

IN BRIEF

State fishery managers finalize salmon and steelhead seasons

Oregon and Washington state fishery managers have finalized seasons and regulations for the Columbia River summer and fall recreational salmon and steelhead fisheries.

Upriver summer steelhead's forecast of 99,700 is below average, requiring conservative retention regulations.

There will be no directed sockeye fishery in the Columbia River downstream of the Wenatchee River confluence, due to a forecast of 19,200 Wenatchee River sockeye, which is below the escapement goal.

Retention of adult hatchery Chinook will open June 16 for the summer season and is expected to continue through June 22 downstream of Bonneville Dam. Hatchery steelhead retention will be allowed June 16 to July 31 from the Astoria Bridge upstream to The Dalles Dam.

Chinook retention seasons start Aug. 1 with mark-selective rules at Buoy 10 through Aug. 24 and closures of salmonid angling upstream of west Puget Island when Chinook retention is prohibited.

In response to a low forecast for upriver summer steelhead, there is a one hatchery steelhead daily bag limit when open, area-specific retention closures and thermal angling sanctuaries in portions near the mouth of the Columbia River and other tributaries.

Fishery managers add fishing days on river

Fishery managers have adopted additional fishing days on the Columbia River beginning Thursday.

Downstream of Bonneville Dam, the additional season will be from Thursday to May 22 and June 4 to June 15.

Bag limit is two adult hatchery Chinook or steelhead salmonids per day, one Chinook maximum. Shad can also be retained.

The open area includes the Tongue Point/Rocky Point line upstream to Beacon Rock, with bank angling only from Beacon Rock to Bonneville Dam.

The additional fishing days follow a projected return of over 161,800 upriver-origin adult spring Chinook, exceeding the preseason forecast by 38,900 fish.

— *The Astorian*

Investigators looking into fatal crash in Ilwaco

ILWACO, Wash. — Investigators are piecing together a crash near the Ilwaco Fuel Dock that left a woman and two teenagers dead.

The driver was identified as Kimberly A. Pickering, 39, of Long Beach, her daughter Mya A. Edwards, 15, of Ocean Park, and a friend, Nevaeh A. Longcrow, 15, of Ilwaco.

The crash occurred sometime between the late-night hours last Thursday and the early-morning hours on Friday.

According to law enforcement officers, who responded to the scene at about 6 a.m. on Friday, the vehicle was noticed by a port worker who observed tires protruding from the murky water.

— *Chinook Observer*

DEATHS

May 10, 2022

MASSEY, Robert Buren, 58, of Warrenton, died in Portland. Ocean View Funeral & Cremation Service of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

May 9, 2022

BONNER, Glenda Marie, 83, of Seaside, died in Seaside. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

CHO, Hiram Sydney Kalino, 52, of Astoria,

died in Astoria. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

May 8, 2022

ALVA, Jorge Mota, 46, of Seaside, died in Seaside. Caldwell's Funeral & Cremation Arrangement Center of Seaside is in charge of the arrangements.

JOHNSON, Gail, 70, of Warrenton, died in Warrenton. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

ON THE RECORD

DUII

• Felipe Hernandez-Garcia, 19, of Spokane, Washington, was arrested on Tuesday at W. Marine Drive and the Astoria Bridge for driving under the influence of intoxicants and reckless driving.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

THURSDAY

Seaside Civic and Convention Center Commission,

5 p.m., 415 First Ave.

Gearhart Planning Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall, 698 Pacific Way.

the Astorian

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ECOLA ELK



Lydia Ely/The Astorian

Elk grazed in the meadow at Ecola State Park in May.

A rare contested race for appeals court judge

Ortega facing a challenge from Day

By ZANE SPARLING
The Oregonian

Voters will encounter something unusual while filling out their May ballot for one seat on the Oregon Court of Appeals this year: a choice.

Judge Darleen Ortega, who has served on the appellate court since 2003, is facing a challenge from Vance Day, a former Oregon Republican Party chairman whom the Oregon Supreme Court suspended from his role as a Marion County judge in 2018 for making false statements.

Day says the real reason behind his suspension was his religious opposition to gay marriage, which became apparent when he refused to marry same-sex couples.

The statewide race for a six-year term is the first real electoral test for Ortega, who at 59 is the first woman of color and the only Latina to serve on Oregon's second-highest court.

The incumbent says that while non-partisan judges are elected to determine the facts, not represent constituencies, the absence of people of color from positions of power can omit important perspectives, such as when the 13 Court of Appeals judges confer as a group.

"As a result, I think the process is missing key information, resulting in biased outcomes," Ortega said in a written reply to questions. "My experiences as a Latina from a challenging background, along with my compassion, help me to be curious about things that others miss, and regularly help me to deepen the conversations we have at the court as we apply the law."

For his part, Day, 61, says he will bring ideological diversity to the appellate court. Describing himself as a strict constructionist who interprets the Constitution as it was originally intended, Day claims that Ortega and other judges have embraced an "equity doctrine" that picks winners and losers.

"You can't have a justice system which views those in the system dif-



Darleen Ortega



Vance Day

ferently depending upon their color, their experience or whether they're an oppressor or an oppressed person," he said. "Our laws should be applied to all people in all places at all times equally."

Single-candidate races featuring only the incumbent judge are the norm in the Oregon judiciary, as most judges choose to retire midterm, allowing the governor to handpick their successors, who can then run as an incumbent during the next election. While the court itself does not track contested races, they are exceedingly rare, although defense attorney Kyle Krohn made them less so in recent years.

Krohn lost to incumbent Judge Rex Armstrong in 2018. Incumbent Judge Joel DeVore also defeated Krohn in the May 2020 primary. In both cases, the incumbents won handily.

Adrian Brown, a former assistant U.S. Attorney in Oregon, triumphed over attorney Rima Ghandour in another hotly-contested judgeship in Multnomah County Circuit Court in 2020.

This year's face-off has also led to an unusual degree of fundraising. Campaign finance records show Ortega has

taken in \$81,000. Day has collected \$59,000.

Ortega had never reported raising any money for any of her three appeals court campaigns. Day had never raised more than \$1,150 for any of his judicial campaigns, state records indicate.

Day, whose family has lived in Oregon for generations, has a history of generating controversial headlines.

The Oregon Supreme Court's decision to suspend him followed a recommendation from the state's Commission on Judicial Fitness and Disability. The ruling was spurred by controversies regarding Day's refusal to marry same-sex couples and a portrait of Adolf Hitler that was part of a large art display in the Veterans Treatment Court over which Day presided.

Felony gun charges and misdemeanor misconduct charges, which centered on allegations that Day had let a felon handle a gun, were dismissed at the last minute in 2018 after a key witness refused to testify.

Day says Oregon's gun laws were "weaponized" against him for his views on gay marriage.

"My actions infuriated those, frankly, who had anointed themselves as the arbiters of right or wrong," he said. "The justice system must not become a political punishment and reward system."

Ortega has occupied a spot near the limelight for years as an appeals court judge who also wrote film criticism for two Portland newspapers. She's also a law instructor who has pushed to let Oregon students attain their law license via practical experience as an alternative to the bar exam.

After nearly two decades on the bench, Ortega says she remains one of the most productive and engaged judges on the court and is dedicated to breaking down the barriers people from marginalized populations face in the legal system.

"We first have to recognize the barriers to true equity, which means active looking and listening, followed by acknowledgment and real systemic change," she said. "No one has done more to increase diversity of thought and perspective in the judiciary than I have."

County Public Health Department discloses virus cases among staff

By ERICK BENGEL
The Astorian

The Clatsop County Public Health Department on Tuesday disclosed three coronavirus cases among department staff.

The virus cases did not interrupt public health operations, Margo Lulich, the department's interim director, said.

The employees who contracted the virus did so independently of each other and are now back at work. No one showed up at the department with symptoms, Lulich said.

"It's hard, particularly when you work in a health-care setting, because staff feel very committed and obligated to show up for work because they're caretakers, right? They take care of other people," Lulich said. "But we are adamant with our policy in public health that, if anyone presents with any symptoms of any sort, they report to their supervisor and they don't come to work. And we are uncompromising in wearing masks."

All public health staff have been vaccinated and boosted. These measures

don't make a person immune from the virus; they provide protection from severe illness and other adverse outcomes, she said.

"We're doing the best we can because we're public health, and we need to be healthy and well to take care of the public," Lulich said.

COVID-19 is increasingly presenting "like a really nasty head cold," with symptoms that include fever, fatigue and brain fog, she said.

In June 2020, Michael McNickle, who at the time was the director of the Public Health Department, disclosed that he had tested positive for the virus. He called it "a teachable moment because it shows that anybody can get COVID."

The new virus cases at the Public Health Department were disclosed as cases have

risen in the county.

On April 1, Gov. Kate Brown lifted the COVID-19 emergency declaration. The state's indoor mask mandate had gone away a few weeks earlier.

Daily virus case counts remained relatively low in Clatsop County until late April and early May, when they began climbing into the double digits.

As of May 4, the county had seen 4,727 virus cases and 50 deaths, according to the Oregon Health Authority.

"Without masks, and with people gathering the way they've always gathered in the past, inevitably we're going to have more community spread, just like we're seeing more flu and just the common cold," Lulich said. "And so this shouldn't be a surprise to anyone."

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