

IN BRIEF

County to distribute free masks to help combat virus

Clatsop County will distribute free KN95 masks Thursday at multiple locations.

The drive-thru handout events will take place between 4 and 7 p.m. at Elsie-Vinemaple Fire Station, Seaside Fire Station, Gearhart Fire Station, Warrenton Fire Station, Lewis & Clark Fire Station, Astoria Aquatic Center, Cannon Beach City Hall and Knappa Fire Station.

When people get to the front of the line, they will be instructed to stay in their car, hold up fingers to show the number of masks needed and roll down the window to receive the masks.

For more information, contact Clatsop County Emergency Management at 503-325-8645 or clatsopemd@co.clatsop.or.us

Oregon lawmakers, meanwhile, approved \$94 million more to expand coronavirus testing and contact tracing, but deadlocked on \$105 million more for the state to buy personal protective equipment for distribution to counties and tribes.

The deadlock Wednesday by the 20-member Emergency Board could be resolved when the full Legislature opens a special session Monday.

— The Astorian

DEATHS

Aug. 5, 2020

ADOLPHSON, LeRoy Peter, 72, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

FERGUSON, Shawn, 59, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

Aug. 4, 2020

BOCKOVER, Cherie, 66, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

Aug. 3, 2020

BARROWCLIFF, Kaden, 20, of Beaverton, died in Cannon Beach. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

Aug. 2, 2020

CVITANOVICH, Matthew, 45, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

July 29, 2020

ROSHAY, Brittany, 30, of Seaside, died in Seaside. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

MEMORIALS

Saturday, Aug. 15

COFFEY, William C. "Bill" — Memorial at 1 p.m., First Baptist Church, 30 N.E. First St. in Warrenton. An online guest book is available at caldwellsmortuary.com

CORRECTIONS

Last name misspelled — Annalyse Steele is this year's Astoria Regatta queen. Her last name was incorrectly spelled as Steel in an A1 story on May 23 listing the Regatta Court.

Last name misspelled — Launa DeGiusti is the administrator at Clatsop Retirement Village. Her last name was incorrectly spelled as DeGiusti in an A1 story on March 26.

ON THE RECORD

Assault

Jonathan Taylor Lisle, 21, was indicted Monday for assault in the first degree and assault in the second degree.

Domestic violence

Troy Wayne Skinner, 31, was sentenced Wednesday to more than one year in prison for crimes related to domestic violence. He pleaded guilty to kidnapping in

the second degree and unlawful use of a weapon.

Theft

Arrin Damien James Ruiz, 25, of Seaside, was indicted Wednesday for aggravated theft in the first degree, burglary in the second degree, five counts of identity theft, two counts of unlawful entry into a motor vehicle and theft in the second degree.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

MONDAY

Cannon Beach Rural Fire Department Board, 6 p.m.,

Fire-Rescue Main Station, 188 Sunset Ave.

Youngs River Lewis & Clark Water District Board, 6 p.m.,

34583 U.S. Highway 101 Business.

TUESDAY

Clatsop County Planning Commission, 10 a.m., (electronic meeting).

Warrenton City Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall, 225 S. Main Ave.

Lewis & Clark Fire Department Board, 6 p.m., main fire station, 34571 U.S. Highway 101 Business.

Seaside School District, 6 p.m., (electronic meeting).

Training day at Camp Rilea



Photos by Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

The 5th Security Force Assistance Brigade from Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington state worked in a role-play scenario at Camp Rilea to create a plan to build roadways around a beach and increase access for military forces.

Forestry agency lobbied for timber industry

Restricted from influencing policy

By ROB DAVIS
The Oregonian
By TONY SCHICK
Oregon Public Broadcasting

As Gov. Kate Brown crafted a bill in 2018 to enact sweeping limits on greenhouse gas emissions, leaders at an obscure state agency worked behind the scenes to discredit research they feared would persuade her to target one of the state's most powerful industries.

The research, published that March, calculated for the first time how much carbon was lost to the atmosphere as a result of cutting trees in Oregon. It concluded that logging, once thought to have no negative effect on global warming, was among the state's biggest climate polluters.

Researchers led by Oregon State University forest ecologist Beverly Law found that the state could dramatically shrink its carbon footprint if trees on private land were cut less frequently, a recommendation that pushed against the approach of Wall Street real estate trusts and investment funds that cut trees at a younger age to maximize profits.

The findings alarmed forest industry leaders in Oregon, who quickly assembled scientists and lobbyists to challenge the study and its authors. Among the groups leading the fight was the Oregon Forest Resources Institute, a quasi-governmental state agency funded with tax dollars that is, by law, restricted from influencing or attempting to influence policy.



Alan Sylvestre/Oregon Public Broadcasting

A helicopter sprays water over a recently logged slope owned by Starker Forests near Philomath during a demonstration in 2015.

Leaders at the institute worked behind the scenes for months to persuade lawmakers and the dean of Oregon State's College of Forestry that the research was flawed, informing timber lobbyists of their efforts along the way, according to an investigation by The Oregonian, Oregon Public Broadcasting and ProPublica.

The institute needs to "develop a swift, fairly immediate, response so that this study doesn't drive all of the initial narrative and so that it doesn't drive early attempts at the state level to develop carbon policy based on what appears to me to be faulty science," Timm Locke, the agency's forest products director at the time, wrote in a May 2018 email with the subject line "Bev Law carbon BS." "One reason I feel this way is that the Governor's office is noticing."

Then, Locke, a public employee, offered to help a timber lobbyist draft a counterargument "those of us in the industry can use."

The email is one of the thousands obtained as part of an investigation by the news organizations, which

found that the Oregon Forest Resources Institute, created in the early 1990s to educate residents about forestry, has acted as a public-relations agency and lobbying arm for the timber industry, in some cases skirting legal constraints that forbid it from doing so.

Oregon's biggest forest owners have eliminated thousands of jobs, shrinking their contribution to the state's economy while receiving an estimated \$3 billion in tax cuts since 1991, a June story that is part of this yearlong investigation revealed. The timber industry has maintained outsized influence in the state, thwarting attempts to restrict logging with the help of a decadeslong public opinion campaign. And through the institute, the timber industry executed that campaign from behind the veneer of the state government.

The tax-funded institute spends \$1 million annually on advertising that for years promoted Oregon's logging laws as strong, even as many became weaker than in neighboring states, a review by the news organizations found. It worked to under-

cut university research, challenging the validity of studies and the credibility of professors. Its executive directors sat through private industry deliberations about dark money attack ads that opposed Brown's 2018 reelection. And, in 2019, its board discussed rushing a report in an attempt to stop ballot measures that targeted logging, the news organizations found.

Erin Isselmann, the institute's executive director since July 2018, defended the agency. Isselmann said she has operated "under the highest ethical standards." After the news organizations obtained the emails, Isselmann told board members she had solicited an opinion from the Oregon Department of Justice about the institute's legal constraints. She declined to make it public, citing attorney-client privilege.

Locke said in an interview that the line between lobbying and educating at the institute was unclear. He said his pushback against Law's study wasn't an attempt to sway Brown's carbon policy, "so much as to ensure that the policy was based on sound information."

Charles Boyle, a spokesman for the governor, called the news organizations' findings "deeply troubling." He said they merited "at the very least an investigation by the Oregon Government Ethics Commission or the secretary of state's office, and perhaps an audit to bring more facts to light."

"It is clear that they have openly disregarded the idea that OFRI is a public entity that should serve the interests of Oregonians," Boyle said.

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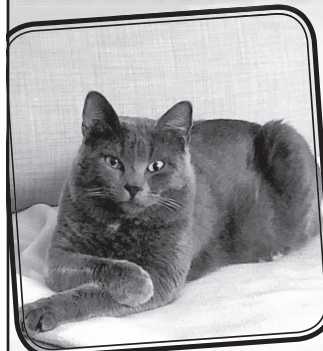
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