

BRIEFLY

Student apologizes for 'build a wall' banner at school

PORTLAND (AP) — A student responsible for hanging a "build a wall" banner at an Oregon high school has apologized. The student said he wanted to do something "provocative" to protest restrictions on freedom of speech and didn't realize until later that the phrase held such a strong, threatening connotation. The student says he doesn't believe a barrier should be constructed on the border with Mexico and is truly sorry for hurting people. The apology was posted on a public blog Thursday and doesn't identify the student.

The banner that made reference to Donald Trump's plan to clamp down on illegal immigration briefly appeared in the Forest Grove High School cafeteria Wednesday. It triggered a protest the following day, with hundreds of students marching out of the school west of Portland.

Warm Springs woman dead; husband sought

PORTLAND (AP) — The FBI says a 30-year-old woman died violently in her Warm Springs home and agents are trying to find her husband. Officers from the Warm Springs Police Department found the body of Candelaria Rhoan after being asked to conduct a welfare check Thursday.

Her husband, Mark Johnson, Jr., was last seen Wednesday at a friend's home on the Warm Springs Reservation. He is likely driving a 1998 maroon, 4-door Volkswagen Passat with an Oregon license plate of 223DXW.

The FBI says Johnson might be suicidal and should be considered armed and dangerous.

Hanford workers evaluated after reporting odor

RICHLAND, Wash. (AP) — Officials say two more workers at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation have received medical evaluations after they reported smelling vapors at the former nuclear weapons production site.

The Tri-Cities Herald reports that Washington River Protection Solutions said Wednesday two workers had reported an odor outside the AY Tank Farm. Neither had any symptoms and they both went to get checked out at an on-site clinic.

Last week, a worker who smelled nothing reported symptoms and also underwent a medical evaluation.

Since late April, a total of 49 Hanford workers have received medical evaluations because of possible exposure to chemical vapors.

Sprinkler used to deter homeless attacked twice

EUGENE (AP) — Two people got into trouble with Eugene police this week after targeting a sprinkler that was turned on to prevent the homeless from damaging a yard.

Police say a visitor from Stockton, California, was cited for criminal trespass Monday after she unhooked the sprinkler and threw it in the street.

Two days later, police arrested a homeless man who damaged the sprinkler with a golf club and a pipe.

The Register-Guard reports that the man ran from officers, but was later arrested when threatened with a stun gun. He was booked into jail on charges of criminal trespass and criminal mischief.

Police say the sprinkler is in a neighborhood that has faced a continuing problem with people loitering, littering, damaging property, and urinating and defecating in yards.

State orders Willamette River boaters to move on

PORTLAND (AP) — Oregon regulators are telling people living on boats on the Willamette River to move on or risk fines.

The Oregon Department of State Lands is cracking down on long-term boaters on the river, saying they are on a state-owned waterway without permission, The Oregonian/OregonLive reported.

Lori Warner-Dickason, the state department's operations manager, said this is the first comprehensive sweep of boaters since the agency began tracking the number of people living on the water in 2014. She said there are about 50 boat owners on the river between the Willamette Cove and the Fremont bridge, less than the 75 of 2014 because some vessels have left the water or sunk since then.



Everton Bailey, Jr./The Oregonian via AP

In this May 17 photo, Rix "Finger" Chapman, 47, is one of several people living in a boat along the Willamette River south of the Hawthorne Bridge in Portland. Oregon regulators are telling people living on boats on the Willamette River to move on or risk fines.

So far 14 boat owners on the river between the Sellwood and Hawthorne bridges have been given trespassing notices on suspicion of living along

state-owned waterways for at least 30 days.

Boaters have been given 20 days to move to another spot at least five miles away and not return for a year,

move to a marina or contest the citation. If they don't comply, they can be fined \$100 a day until they move or their boats will be seized.

Rix Miles Chapman, 47, is among those who have been told to leave. He said he has been living mostly on the river for about seven years. He said he was sick of paying landlords and dealing with neighbors and decided to stop. He said he moves for special events, like the Fourth of July fireworks display or a barge, but that he expects to stay.

"They're mad that I don't have to pay anyone anything," he said. "This is public water, and I'm not bothering anyone. What they told me is that I'm breaking an administrative rule. Issue me something that says I'm breaking the law, and maybe I'll go."

Gov. Brown tells grads about former closeted life

By GORDON FRIEDMAN
Statesman Journal

SALEM — Willamette University President Stephen Thorsett introduced Oregon Gov. Kate Brown to a crowd of thousands last weekend as the school's 2016 commencement speaker.

As Brown approached the microphone, Thorsett, adorned in full academic regalia, bent down and positioned a small black wooden box behind the podium. Brown, 55 and short of stature, thanked him and stepped up.

Her speech had all the hallmarks of a typical commencement address: She told the 400-some graduates to find a path, help others, have ambition and work hard.

And then the governor made uncharacteristic, telling remarks about her personal life — details about being a family practice lawyer and public servant, underscored by the realities of living for years as a closeted bisexual.

Brown said that as a new lawyer in the 1980s, she

felt terrified when going to work, afraid of losing her job if someone discovered that she was seeing a woman. (Brown has been married to her husband, Dan Little, for nearly 20 years and has two step-children.)

It was a rare moment when the governor spoke publicly about her sexuality.

"I wanted to share that because people don't always appear as they seem," she said during an interview this week at her personal office in the Capitol.

Though she feared losing her job in the '80s, Brown wouldn't be outed publicly until the mid-'90s when *The Oregonian* published a story about LGBT legislators.

The outing forced her to confront the truth with her parents, who flew from Minnesota to Oregon after the news broke. They had a difficult conversation, telling Brown it would be easier if she were just a lesbian.

She wrote in "Out and Elected in the USA," an online collection of essays by LGBT elected officials, that

some of her gay friends called her "half-queer." Straight friends were convinced she couldn't make up her mind.

The most frightening part was coming out to fellow legislators.

At the time, Oregonians were presented with anti-gay ballot measures, though they failed.

Brown, then a member of the state Senate, served on a committee where all the other members were white, male and presumably straight.

"And they didn't have any experiences like mine," she said. "They didn't know what it felt like to be afraid to go to work."

Members of her Senate caucus told bisexual jokes. In a way, Brown found solace in the levity.

Bill Markham, an older, more experienced Republican lawmaker, joked with Brown about the Oregonian article, saying perhaps he now had a chance with her.

"I was really nervous about how my colleagues were going to relate to me," she said. Markham, who

"used to flirt with everybody," she says, broke the ice with his comment, enabling them to connect.

Yet Brown had only figured out "who, or what" she was when in her 30s, she wrote. She didn't know the implications of being an openly bisexual legislator.

"There was no one else in the country ... So it was like, what does this mean? I was very upfront with it, but I hadn't put a label to it," she remembered.

It wasn't easy. "Some days I feel like I have a foot in both worlds, yet never really belonging to either," she wrote in her essay.

Since becoming governor in 2015, the label of being the nation's first openly bisexual governor has followed Brown in the national press.

She sighed when asked if she resents the label.

It's more challenging for her family than for her, she said.

"I think my mother said to me, 'Do they have to say it every single time?'"

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