law.

“As this group abuses the recall process in an effort to overturn the will of the voters, it is no surprise that they are uninterested in following the rules,” said KC Hanson, chair of the Democratic Party of Oregon. “With a short time for them to collect signatures, we are urging Secretary of State Bev Clarno to act swiftly in investigating these complaints.”

According to Elections Division Director Steve Trout, the secretary of state’s office has launched a formal investigation into the complaints, but he wasn’t able to comment any further as the investigation is ongoing. Trout said there are both civil and criminal penalties for violating state elections rules.

“We are not surprised that

Tiffany Mitchell’s supporters are throwing up every roadblock they can think of to distract from her horrible voting record,” Mead, the owner of Action Sign Works in Miles Crossing, said in an email. “The problem is, while we are following the rules, they are not.”

Mead said a complaint has been filed against a group opposing the recall that has apparently not disclosed spending.

“We are honest, hard-working people standing up in the only way we know how to stop politicians from destroying our way of life,” Mead said. “These complaints are nothing more than a distraction from the anger Tiffany Mitchell has caused with her atrocious voting record.”

Miller, the CEO of Stimson Lumber Co., could not immediately be reached for comment. Russell said she

could not comment because she just does the books for the #TimberUnity PAC.

Molly Woon, a Democratic Party spokeswoman, said the party has mobilized to bring attention to the complaints due to the severity of the allegations brought forward by these three individuals, as well as the ticking clock. Supporters of the petition to recall Mitchell have until Dec. 4 to submit the required 4,883 signatures for a vote to be called.

“We can’t let instances like this that are so egregious and so clearly false go without notice,” Woon said. “We have to call attention to it, and we have to do something to try to stop this behavior.”

The Oregon Capital Bureau is a collaboration between EO Media Group, Pamplin Media Group and Salem Reporter Nicole Bales of The Astorian contributed to this report.

Oregon youth marijuana vaping has spiked

By FEDOR ZARKHIN
The Oregonian

Vaping has made significant inroads with young Oregonians in the last two years, with nearly half of 11th grade marijuana users getting high off vape oils, not flower, new data shows.

While marijuana use stayed steady at one in five 11th graders, the propor-

tion of those who get high by smoking the plant versus those who vape an oil extract changed dramatically.

Two years ago, about one out of 10 Oregon 11th graders who used marijuana vaped oils. This year, it’s nearly one in two, at 44%, the Oregon Health Authority said Thursday.

“This is alarming,” Oregon’s top public health

expert, Dr. Dean Sidelinger, said in a statement. “These products can get young people started on using nicotine and marijuana, and it is easy to get hooked.”

Youth nicotine vaping climbed as well, the state said, with an 80% rise in nicotine vape use since 2017, going from 13% to 23%.

The report comes from the Oregon Healthy Teens survey, which the state does every two years. The newest survey was done this year and was compared to data from the 2017 survey.

The survey results are likely to add to the alarm over vaping that has gripped Oregonians for two months amid a nationwide lung illness epidemic connected to the products. The federal

government has connected many of the 1,604 lung illness cases to vaping products with THC, marijuana’s high-inducing chemical.

Oregon was one of the first states to be hit by the epidemic particularly hard: The second vaping-related death to be reported in the country — out of a total of what is now 34 deaths — was in Oregon. That person bought marijuana products at two legal marijuana retail stores, health officials have said.

Twelve Oregonians have fallen ill with the vaping-related severe lung illness and two have died, as of Tuesday. Federal authorities are still grappling with the epidemic and the fundamental mystery behind it: Why are people falling ill?

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