

Don't call them 'Asian hornets'

By DON JENKINS
Capital Press



An Asian giant hornet held captive by the Washington State Department of Agriculture.

WSDA

SALEM — Asian giant hornets, popularly called “murder hornets,” should be commonly known as “northern giant hornets,” according to the Entomological Society of America’s committee on naming insects.

Washington State Department of Agriculture entomologist Chris Looney proposed the name. The recommendation by the names committee must still be approved by the society’s governing board.

The society’s “Better Common Names Project” has been targeting what the society calls “problematic names (that) perpetuate harm against people of various ethnicities and races.”

Last year, the society renamed the “gypsy moth” to “spongy moth,” the first name change approved by the gov-

erning board.

Looney said Wednesday that he wanted to keep the public from confusing Asian giant hornets with a different species commonly known in Europe as “Asian hornets,” another large and destructive pest.

“That was my main motiva-

tion,” he said.

Asian giant hornets, scientifically known as *Vespa mandarinia*, have been found in Washington and British Columbia.

Asian hornets, *Vespa velutina*, are spreading in Europe, but have never been docu-

mented in North America. The similar names, however, have already apparently caused a mix-up.

A Washington resident in 2020 reported an Asian giant hornet sighting to a United Kingdom agency’s website. The misdirected report delayed finding an Asian giant nest in Whatcom County, the agriculture department said.

The confusion spans the Atlantic. Residents of Switzerland, Spain and the UK have contacted Looney to report sightings of Asian hornets.

If Asian hornets were introduced into the U.S., the problem would increase, giving entomologists trying to contain the invasive species another problem to manage, Looney said.

The society committee, at Looney’s suggestion, is proposing to call *Vespa velutina* the “yellow-legged hornet” for

its conspicuous yellow legs.

There’s a third hornet in the name game, *Vespa soror*. One specimen was found in British Columbia in 2019. It has no common name in English.

The entomological society’s committee on names has recommended naming it the “southern giant hornet.” Its range in Asia overlaps with Asian giant hornets, but extends farther south.

The society is circulating all three names to its members for comment.

Entomologists disdain the term “murder hornets,” a headline-grabbing term that reflects the species’ painful sting and knack for decapitating bees.

The society’s guidelines on naming insects include avoiding terms that “unnecessarily incite offense, fear or promote negative emotional reactions.”

Society guidelines also discourage names based on race, ethnicity or cultures.

As an alternative to Asian giant hornet, Looney originally offered “giant hornet” and “northern giant hornet.” In comments to the committee, Looney said a new name that was too different would be confusing and invite public ridicule.

The society’s naming committee discussed both and decided that “northern giant hornet” made clearer which species was being referred to.

Looney made the point in his submission to the common name committee that all hornets are from Asia.

“As such, ‘Asian’ does not communicate anything unique or helpful about the insect’s biology, appearance, or behavior,” he wrote.

Archaeologists monitor demo

By JUSTIN DAVIS
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — Gleason Pool will soon transition from a demolition site to an archaeological site.

Archaeologists from Southern Oregon University have been monitoring the demolition to safeguard any artifacts and other objects that may be of historical value that might be uncovered during the demolition process.

Work to demolish Gleason Pool began on Monday, May 23, after some delays associated with the coordination of demolition crews and archaeologists so both could be on site at the same time. Demolition of the pool buildings was completed on Friday, May 27.

Chelsea Rose, a Southern Oregon University historical archaeologist and director of the SOU Laboratory of Anthropology, said there are a number of reasons an archaeologist would be monitoring the demolition of a facility such as Gleason Pool.

“We don’t know what’s under that pool, and we don’t know how they prepared the land before they built it,” she said. “There has been some debate

about the mound that the pool is on. Our research indicates that it was a natural rise and they dug into it, so one of our main motivations being out here this week is to see what that ground surface underneath looks like.”

Rose said nobody is expecting to find treasure under Gleason Pool, but there are other things that would interest archaeologists.

“If there is a board or something that we can link to a building, that is treasure to us,” she said. “We want to try to tie the footprint of these historical structures to this landscape so we can learn about how the flow of this community was and what life was like.”

Rose said that information will be shared with the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, which purchased the pool property and neighboring Gleason Park for an expansion of the Kam Wah Chung State Heritage Site. A stone and wood structure on the site, dating from the Civil War era, served as the hub of a thriving Chinese community for many years.

One of the things Rose expects to find is structural remains of buildings.

“I’m talking about an alignment of stones or a piece of wood or some nails, and we’ve already seen some nails. All of that helps us figure out where exactly these buildings were so we can rebuild this community virtually. And it also tells us how these buildings were constructed.”

Rose said all of these finds mean nothing if you don’t know how to interpret them.

Katie Johnson is the other archaeologist on site. She stressed that treasure hunting or going to the Gleason Pool demolition site to conduct your own archaeological research is illegal, both on the state and federal level.

“We’re here to document the artifacts,” Johnson said. “All of the artifacts will return here and be held here in the county and the (Kam Wah Chung) museum.”

Both Rose and Johnson will be back in John Day in July to conduct a formal archaeological survey of the Gleason Pool demolition site. Part of that work will involve an archaeological dig that will be open for the public to participate in. Details regarding the date and time of the public dig will be relayed by the Eagle in the near future.

Limbo

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district to move forward with the construction of an aquatic center that would be located at the Seventh Street Sports Complex in John Day.

The increased tax would be in effect for the life of the bond, which is expected to be 20 years.

The district includes the cities of John Day and Canyon City as well as some unincorporated areas around both communities. The boundary extends close to Mount Vernon in the west, nearly to Magone Lake in the north, close to Keeney Fork Road in the East and as far south as Starr Ridge. Voters who live within the parks and rec district were the only individuals eligible to vote on the bond measure.

Plans call for a six-lane, 25-yard outdoor pool to replace 64-year-old Gleason Pool. The design could be altered to enclose the building at a later date.

Gleason Pool has been closed for two years, and workers began demolishing it on Monday, May 23.

The \$4 million bond would be combined with a \$2 million state grant to go toward the pool’s estimated \$6 million construction cost. The city has also applied for an additional \$750,000 in grant funding to go toward construction of a warm-water exercise pool at the aquatic center.

An intergovernmental agreement between John Day and the parks and recreation district leaves the district responsible for operating and maintaining the aquatic center while the city would be responsible for covering utility costs incurred by the center.

The Parks and Recreation District Board voted 4-0 on Feb. 22 to put the bond on the ballot. The vote was held during a joint meeting with John Day’s city council. The council approved its own companion resolution by a vote of 6-0 during the Feb. 22 session.



Justin Davis/Blue Mountain Eagle

Gleason Pool, which opened in 1958, has been closed for the past two years.

Pool

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“A lot can happen in 36 months,” Green said. “I wouldn’t have any problem at all with tell-

ing the council to accept the grant funding. We’ve got 36 months to decide what to do with it, if anything, or just simply return it. That’s why we aren’t in a hurry to develop a contingency. At this point, if the vote fails there isn’t

going to be a pool opening in 2023.”

A final count of the pool bond is being held up by 16 ballots cast by voters from within the pool tax district that are being challenged. The ballots are unopened and were

challenged because signatures on the ballot envelopes didn’t match signatures that are on file for those voters. Grant County Clerk Brenda Percy said that a final tally of the vote can be expected on Tuesday, June 7.

Voters

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5th District. Hoyle will face Alex Skarlatos of Roseburg, a Republican who lost to DeFazio in 2020.

Uncounted ballots in Clackamas County will determine the fate of Jamie McLeod-Skinner of Terrebonne, who currently is leading seven-term incumbent Kurt Schrader in the Democratic primary in the 5th District.

Republicans nominated Lori Chavez-DeRemer, a former mayor of Happy Valley.

If Schrader loses, it will be the first time since 1980 — when Ron Wyden unseated Democrat Bob Duncan — that an Oregon incumbent lost in the primary.

For the position Hoyle is vacating, Christina Stephenson of Portland is likely to face Cheri Helt of Bend in the fall. Stephenson, a civil rights lawyer, won 47%, and Helt, a former Republican state representative, 19%, in a seven-candidate field.

Oregon ranks high

According to an index by the Rutgers center, Oregon ranks third among the states, based on women’s shares of congressional delegations, statewide executive offices including governor and state legislatures.

Oregon is topped only by Nevada and Colorado — neither of which has had a woman as governor — and is one of six states in the

top 10; the others are in the Northeast. Women could vote in several states, including Oregon, before the 20th Amendment in 1920 extended that right to women in the rest of the nation.

In the May 17 primary, women won both major-party nominations for five Senate seats, and a woman was nominated by one party for five more seats. (Sixteen seats are up, but one is for a two-year term.) In the 60-member House, women won both major-party nominations for nine seats and a woman was nominated by one party for 25 seats.

A new index by the Rutgers center, compiled in March, put Oregon fourth (at 41.4%) in the share of women holding office in cities with 10,000 or more people. It trails only Hawaii, Alaska and Colorado, although Hawaii has just one city and Alaska six with more than 10,000; Oregon has 57.

Barriers remain

Jessica Mole Heilman is the director of the Center for Women’s Leadership at Portland State University. She’s been director since 2020, and said women have progressed in politics in the decades since Roberts and others led the way.

“We are beginning to see parts of the future that the movement leaders of generations past dreamed about,” Mole Heilman said in an email. “As firsts paved the way, today’s emergent (women and gender-expansive) leaders are demanding representational leadership that can speak to their lived experience.”

But Mole Heilman said recent develop-

ments — particularly the draft U.S. Supreme Court opinion that may overturn its 1973 decision supporting abortion as a federal constitutional right — have brought on new challenges to women.

“We are seeing a growing attack on women and gender-expansive people’s basic human rights with an uncertain future — reproductive justice, continued erasure and silencing of women and gender-expansive voices and experiences — disproportionately impacting women and gender-expansive people of color,” she said.

Dittmar and former Gov. Barbara Roberts say some older barriers remain, even though the number of women elected continues to grow.

“Fundraising is something women always say is harder for them,” Dittmar said. “There is some evidence to prove that is the case. It is harder for women to get to the same amounts.”

In the May 17 primary, Kotek and Dragan led in fundraising for governor, but McLeod-Skinner and Salinas trailed their male opponents.

Roberts said female candidates still get asked about balancing family and public responsibilities. She said men are not asked.

“Some people assume that a female is the caregiver in all cases and cannot imagine that a mother, which is a full-time job, can hold statewide office,” she said. “Is it a challenge? You bet it is. But we know how to do it. It’s not unusual in this culture or in other cultures that women are the bread winners.”

Palmer

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Some, he said, are prepared and ready to go, and it took him aback to realize how serious they were.

The issues, Palmer said, ran the gamut from opposition to the “defund the police” movement to dissatisfaction with the homelessness problem in Portland.

“They’re done,” Palmer said. “They’re fed up.”

What now?

Palmer opted not to file for re-election as Grant County commissioner when he decided to take a run for the Senate. Instead, he threw his support behind John Day resident John Rowell, who won the three-way race with more than 53% of the vote. Now, Palmer told the Eagle, that he has every intention of finishing out the rest of his term, which expires at the end of the year.

As far as his political future going forward, he said he is unsure he has one at this point.

He said he was preparing to submit a resume to Samaritan’s Purse, an evangelical Christian humanitarian organization that provides aid to people in physical need in crisis zones such as Ukraine, Haiti and Uganda. In addition, Palmer said he would like to do mission work and provide medical help with his nursing degree.