

LOCAL, STATE & REGION

Asian American community leaders urge people to 'learn our names'

BY JAIMIE DING
The Oregonian

Gina Kim-Folston shed her Korean name, Heejung, after she came to the United States at age 5 in the 1980s.

"This small act chips at my identity," she said.

On Tuesday, Kim-Folston and other Asian American community leaders and activists called for the country to "learn our names" in the aftermath of three Atlanta-area shootings last week that killed eight people, six of whom were Asian women.

"A small act is to learn our names," said Kim-Folston, a board member of the Korean American Coalition Oregon chapter. "Don't dehumanize us."

Local leaders from the National Organization for Women, Chinese American Citizens Alliance, Philippine American Chamber of Commerce, and Pacific Islander and Asian Family Center as well as Beaverton City Councilor Nadia Hasan spoke at the gathering at southeast Port-



Jaimie Ding/The Oregonian

Coi Vu, director of the Pacific Islander and Asian Family Center in Portland, speaks at a gathering with community leaders Tuesday at Portland's Revolution Hall.

land's Revolution Hall.

Attendees carried signs that read "#LearnOurNames" to emphasize that "part of who we are is our names," said Jenny Kim from the Korean American Coalition, and that it wasn't just "faceless Asian women" who were killed.

Authorities have identified those who died in the attacks as Soon Chung Park, 74; Hyun Jung Grant, 51; Suncha Kim, 69; Yong Ae Yue, 63; Delaina Ashley Yaun, 33; Xiaojie Tan, 49; Daoyou Feng, 44; and Paul Andre Michels, 54.

Many of these names are Chinese and Korean, and the Asian American Journalists Association has released a pronunciation guide for people to say their names in a respectful manner.

The names of the victims were not read aloud at the event out of respect for a few of the families' wishes, according to Kim, who has been in contact with the Korean families. Although the names have already been released to the media, Kim said several of the families are still grieving and making funeral arrangements.

Hate crimes targeting Asian people in major U.S. cities rose by nearly 150% in 2020, even though hate crimes overall decreased by 7%, according to a

study by the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism at California State University, San Bernardino.

Stop AAPI Hate, an organization that tracks and reports bias crimes against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, tallied nearly 3,800 incidents from March 19, 2020, to the end of last month nationwide.

Bias crimes against Asian American women comprised 68% of the reports. Thirty-five percent of them happened in businesses.

The report noted 40 racist incidents in Oregon.

The speakers urged unity and allyship between the Asian American Pacific Islander community as well as the Black, Indigenous and other communities of color in Portland.

This Friday, the National Council of Asian Pacific Americans is organizing a virtual National Day of Action and Healing to bring awareness to anti-Asian racism.

TODAY

Today is Wednesday, March 24, the 83rd day of 2021. There are 282 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

In **1976**, the president of Argentina, Isabel Peron, was deposed by her country's military.

In **1765**, Britain enacted the Quartering Act, requiring American colonists to provide temporary housing to British soldiers.

In **1882**, German scientist Robert Koch announced in Berlin that he had discovered the bacillus responsible for tuberculosis.

In **1958**, Elvis Presley was inducted into the U.S. Army at the draft board in Memphis, Tennessee.

In **1989**, the supertanker Exxon Valdez ran aground on a reef in Alaska's Prince William Sound and began leaking an estimated 11 million gallons of crude oil.

In **1995**, after 20 years, British soldiers stopped routine patrols in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

In **1999**, NATO launched airstrikes against Yugoslavia, marking the first time in its 50-year existence that it had ever attacked a sovereign country.

In **2002**, at the 74th Academy Awards, Halle Berry became the first Black performer to win a Best Actress Oscar for her work in "Monster's Ball," while Denzel Washington became the second Black actor to win in the best actor category for "Training Day."

In **2010**, keeping a promise he'd made to anti-abortion Democratic lawmakers to assure passage of his historic health care legislation, President Barack Obama signed an executive order against using federal funds to pay for elective abortions covered by private insurance.

In **2015**, Germanwings Flight 9525, an Airbus A320, crashed into the French Alps, killing all 150 people on board; investigators said the jetliner was deliberately downed by the 27-year-old co-pilot, Andreas Lubitz.

In **2019**, Attorney General William Barr reported that special counsel Robert Mueller did not find evidence that President Donald Trump's campaign "conspired or coordinated" with Russia to influence the 2016 presidential election, but reached no conclusion on whether Trump obstructed justice. Democrats pointed out that Mueller had found evidence for and against obstruction, and they demanded to see his full report.

Ten years ago: A private funeral was held at Forest Lawn Cemetery for Elizabeth Taylor (the service began 15 minutes behind schedule in accordance with the actor's wish to be late for her own funeral).

Five years ago: A U.N. war crimes court convicted former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic of genocide and nine other charges for orchestrating a campaign of terror that left 100,000 people dead during the 1992-95 war in Bosnia.

One year ago: The International Olympic Committee announced that the Summer Olympics in Tokyo would be postponed until 2021. President Donald Trump said he hoped the United States would be reopened by Easter, even as some public health officials called for tougher, not looser, restrictions.

Today's Birthdays: Fashion and costume designer Bob Mackie is 82. Former Washington Gov. Christine Gregoire is 74. Singer Nick Lowe is 72. Fashion designer Tommy Hilfifer is 70. Comedian Louie Anderson is 68. Actor Donna Pescow is 67. Former Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer is 65. TV personality Star Jones is 59. Actor Peter Jacobson is 56. Actor Lauren Bowles is 51. Actor Megyn Price is 50. Actor Jim Parsons is 48. Christian rock musician Chad Butler (Switchfoot) is 47. Actor Alyson Hannigan is 47. Former NFL quarterback Peyton Manning is 45. Actor Amanda Brugel (TV: "The Handmaid's Tale") is 44. Actor Olivia Burnette is 44. Actor Jessica Chastain is 44. Actor Amir Arison is 43. Dancer Val Chmerkovskiy is 35. Actor Keisha Castle-Hughes is 31.

— The Associated Press

Officials investigate 'mystery' of 5 dead wolves

BY GEORGE PLAVEN
Capital Press

An investigation is continuing into the deaths of five wolves discovered early last month in Northeast Oregon.

On Feb. 9, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife reported a GPS collar on a wolf emitted a "mortality signal" in the Mount Harris area near La Grande. Officers with the Oregon State Police Fish and Wildlife Division found five wolves dead.

The carcasses were taken to a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service forensic lab to determine a cause of death. Results have yet to be released.

OSP Capt. Tim Fox said he could not immediately provide additional details about the dead wolves, such as their size, sex and pack. Roblyn Brown, wolf program coordinator for ODFW, also declined to comment, citing the pending investigation.

Oregon has a minimum wolf population of 158, as of the most recent ODFW survey in 2019, though the actual number is likely higher. Most packs are concentrated in the state's northeast corner, including Union County where the five dead wolves were found.

Kathleen Gobush, Northwest program director for the conservation group Defenders of Wildlife, said the deaths were suspicious, though without knowing the cause of

death, they cannot say whether poaching may have been to blame.

"It highlights the pressing need for a thorough investigation, for sure," Gobush said.

Gobush, who is in Seattle, said she has never heard of so many wolves found dead at once in either Oregon or Washington.

"We're all waiting to hear what the cause of death is," she said. "A lot of this is a mystery."

Rodger Huffman, a rancher in Union and wolf committee co-chairman for the Oregon Cattlemen's Association, said the relationship between wolves and local producers remains contentious, due in part to what he describes as "shoddy" management of the species.

Oregon's Wolf Management and Conservation Plan allows for ranchers and wildlife officials to legally kill wolves that prey on livestock if they reach a certain number of "confirmed" depredations within a certain time period, and nonlethal deterrents have failed.

But Huffman said it is frustratingly difficult to "confirm" a wolf depredation, unless it is found and reported immediately, leaving ranchers in a difficult predicament.

"The wolf population is not a celebrated thing in cattle country," he said. "It's frustrating, there's no doubt about it."

Oregon wolf continues California trek

FRESNO, Calif. — A gray wolf born in Oregon has been tracked farther south in California than any previous wolf equipped with a GPS collar, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife said.

The most recent collar reading showed the wolf dubbed OR-93 was in agricultural areas in central Fresno County, the department said in a statement Monday.

The young male wolf dispersed from Oregon's White River pack southeast of Mount Hood and was fitted with the tracking collar in June 2020.

California authorities reported he was in Modoc County in February and in the past few weeks has moved through Tuolumne, Mariposa, Merced and Madera counties.

— The Associated Press

Wolf poaching is not unheard of in Eastern Oregon. Two incidents were reported last year in neighboring Baker County — one in late September, a breeding male from the Cornucopia Pack, and another in late October, a sub-adult female from the Pine Creek Pack.

Gobush said apex predators like wolves play an important role in the ecosystem, and should be protected.

Defenders of Wildlife also supports a bill in the Legislature that would help crack down on poachers, Gobush said. Senate Bill 841 would appropriate \$1.6 million from the state general fund to support the Department of Justice's Environmental Crimes and Cultural Resources Enforcement Unit.

The bill, sponsored by Democratic Sens. James Manning Jr., Chris Gorsek and Deb Patterson, is scheduled for a public hearing on April 5.

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