

# Budget: On Obama's desk

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natural disasters for funding purposes. The proposal, however, didn't make it into the budget legislation Congress approved on Friday.

U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., joined with Oregon and Idaho lawmakers in calling for a long-term solution.

"This year's spending bill is a real improvement over the status quo, but there is far, far more to do to protect communities in Oregon, Alaska, Colorado, Idaho and across the United States that are threatened by wildfire every year," Wyden said in a statement.

Wyden said a bipartisan coalition is working toward a long-term approach. "It's disappointing a small number of members blocked that solution this year, but we'll keep fighting until we get it over the finish line," the senator said.

## 'Congress has to face up and solve this problem.'

**Robert Bonnie**

U.S. Department of Agriculture undersecretary

Paying for wildfires the same way the government responds to hurricanes and tornadoes needs more review, said U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, chairwoman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

One potential problem: A destructive tornado or hurricane is a single event, while a nasty fire season is series of events, some much worse than others. The tipping point at which federal disaster relief would be warranted for wildfires in any given year could be difficult to gauge.

The budget legislation would provide \$1.6 billion

for firefighting, up from \$1 billion in a season that killed seven firefighters and burned a near-record 15,000 square miles nationwide.

Including the Interior Department's budget, which covers the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, the budget legislation includes a total of \$2.1 billion for firefighting. That's \$500 million more than the 10-year average.

"Congress has to face up and solve this problem. Because if we don't, the Forest Service is going to become the fire service," U.S. Department of Agriculture Undersecretary Robert Bonnie said Thursday.

# Police: As social norms have changed, so has the hiring process

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While Astoria or Seaside Police attract 50 to 80 applicants for a position, Workman said, Warrenton will get 20 to 30. Those hired in smaller departments often see it as a stepping stone to larger agencies, causing a retention issue.

Over the years, Workman has also noticed more applicants no longer see police work as a dream job that they specifically work toward.

"I have had more people that have not thought about criminal justice and just thought it was a job, and it sounded cool," Workman said. "You need to find people that want to do this job and understand the toll it can take on you."

In addition, law enforce-

ment agencies are seeing more applicants not being truthful in their background checks. Applicants are not disclosing details such as prior convictions or drug use.

"From my perspective, having things in your past doesn't preclude you," Workman said. "But if you don't disclose something and it comes out later, I will wonder why you didn't disclose it."

## Cannot lower standards

When analyzing the rigorous hiring process, Johnston admits many of the steps are meant to eliminate candidates rather than select them. The psychological exams, for instance, have become much more detailed,

causing more candidates fail.

The hiring process, which can take up to a year, has been adjusted in the past as social norms have changed, Johnston said. One example is the social acceptance of tattoos.

Although it is becoming increasingly difficult to hire, Johnston said, agencies will not lower their standards.

"We are looking for people that are able to see the value of a community and a police department that are connected, and share that value of service," Johnston said.

**Monday: Volunteer fire-fighting in this rural area has changed over the past couple decades, a source of both pride and stress for small departments.**

# Holiday Worship

Calvary Episcopal Church

DECEMBER 24  
8:30 pm - Carol Sing  
9 pm - Holy Eucharist

DECEMBER 25  
10 am - Holy Eucharist

503 N. Holladay, Dr. • Seaside, OR

## Christmas Eve Candlelighting Service at 7 PM

Special music provided by  
**Tevan Goldberg & Members  
of the Congregation**

Sermon:  
"The Difference a Baby Makes"

## Seaside United Methodist Church

241 N. Holladay Dr. • Seaside • 503-738-7562

First United Methodist Church and First Presbyterian Church  
invite you to our combined

## Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

at Astoria First United Methodist  
December 24th at 7 p.m.

Enjoy wonderful instrumental music,  
handbell and vocal choirs, and  
candlelighting with us

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

Pastors Carol Prichard & Doug Rich  
11th & Franklin | Astoria  
503.325.5454 or 503.325.1702

## Rejoice in Jesus' Birth

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service • 10pm  
Christmas Day Worship Service • 10am



AT **Bethany Free Lutheran Church**

451 34TH STREET • ASTORIA  
(across from Safeway)

FOR MORE INFO CALL (503) 325-2925

## ASTORIA CHRISTIAN CHURCH

### Christmas Services

#### SUNDAY SERVICES

Sunday School • 9:45am  
Christmas Worship • 10:50am

#### CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

December 24th • 6:00pm

(503) 325-2591 • 1151 Harrison Ave., Astoria



## COME HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

The gifts of hope, peace, joy  
and love are waiting for you

**FAMILY  
CHRISTMAS  
SERVICE**  
Sunday, Dec. 20  
10-11am

**679 S. MAIN STREET  
WARRENTON**  
Refreshments and  
friendship shared  
immediately after  
every service

**CANDLE  
LIGHT  
SERVICE**  
Thursday, Dec. 24  
4-5pm



Warrenton United Methodist Church

## Christmas Eve Service Thursday, December 24th @ 7:00pm

...a Savior  
has been  
born  
to you; he is  
Christ  
the Lord.  
Luke 2:11

Also join us for our  
**New Year's Eve Service**  
Thursday, December 31st @ 7:00pm

~No Dinner Service~  
Coastline Christian Fellowship  
89386 Highway 202 ~ Astoria ~ 503.325.1051

## Peace Lutheran Church

Celebrate Jesus' Birth with a  
Candlelight Service  
of  
Scripture & Carols

Dec. 24th  
7:00 pm

12th & Exchange ~ Astoria



## CHRISTIAN CHURCH Christmas Eve Services

**Christian Church of Knappa**  
42417 Valley Creek Lane  
Astoria, Oregon 97103  
Service time 5:00 p.m.

**Christian Church of Seaside**  
580 Avenue U  
Seaside, Oregon 97138  
Service time 5:00 p.m.

**Christian Church of Warrenton**  
1376 S.E. Anchor Ave  
Warrenton, Oregon 97146  
Office: (503)861-1714 Fax: (503)861-3392  
Web: www.cconline.cc  
Service times: 5:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

## FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

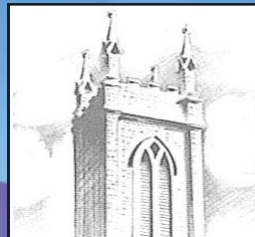
### Christmas Eve Services

Family Service - 5:00pm  
Candlelight Service - 10:00pm

Christmas Day Worship - 10:00am  
Dec. 27th Lessons & Carols - 10:00am



725 33rd St. (33rd & Grand)  
Astoria • 503-325-6252  
www.astoriafirstlutheran.com  
Email: flc.astoria@gmail.com



## Grace Episcopal Church

1545 Franklin, Astoria  
(503) 325-4691  
www.graceastoria.org

**Lessons & Carols**  
Sunday, December 20th, 2pm  
A festival of readings, music  
& pageantry for the season

**Christmas Eve Services**  
Thursday, December 24th  
Family Worship  
-4:30 pm  
Hymn Sing  
-10:30 pm  
Midnight Mass with choir  
-11 pm

**Christmas Day Service**  
Friday, December 25th  
Morning Prayer  
-10 am

## First Baptist Church

A place where you feel like family...come home.



Christmas Eve  
Candlelight Service  
December 24th  
6pm

Sunday Advent  
Worship Services  
11:00 A m

7th & Commercial, Astoria (503) 325-1761