

OBITUARIES

State reports new virus cases for county

The Astorian

The Oregon Health Authority has reported more than two dozen new coronavirus cases in Clatsop County over the past several days.

The health authority reported 15 virus cases over the weekend and 12 virus cases on Friday.

Since the pandemic began, the county has recorded 2,117 virus cases and 25 deaths.

Hops: 'We were affected pretty heavily'

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In June, the U.S. Department of Agriculture predicted the Pacific Northwest would string 60,735 acres for harvest, 4% more than the previous year and an all-time record.



Sierra Dawn McClain/Capital Press. A hop harvest at Sodbuster Farms in Salem.

Carpenter estimated that because of heat damage, however, the 2021 harvest will actually fall below average. According to USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, the five-year average is 56,847 harvested acres.

Much of that decrease in sprung hops can be attributed to baby hop plants, stunted by heat, never making it to the trellis, according to Ann George, the executive director of Hop Growers of America.

Yields in Yakima, Washington, the No. 1 hop producing state, are "down a bit" this year, said Carpenter, of Yakima Chief. Moxee fared better, with yields at or above average.

Oregon, industry leaders say, was hurt more. The Citra variety, an aroma hop highly sought after by brewers, was hit worst because it's not very heat-resilient.

Fred Geschwill, the co-owner of F & B Farms and Nursery in Woodburn, a third generation hop grower with about 300 hop acres, said some of his Citra bocks, especially younger fields, took up to a 60% reduction in yield.

"We were affected pretty heavily on our farm," Geschwill said.

Because of the heat, Geschwill said, spider mites were "early and really abundant."

At Sodbuster Farms in Salem, brother-sister team Peter Weathers and Erica Lorentz, who run the farm alongside other family members, said they saw about a 30% Citra loss. Of the farm's 900 hop acres, about 230 acres are Citra.

Cones are also smaller and lighter, they said.

Like Geschwill, they also faced "really bad" spider mites, and both farms say finding enough laborers this harvest was even harder than in previous years.

Southwest Idaho hop yields will also be below average.

Obendorf Farms owner and manager Brock Obendorf said that yields on early-maturing varieties have been down 15% to 20% from average.

He said the unusually dry spring and summer, and high demand from farmers watering crops in dry soil and heat, pressured water supplies. Many irrigation districts planned to end delivery by

mid-September, two to three weeks early.

But Obendorf said water supply has been adequate this season, and "most places have wells to get to the hops that will be left" after deliveries end.

Michelle Gooding, the chief operating officer at Gooding Farms south of Parma, said there were some water-supply challenges in the growing region. But they were eased by conservative practices and widespread use of less consumptive drip irrigation in hops.

"The problem is that after harvest, we won't be able to water back," she said. Growers of perennial hops traditionally use irrigation water available after harvest to "put the crop to bed properly."

Gooding Farms' hop harvest is about 65% completed and expected to conclude Sept. 27.

Gooding said yields are down about 20% from the long-term average.

"We're definitely seeing reduced yield, and the timing of varieties has been much more complicated," she said.

Richard 'Rich' Miller

Astoria

July 11, 1943 — June 22, 2021

Richard "Rich" Miller passed away on June 22, 2021, in his home. He was born in Waubay, South Dakota, on July 11, 1943, to Philomena and Henry Miller. Rich spent a lot of his memorable youth on the family farm near Webster, South Dakota, with his grandfather and grandmother, Joe Gonsoir and Veronica Snaza, and Uncle Joe and Stanley. He loved his pet crow, raising homing pigeons, being on the family farm and the great outdoors, hunting and fishing. He always had a great story about his youth and the wilder side of South Dakota or Minnesota winters. His family settled for a time in Aurora, Colorado, where he met and married his high school sweetheart of more than 50 years, Janice Hopkins.



Richard Miller

He enjoyed rock and roll of the 1950s, fast cars and dancing. In the '60s it was still nice cars but now cowboy boots, country music and two stepping with Jan, who was from Texas. While in Colorado they started a family, having their first child, Robert. Rich worked for Hesteds department stores, where he worked his way up from stock boy to store manager at a very young age. Hesteds was bought out by the J.J. Newberry Co., and Rich was moved from Colorado to Twin Falls, Idaho, with a new baby boy. Four years later they had another son, Curtis. Rich was offered another move to California or Oregon. He and Jan chose Astoria,

sight unseen. They settled down in Astoria where they raised Robert and Curtis. He managed the J.J. Newberry store (later bought out by the McCrory Co.) in Astoria for over 40 years, where he received many Manager of the Year awards and became a well-established businessman in the community.

Rich was a dedicated father and husband. He worked tirelessly to provide a good, stable life to his family. He loved hunting and fishing in and around Astoria and found clamming on the North Oregon Coast beaches to be a favorite past time when the conditions were right. He and Jan enjoyed longtime friends in the area and spending time helping at the local Eagles Club. They weren't big travelers, but enjoyed trips to Alaska, and international trips to Israel, Egypt, Ireland and Scotland, which they often reminisced about. They always visited family when they could. He is survived by his youngest son, Curtis, and his wife, Katie, and children, Luke and Finn, and their older son, Robert, and his wife, Amy, and children, Robyn and Nolan; his youngest sister, Vickie, and her husband, Pat, and his older sister, Lorraine (Lolly).

He was preceded in death by his parents, Philomena (Phillis) and Henry Miller; his wife, Janice (Jan); and his younger brother, Ronald (Ronnie). Visit the online guest book at www.hughesran-som.com

Mitchell Austin Penn

Astoria

Aug. 30, 1952 — Sept. 7, 2021

Mitchell "Mitch" Austin Penn was born Aug. 30, 1952, in San Rafael, California, and passed away Sept. 7, 2021, in Astoria.



Mitchell Penn

He is survived by his daughter, Jewell Penn (Damien) Strowger; stepsons, Scott Laurent and Jeremiah Sawyer; numerous grandchildren; sisters, Traci Penn Rector and Noelle Penn; several nieces and nephews, and dear friend, Cherylann

Zanavich.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Cyril and Jane; brothers, Todd and Roger Penn; sister, Stephanie Penn; and son, Christopher Sawyer.

Mitch was an incredible artist, lover of music, classic car enthusiast and close friend to many.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Hernandez: Patient, professional center of calm

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Originally from Chile, Hernandez emigrated to the U.S. in 2007. He came to Oregon by way of Tennessee, where he worked at a ski resort in Gatlinburg supervising international student employees. It is something he admires about his adopted country, that people can change their field, or remain in it if they excel. "You can do everything — I mean, you can do everything you want at some point," he said.

In Astoria, he found his field in social work. "It's my destiny probably," he said with a laugh.

For about two years, he worked for a company driving

veterans to Portland, Vancouver and Lebanon for medical treatment at U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs clinics. He landed his first Clatsop Community Action gig manning the agency's community resource desk at Providence Seaside Hospital, where he worked for about 3 1/2 years, before coming to the Astoria office.

At Clatsop Community Action, "most people, they are coming here to ask for help," he said.

When someone is spiraling emotionally, he has to remain cool. "They are not happy with their life, they are in (a) bad mood, or they have problems — you know, life," he said. He knows he cannot

mirror their frustration, rise to their level of intensity, or react with negativity of his own. If he cannot control the mood of the person, he can at least control the interaction by being patient and professional, a center of calm for someone in crisis.

Some people's problems may run so deep that they cannot be helped — not fundamentally. But when the basics can be taken care of, "We start improving, a little bit, their life," Hernandez said.

To keep his mind clean, Hernandez heads for the outdoors — riding his bike, camping and kayaking, going for runs and walks, and spending time with friends and his 14-year-old daughter.

Advertisement for J & S Appliance and Home Furnishings. Features 'Appliance Package Deals' and 'Mattresses, Furniture & More!'. Address: 529 SE Marlin, Warrenton. Phone: 503-861-0929. Hours: Mon-Fri 8-6, Sat 10-4, Sun 10-4. Services: Visa, MasterCard.

Columbia River Maritime Museum advertisement. Features 3D Theater, Lightship Tour, Gift Store. Open daily 9:30 to 5:00. Address: 1792 Marine Drive, Astoria, OR. Phone: 503.325.2323. Website: www.crm.org.



SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR ASTORIA

Table with 7 columns: Today, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday. Includes high/low temperatures and weather descriptions.

REGIONAL FORECAST

Regional weather forecast map showing temperatures and weather conditions for various locations in the Pacific Northwest. Includes a table with city names and high/low temperatures for today and Wednesday.

ALMANAC

Almanac table for Astoria through Sunday. Includes temperatures, precipitation, and moon phases.

UNDER THE SKY

Tonight's Sky: Full Harvest Moon (4:54 p.m.).

SUN AND MOON

Table with moon phases: Full, Last, New, First. Includes sunrise and sunset times.

TODAY'S TIDES

Table with tide times and heights for Astoria/Port Docks, Cape Disappointment, Hammond, Warrenton, Knappa, and Depoe Bay.

NATIONAL CITIES

Table with national city weather forecasts for today and Wednesday.