

THE DAILY ASTORIAN

Founded in 1873



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Fake Willy, meet Bruce the Shark

For the orca fiasco, there was a lesson from ‘Jaws’

Fake Willy, the orca imposter, has been entertaining crowds in Astoria and media from around the world with its mistake-prone attempts to scare off sea lions. Its frequent capsizing has elicited groans and laughter from onlookers.

Worse, the sea lion horde appears unmoved.

Fake Willy and its handlers should take heart from another simulated sea creature.

When Steven Spielberg set out to create a movie about a 4,000-pound shark that terrifies the tourist island of Amity, he wanted realism. Plopping a scale-model boat and rubber shark into a studio wet tank wouldn’t do. The 27-year-old director wanted a mechanical shark that could swim in ocean waters, leap into the air, and chow down on swimmers and fishermen.

Spielberg hired special effects guru Bob Matthey out of retirement. Matthey, known for creating the giant squid in the 1954 film “20,000 Leagues Under the Sea,” promised to

deliver a monster fish.

However, on its first day of filming, the 25-foot mechanical shark dubbed Bruce quickly sank to the bottom of Nantucket Sound. Within days, salt water eroded the shark’s electric motor, requiring a retrofitting with pneumatic hoses. And every night after filming, Bruce had to be drained, scrubbed and repainted.

All worked out in the end, as we know. “Jaws” turned out to be one of the biggest movie blockbusters of all time, setting Spielberg up for future fortune and fame. And Bruce became one of the most terrifying villains of the silver screen.

We hope Fake Willy eventually lives up to its star billing. Would be a whale of a tale if it did prevail.

Loggers show their consistency

Knappa earns state baseball crown with a large measure of class

Friday morning there might have seemed a sense of inevitability about the 2A/1A Baseball State Championship game.

Knappa was due to play in Keizer’s Volcanoes Stadium that afternoon and, as this year’s only undefeated team in OSAA high school baseball, it might have seemed like all the Loggers had to do was show up to collect the trophy.

That’s baloney, of course. Coach Jeff Miller, in a pre-game interview with our sports writer Gary Henley, was cautious. Knappa had already defeated No. 1-ranked defending champions Monroe/Alsea 11-5 in a March non-league game, but everyone knew this would be different. “We feel like we belong here,” Miller said, but added, “they are certainly the team to beat.”

After three scoreless innings, the Loggers got their breakthrough in the fourth, then added two runs in the fifth. At 3-0, the game wasn’t over. With a KHS victory in sight, the Dragons loaded the

bases in the bottom of the seventh and it took skilled defense and a double play to secure the win.

What makes the achievement of 27 wins in a row particularly pleasing was that seniors Tyson Burnard, Justin Dragoo, Andrew Miller, Chase Rusinovich, Ryan Simpson and Nate Truax were to walk in their graduation ceremonies the following day. It was their last game together in Knappa uniforms. As in many small school districts, the students played football and basketball, too, and their teams had fallen this year at the semi- and quarterfinal levels.

But throughout the baseball season, Knappa players have shown equal measures of coolness and consistency; coach Miller was not to be denied his 278th career win.

This year’s senior motto was apt: “Do not follow where the path leads; rather, go where there is no path and leave a trail.”

KHS seniors’ corps has done just that.



Noel Thomas — for The Daily Astorian

GUEST COLUMN



AP Photo/Patrick Semansky

In this June 6, 2013 file photo, a sign stands outside the National Security Agency campus in Fort Meade, Md.

A major victory for privacy rights

By RON WYDEN

It is not an exaggeration to say Americans won the greatest victory for their privacy rights in nearly 30 years last week. The USA Freedom Act ends mass surveillance of ordinary Americans under the Patriot Act and introduces some long-overdue transparency into our intelligence programs. And it passed Congress with overwhelming, bipartisan majorities in both the House and the Senate.

The National Security Agency’s program to collect the phone records of millions and millions of U.S. citizens was hatched in secret, depending on a secret interpretation of the law that Americans were not allowed to see. I have spent nearly a decade fighting mass surveillance, first working to bring this secret dragnet to light and then working to bring it to an end.

Only four years ago, I spoke on the Senate floor and sounded the alarm that the Patriot Act was being interpreted in a way that would astonish most Americans. Despite that warning and bipartisan support from allies like U.S. Sen. Mark Udall of Colorado and Kentucky U.S. Sen. Rand Paul, the Patriot Act was reauthorized that year by an overwhelming vote.

The end of this program stands as a true endorsement of the principle that Americans do not need to sacrifice their liberty to have security. Everybody who has supported our fight for surveillance reform over the last two years is responsible for our victory.

However, the fight to protect Americans’ constitutional rights against government overreach is far from over.

Plugging loophole

I’m committed to plugging the backdoor search loophole that the government misuses to review Amer-

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icans’ communications without a warrant. The Director of National Intelligence has told me the NSA, FBI and CIA are using a law designed to target foreign threats to scoop up and search for Americans’ emails and other communications without getting a warrant. This is nothing less than an end-run around the Constitution.

I want to beat back a proposal by FBI Director James Comey to require companies to weaken encryption and build security weaknesses into our electronic devices. He proposed creating magic keys that only the government could use to get access to information with a court order.

The problem is there are no magic keys. Weakening encryption inevitably creates security holes that hackers and foreign governments can exploit. That trade-off makes our information less safe and our country less secure.

Along with U.S. Rep. Jason Chaffetz of Utah, I am fighting to make sure the government doesn’t turn our cell phones into tracking devices. Our bill, the GPS Act, would require the government to get a warrant before tracking Americans’ movements electronically.

And starting as soon as this month the Senate is expected to take up a cybersecurity bill that is really surveillance legislation by another name.

Threats to privacy

I strongly support going after hackers and taking strong steps to protect data held by companies and the government alike. But the bill proposed in the Senate would let companies provide large amounts of private consumer information to the



U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore.

government, and do far too little to protect that information against misuse.

That’s why 55 security experts, academics and technology groups wrote that the bill would do little to protect against hackers, while opening up a huge new avenue for the government to obtain Americans’ private information without a warrant.

Of course the threats to privacy that are already public are the easiest to fight. My time on the Intelligence Committee has taught me to always be vigilant for secret interpretations of the law and new surveillance techniques that even Congress does not know about.

Americans were rightly outraged when they learned that U.S. intelligence agencies relied on secret law to monitor millions of law-abiding U.S. citizens. The American people are now on high alert for new secret interpretations of the law, and intelligence agencies and the Justice Department would do well to keep that lesson in mind.

I always go back to a lesson my father taught me: the only way to protect our liberty is by asking tough questions. Our victory this week certainly gives me more ammunition to watchdog the government and intelligence agencies. Winning these battles, though, requires the support of Oregonians and Americans who are willing to fight for those liberties.

I want to thank everyone who stood up and said that liberty and security are not mutually exclusive. As my friend Martin Heinrich said this week, Ben Franklin would be proud.

Ron Wyden, a Democrat, is Oregon’s senior United States senator.

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