

IN BRIEF

Vehicle of former Cornelius mayor found with human remains inside

The vehicle of a Cornelius man with ties to Astoria who disappeared a year ago was found submerged in the Willamette River in the Newberg area on Friday with human remains inside.

Ralph Brown, 77, was last seen on May 16, 2021. His 2014 blue Nissan Sentra had come to rest 40 feet underwater near a boat ramp, according to the Washington County Sheriff's Office.

The Astoria Police Department assisted in the original search for Brown. The circumstances of his death are still under investigation, the sheriff's office said in a release.

Brown was mayor of Cornelius about 40 years ago. — *The Astorian*

LUBA again sends Port Westward expansion back to Columbia County

The state Land Use Board of Appeals has for a third time remanded a decision by Columbia County to rezone 837 acres of agricultural land for industrial development at Port Westward.

In its ruling in May, LUBA sided with environmental and land use organizations that the county did not adequately demonstrate how proposed industrial uses may be compatible with surrounding property, including farms.

The land, purchased by the Port of Columbia County in 2010, is adjacent to the Port Westward Industrial Park along the Columbia River near Clatskanie.

Port officials have long sought to rezone the 837 acres to expand Port Westward and attract more industrial tenants. Opponents, however, worry the site will become a hub for fuel development, threatening the area's air and water quality.

— *Capital Press*

MEMORIALS

Saturday, May 21

HUNT, Randall W. "Randy" (aka "Bert") — Celebration of life from 1 to 4 p.m., Wickiup Senior Citizen Center, 92650 Svensen Market Road.

IVANOFF, Blaine Dean — Celebration of life from 1 to 4 p.m., Holiday Inn Express & Suites Astoria, 204 W. Marine Drive.

JOHNSON, Weston (Tony) MacLeod II — Service at 1 p.m., St. Catherine of Alexandria Episcopal Church, 36335 Highway 101 N. in Nehalem.

Sunday, May 22
MARSHALL, Mike — Celebration of life at 2 p.m., Bob Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A in Seaside.

ON THE RECORD

Menacing

• Imelda Cantu-Bradshaw, 51, of Astoria, was arrested on Wednesday at the intersection of Conifer Lane and Lewis and Clark Road for menacing and unlawful possession of a weapon — a knife — with intent to use.

Criminal mischief

• Michael Wade Hammond, 34, of Astoria, was arrested on Wednesday for second-degree criminal mischief for breaking a window at an apartment complex on W. Marine Drive, and for aggravated harassment for allegedly spitting in an officer's face.

Aggravated theft

• Sarah Leigh Eaton,

41, of Astoria, was indicted on Friday for first-degree aggravated theft, identity theft and 16 counts of first-degree forgery. The crimes are alleged to have occurred between July and October.

Theft

• Trisha Dawn Cowles, 41, of Bend, was arrested on Saturday at Walmart in Warrenton for first-degree theft and first-degree criminal trespass.

DUI

• Bryce Westly Hall, 26, of Astoria, was arrested on May 10 at Fifth Street and Marine Drive in Astoria for driving under the influence of intoxicants.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

TUESDAY

Port of Astoria Commission, 4 p.m., 10 Pier 1, Suite 209.
Seaside School District Board, 6 p.m., 2600 Spruce Drive, Suite 200, Secondary School Library.
Shoreline Sanitary District Board, 7 p.m., Hertig Station, 33496 W. Lake Road in Warrenton.

WEDNESDAY

Clatsop County Board of Commissioners, 10 a.m., work session, (electronic meeting).
Seaside Tourism Advisory Committee, 3 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.
Seaside Tree Board, 4 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.
Knappa School District Board, 6:30 p.m., Knappa High School Library, 41535 Old U.S. Highway 30.

THURSDAY

Seaside Transportation Advisory Committee, 6 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

FRIDAY

Astoria City Council, 9 a.m., work session, City Hall, 1095 Duane St.

the Astorian

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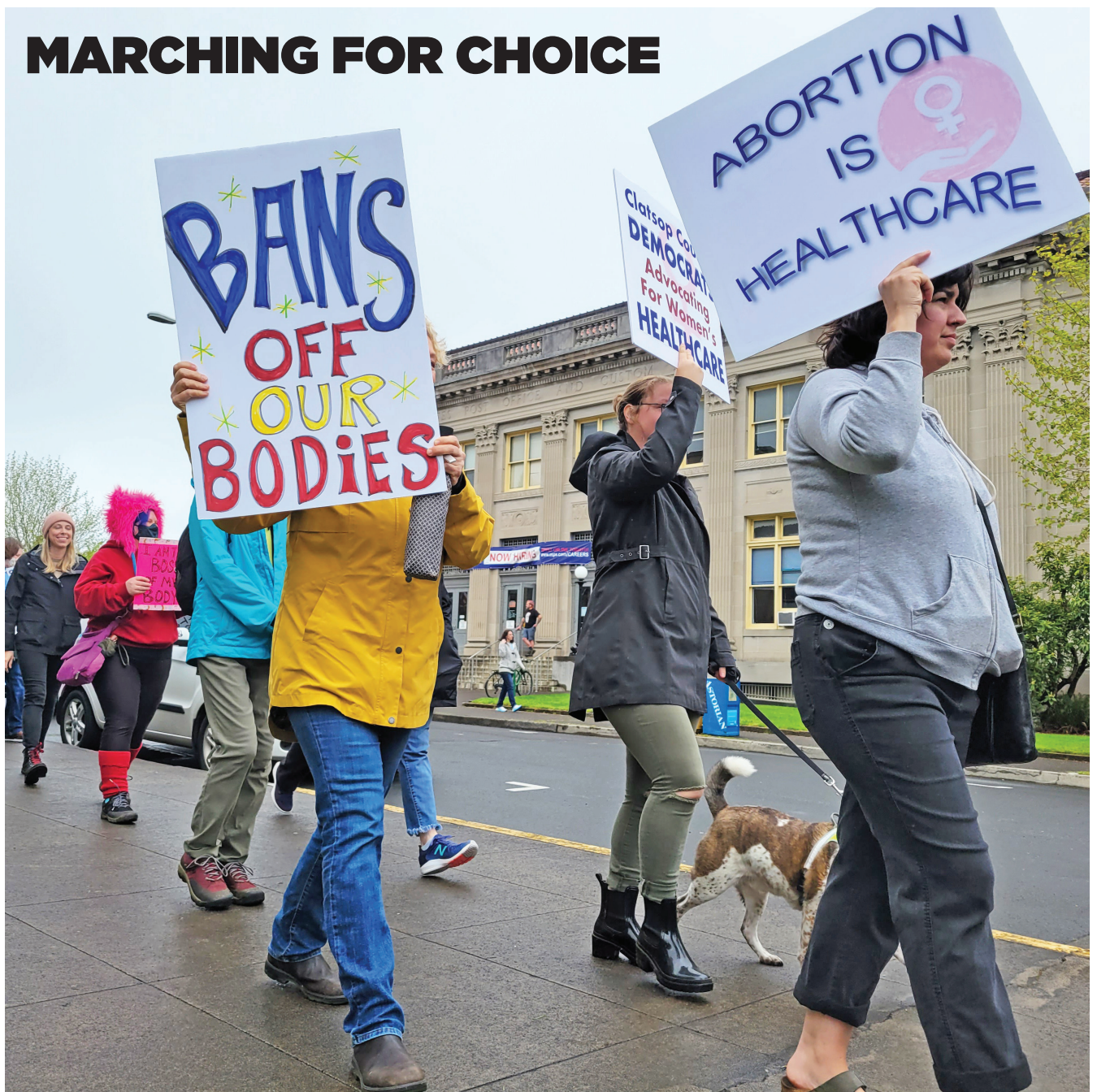
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MARCHING FOR CHOICE



Nicole Bales/The Astorian

People marched in downtown Astoria on Saturday afternoon in support of abortion rights. Hundreds of marches took place across the United States as the U.S. Supreme Court prepares to issue a new abortion ruling.

State issues new health advisory for schools on virus

By ELIZABETH MILLER
Oregon Public Broadcasting

'WHEN SCHOOL COMMUNITIES HAVE ILLNESS RATES THAT RESULT IN HIGH NUMBERS OF STAFF AND STUDENT ABSENCES, THEY SHOULD LEAN INTO THE PROTECTION OFFERED BY LAYERED MITIGATION SAFETY PROTOCOLS.'

Colt Gill | director of the state Department of Education

COVID-19 cases are rising in Oregon and state education officials are hoping to keep cases from disrupting school operations with a new health advisory shared Friday.

"When school communities have illness rates that result in high numbers of staff and student absences, they should lean into the protection offered by layered mitigation safety protocols," said Colt Gill, the director of the state Department of Education.

School districts and schools should recommend face coverings before shifting to remote school in response to increasing COVID cases, the state said.

The statewide announcement comes as Multnomah County public health officials urged residents to wear masks indoors until cases and hospitalizations fall again.

COVID-19 Community Levels, a federal Cen-

ters for Disease Control and Prevention data point based on COVID-19 hospitalization data, are listed as "medium" in six counties: Multnomah, Washington, Clackamas, Columbia, Benton and Deschutes.

All other Oregon counties have "low" COVID-19 community levels.

According to health authority data, pediatric COVID-19 cases have been increasing since the middle of March, similar to cases statewide. Hospitalizations remain low but are on the rise. Health officials have called it "a mild virus" in

most cases.

The advisory also recommends that schools monitor for high absentee rates and notify their local public health authority if absences reach a certain level, or if they see an "unusual spread of disease."

The Department of Education said school leaders should tell their county health officials if absences exceed certain benchmarks, such as if absences reach 30% or more, with at least 10 students or staff absent at the school level, and if classroom absences reach 20% or more, with at

least three students or staff absent.

"Some public health recommendations may include universal use of face coverings while an outbreak is active, utilizing the enhanced testing program within cohorts, or other infection prevention and control measures," according to the advisory.

The advisory adds that families and residents should keep children experiencing COVID-like symptoms home from school and get them tested for the virus.

The school health advisory is in effect until Aug. 31 unless otherwise updated.

COVID-19's impact on schools next school year is unknown, but the Department of Education has asked school districts to prepare for the possibility of a fourth school year affected by the pandemic.

School districts are required to submit COVID-19 management plans for the next school year no later than Aug. 26. Those plans should outline how districts will respond to virus outbreaks in schools.

Bird flu strikes more flocks in Washington state

By DON JENKINS
Capital Press

Bird flu was confirmed in two backyard flocks in Pierce County in western Washington state, the third and fourth noncommercial flocks hit by the virus in the state in the past week, the Department of Agriculture said Wednesday.

Highly pathogenic avian influenza was confirmed in the flocks Tuesday. Turkeys, chickens, peacocks and waterfowl were infected. One flock had 60 birds, while the other had 40, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The birds that didn't die of bird flu will be euthanized, the state agriculture department said.

Flock owners called the state agriculture department's hotline to report an unusual number of sudden deaths. The department had previously reporting finding bird flu in noncommercial flocks in Pacific and Spokane counties.

'AVIAN INFLUENZA IS HERE. WHETHER IT HAS BEEN CONFIRMED IN YOUR COUNTY YET OR NOT, YOU SHOULD BE TAKING STEPS TO PROTECT YOUR BIRDS AND PREVENT THE SPREAD OF THIS VIRUS WHICH COULD WIPE OUT YOUR FLOCK.'

Amber Itle | Washington state veterinarian

Washington wildlife officials have also confirmed the virus in a bald eagle at Loon Lake in Stevens County and a Canada goose in Whatcom County. Eight other suspected cases of avian influenza in wild birds are being investigated.

"With so many suspicious cases in wild birds pending investigation, I can't emphasize enough how important it is to avoid exposing your flock to wild waterfowl and shorebirds," Washington

State Veterinarian Amber Itle said in a statement.

Unusual deaths or illness among domestic birds should be reported to the state's avian health program at 1-800-606-3056.

The department announced the state's first case of bird flu in early May. Since then, the department has received nearly two dozen calls on its hotline. Several other suspected cases are being investigated.

Wild birds infect domestic birds. Both wild and domes-

tic waterfowl can be infected and not show signs of the disease. Itle advised flock owners to prevent their birds from coming into contact with wild birds.

"Avian influenza is here," Itle said. "Whether it has been confirmed in your county yet or not, you should be taking steps to protect your birds and prevent the spread of this virus which could wipe out your flock."

Highly pathogenic avian influenza has been found in 34 states, according to the USDA. Washington and Oregon are the most recent states.

The virus has killed 37.55 million domestic birds at 176 commercial farms and 120 backyard flocks. One backyard flock was hit with the virus in Linn County. Bird flu has been found in six backyard flocks in Idaho.

No commercial farms have been hit in the three states.

A bird flu outbreak in the U.S. in 2015 killed 50 million birds.