



Photos by Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Crews use a backhoe to flip the whale over for the necropsy.

## Whale: Crews plan to bury sea mammal

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"There were a few humpbacks hanging out in the mouth of the Columbia River last year," he said. "They are usually further offshore. It could have died offshore and with the storm, washed in."

The whale was one of at least five cetaceans to wash up in the area in three days. A harbor porpoise and two striped dolphins were found

Saturday. One dolphin was found in Cannon Beach and the other in Ocean Park, Washington. A third striped dolphin washed ashore in Seaside Monday. Chandler said it is "quite unusual to get them all together," especially the striped dolphins.

The Ocean Park dolphin showed signs of being entangled in a net and had a hole in its tail that appeared to be from a gaff, Chandler said. The dolphin from Seaside had a similar

hole in the same area, but it had not undergone a necropsy by Tuesday. Chandler said it could be a single event — getting caught in the net — that caused the unusual occurrence of killing multiple dolphins at once. If a single event is the cause of death, Chandler said, then "we know it's just an accident," as opposed to persistent conditions impacting a species, like disease.

City crews planned to bury the whale at the beach by Wednesday morning.



Mollie Schmidt, with the Seaside Aquarium, front, and Jason Hussa, a volunteer with the Oregon Marine Mammal Stranding Network, back, cut open the whale and collect tissue samples during a necropsy.



Dalín D'Alessandro, a research assistant at Portland State University, holds up a sample of a whale kidney.

## Search: Police will continue to search as they patrol

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The search teams responded to tips from people who had seen Hickman recently.

"It's just really unfortunate because it's so heavily forested and green, which we love down here," Schermerhorn said. "But it's hard to find different areas where he could have slid off the track or path."

Described as 5-feet-9-inches tall, bald, blue eyes and wearing glasses, family members said Hickman may have memory issues.

Schermerhorn said he met with the Hickman family before making a decision.

"They understand the possibilities of what could have happened, but the difficult part is that they want some sort of closure," Schermerhorn said. "The family was very thankful for the responses they got. They never expected it to turn into something like this."

Don Hickman, Raymond Hickman's nephew, said from his home in Big Lake, Alaska, "Everyone is hoping and praying that somebody called in and he's somewhere and he's safe and sound."

"He's just a good person. He's there to help anybody that he could and he's always been that way. We appreciate everyone doing what they are doing and hopefully he's going to show up there pretty soon and there will be a good ending to this story."

Others praised the alert system when someone goes missing.

"I'd like to comment on the alert system and the number of calls I got both on my cell and my landline," City Councilor Melissa Cadwallader said. "It's reassuring to know how much that's working."

"It's a great warning system," Schermerhorn said. "We are very thankful for the search and rescue. It was an amazing collaboration working with the Coast Guard and the Fire Department."

The fire station and the family are "overloaded" with food donations, Schermerhorn said.

"Cannon Beach is a great community," he added. "I have found time and time again that people step up and help out during these tough times for families."

The police department will continue to search as they patrol, Schermerhorn said, and encourage people to contact them if they have any information.

Anyone with information about the missing man should contact Clatsop County Search and Rescue at 503-440-2650 or Cannon Beach Police at 503-436-2811.

## Tobacco: 'I think it'll make it a lot harder for kids to use it'

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"I would love for Oregon to follow in Hawaii's footsteps and be one of the earliest adopters of raising the legal age for tobacco to 21," Steiner Hayward said.

"I think raising the legal age to 21 is one of the best things we can do to prevent the devastating effects that nicotine addiction, tobacco addiction has had continues to have on Oregonians."

Steiner Hayward, who works as a family physician, took the podium Tuesday at the coalition's "Tobacco 21 for Oregon" campaign launch to declare her commitment to the cause.

"The later that people have access to tobacco or other nicotine-containing products the more likely we are to prevent people from becoming addicted," Steiner Hayward said. "We also know that when 18-year-olds can buy tobacco they're

in our high schools. We have lots of kids that are 18 and in high school, and they can give cigarettes to their friends."

National data indicates about 95 percent of smokers started using tobacco before age 21.

In Oregon, about 7,000 people die annually from tobacco-related diseases. Tobacco use is estimated to cost the state about \$3 billion per year in health care costs and lost productivity, according to the Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids.

Several students from South Salem High School on Tuesday signed pledges to abstain from using tobacco and wrote to their lawmakers to urge them to raise the legal age for buying the drug.

"I think it'll make it a lot harder for kids to use it," said Davis Carter, an 18-year-old South Salem student. "It'll be a lot less accessible and

stop it from getting into high schools as much."

Luis Rodriguez, Oregon government relations director for the Cancer Action Network of the American Cancer Society, said no legislation has been filed this year to raise the age limit.

Members of the coalition, which also include the American Heart Association and American Lung Association, plan to give testimony Tuesday to the Senate Health Care Committee about why the law should change.

"We are really looking at 2016 as a way to educate lawmakers and educate the public about why this is such an important issue," Rodriguez said. "Right now, we don't have a vehicle, but we are looking forward to the future when we will."

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Sen. Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, D-Beaverton, spoke at the Capitol Tuesday in favor of a proposal to raise Oregon's legal age for buying tobacco to 21.



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