

Wyden honors retired publisher

Forrester led
The Daily Astorian

By EDWARD STRATTON
EO Media Group

Steve Forrester, a 1964 graduate of Pendleton High School who retired in 2016 after 28 years as editor and publisher of *The Daily Astorian*, was honored Sunday by U.S. Sen Ron Wyden for his impact on the freedom of the press.

On break from Congress, Wyden has been on a First Amendment-themed tour of Oregon highlighting freedoms of speech, religion, press and assembly. He met with refugees Friday in Portland and blocked out time Sunday to visit Forrester's home in Astoria.

The Oregon Democrat presented Forrester with an inaugural Go Fourth Award, a nod to the role of the press as the Fourth Estate watchdog of government.

"Steve has always said that this process — asking the important questions, being involved in the community — that what mattered most was local government, local journalism, community journalism," Wyden said while giving Forrester the award.

Forrester is president and CEO of EO Media Group, the owner of the *East Oregonian*, *The Daily Astorian*, *Capital Press* and other weekly newspapers. Forrester is from Pendleton and a 1964 graduate of Pendleton High School. He worked for the *Sellwood Bee* after graduating from Portland State University and later co-founded *Willamette Week*. In 1978, he took over the bureau assignment of longtime Washington, D.C., reporter Robert Smith.

Two years later, Forrester met Wyden, then in his early 30s and running for the state's 3rd Congressional District. Thanking



Steve Forrester, left, former editor and publisher of *The Daily Astorian*, laughs at a quip by U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden as he signs a Go Fourth Award honoring the newspaperman's impact on the First Amendment.

Wyden for the award, Forrester remarked on how he could tell early on the candidate was a winner. After serving in the House, Wyden was elected to the Senate in 1996.

Wyden credited Forrester with dedication to producing quality news and investing in the community through projects such as the restoration of the Liberty Theatre downtown. He presented Forrester a transcript of the June 20 Congressional Record, when he read a tribute to the newspaperman.

"I know Steve would much rather shine the spotlight on others, but the bottom line is I want Oregon to recognize his enormous and long-lasting contributions to making our state a better place to live and to making all of us as Oregonians better-informed citizens," the tribute said.

On Monday, Wyden is in Eugene for his 900th town hall, part of a promise since being elected to the Senate to visit each county, each year. He will march in a Fourth of July parade Wednesday in



Ashland and meet with religious leaders Thursday in Eugene to discuss freedom of religion.

"In much of the world, people can't freely assemble, speak, write or practice their religion," Wyden

said in a news release about his tour. "It's more important than ever as we in the United States celebrate our nation's birthdate to celebrate all those freedoms and to defend them from assaults with all our might."

State imposes new water testing rules in wake of algae blooms

By CLAIRE
WITHYCOMBE
Capital Bureau

SALEM — New state rules require some public water systems to regularly test for cyanobacteria that can cause harmful algae blooms.

About 150 to 200 water systems in the state may be affected by the new rules, according to the Oregon Health Authority.

The rules apply to public water systems that use surface water that has had harmful algal blooms or cyanotoxin detections, or is susceptible to such algal blooms, and public water supplies that use water downstream from those sources.

The state is stepping in with new testing requirements after a panic late last month over levels of cyanotoxins in the city of Salem's water supply.

Salem and surrounding communities served by that water supply are still under a do-not-drink advisory for vulnerable groups, such as young children and pregnant and nursing women.

The new state rules — which took effect Sunday — will require certain systems to test raw water every two weeks, starting July 15, until Oct. 31.

Suppliers using cyanotoxin-susceptible water sources and systems that buy their water from those suppliers will be subject to the rules.

Two toxins will be tested for microcystins and cylindrospermopsin.

Those are the two cyanotoxins the Environmental Protection Agency has established health guidelines for.

The maximum allowed level of microcystins in treated water is 0.3 parts per billion for vulnerable people, and 1.6 parts per billion for healthy people 6 years and older.

For cylindrospermopsin, the maximum amounts in treated water are 0.7 and 3 parts per billion, respectively.

If either cyanotoxin is detected at a level higher than 0.3 parts per billion in the raw water, the system must test the raw and treated water weekly under the new rules.

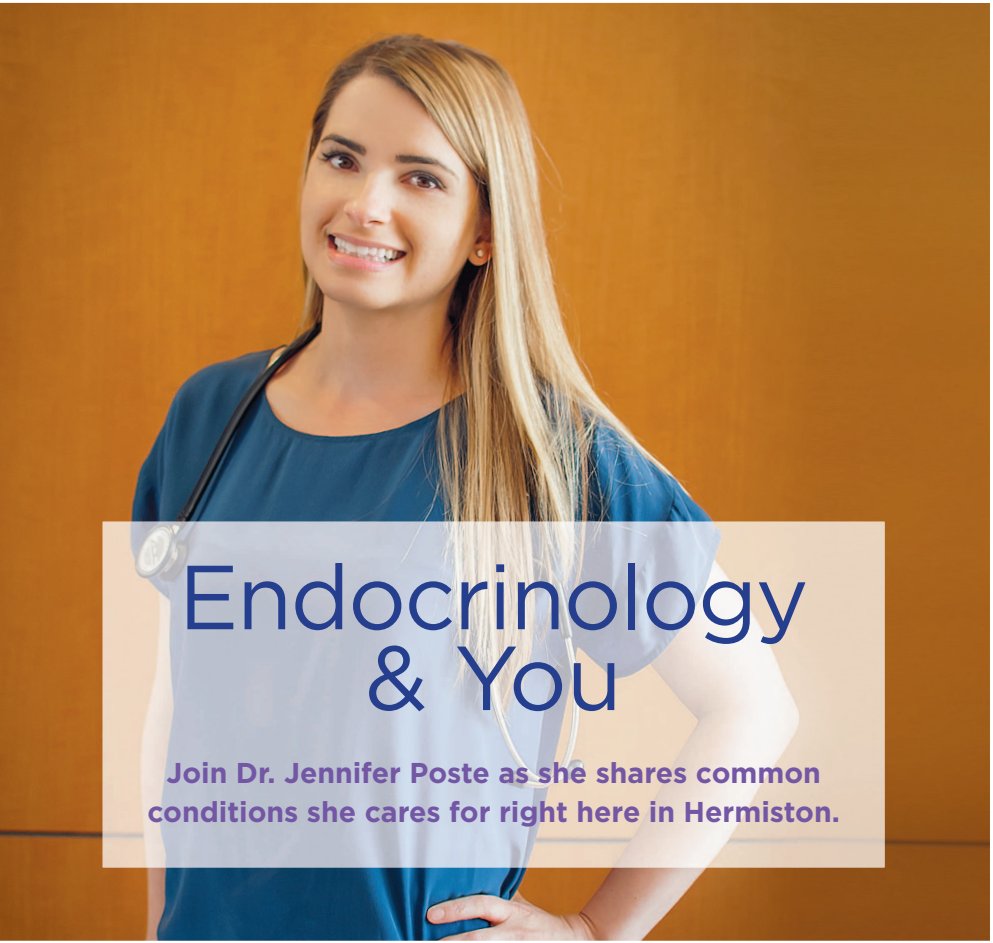
If any level of those cyanotoxins is detected in treated water, the water system must test treated water daily. A system in that circumstance can return to weekly testing after two consecutive days without detecting cyanotoxins in treated water.

If the level of cyanotoxins is higher than any advisory level in treated water, the system has to get a confirmation sample as soon as possible within 24 hours, and issue a do-not-drink advisory if that confirmation sample shows an amount cyanotoxins higher than advisory levels.

OHA says it will be "encouraging" water systems to notify the public within 24 hours if water tests show any levels of those two cyanotoxins, even if they are below advisory levels. But that won't be required.

GoodHealthLIVE

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ENDOCRINOLOGIST



Endocrinology & You

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- 10am - Parade, downtown to Pendleton Convention Center
Followed by award presentation in 14 categories
- Noon - Pendleton VFW Post 922 to present Patriot Trophy at Hamley's Park on Main Street
- Dusk - Fireworks, launched from property west of Wal-Mart
Sponsored by the Pendleton Rotary Club

Have a Happy and Safe Happy Independence Day from all of us at

EAST OREGONIAN

