

POINT of view

THE DAILY ASTORIAN // QUESTION OF THE WEEK



Marie Haglund, Svensen

"I think that's all right. No sense keeping something you can't use."



Bill Waite, Astoria

"Oh, I love it. We do it all the time. I shouldn't say that — now all my relatives will say, 'Ah, I gave him this last year.'"



Roseby Foss, Astoria

"I really don't like to re-gift things, because the person who gave it to you had an emotional intent. I don't want to hurt their feelings."

Small whale washes ashore in Gearhart

Gray whale was likely stillborn

By R.J. MARX
The Daily Astorian

GEARHART — A gray whale calf washed ashore Monday in Gearhart but drifted back out to sea, leaving only its intestines.

Because of the time of year and its size, the 10-foot-long whale was most likely stillborn, Tiffany Boothe of Seaside Aquarium said.

According to Boothe, gray whales migrate past the Oregon Coast on their way to breeding grounds in Mexico.

The whale had been heavily scavenged upon by sharks before washing ashore as a result of what Boothe said

was "a lot of local shark activity."

A 38-foot humpback whale that drifted ashore in Cape Falcon earlier this year was pulled back to sea before researchers could arrive to conduct a necropsy.

The whale eventually landed on the north end of Short Sand Beach in Oswald West State Park. The cause of that whale's death was inconclusive.

This week, a similar scene was re-enacted in Gearhart.

A necropsy had been scheduled, but the whale disappeared off the beach.

"And like the humpback that washed ashore at Falcon Cove in September and then washed back out the next day leaving only kidneys behind, the only evidence that this calf had been on Gearhart beach was a small isolated pile of

intestines," Boothe said.

Researchers believe the carcass is heading north, but will be hard to follow while drifting. Since it is not bloated, it may sink instead of float.

Gray whale migration is an approximately 10,000-mile round trip, Boothe said, from their feeding grounds in the Arctic to their birthing and nursery grounds in Mexico.

The fall migration usually takes place from October to February and the spring migration usually takes place from March to July, although sometimes as late as September.

"We did try to secure the animal when it first washed in, but even though it was a very small whale we were still unable to pull it up higher on the beach," Boothe said.

Brown suggests paying school fund as option to selling forest

Elliott State Forest sale draws protests

By CLAIRE WITHTYCOMBE
Capital Bureau

KEIZER — As an alternative to a plan to sell a large chunk of coastal state forest, Gov. Kate Brown proposed Tuesday that the state use up to \$100 million of its bonding authority to pay into the Common School Fund and relieve a portion of the Elliott State Forest of some of its fiduciary responsibility to the fund.

The Common School Fund has long provided revenues from state trust lands such as the Elliott State Forest for K-12 education.

The state says that the Elliott has, due to the recent imposition of increased timber harvesting restrictions, become a liability to the fund instead of an asset.

Brown's proposal followed hours of impassioned public testimony over the proposed sale of 82,500 acres of the Elliott State Forest, which is home to endangered species. The governor had previously hinted at the option in a tweet when she released her budget this month.

Proposed sale

The proposed sale of the forest to a timber company and an Indian tribe mobilized the state's environmental groups, who wanted to keep the land in public hands.

Over 40 entities formally expressed interest in the land — including some public agencies — but only one acquisition plan was submitted in time for the mid-November deadline.

The governor also directed the Department of State Lands to continue discussions with the prospective buyers — Lone Rock Resources of Roseburg and the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians.

The governor implored those gathered at the meeting to collaborate on a second option that would decouple "both the purpose and the ownership of the Elliott."

She said she believed that option should keep the land in state or tribal ownership, which could include the aspects of the acquisition proposal submitted by Lone Rock and the Cow Creek Band — including tribal and private forest management.

'Open spaces'

In remarks at the conclusion of the land board's meeting Tuesday afternoon, Brown said it is important to preserve the state's beaches, forests and

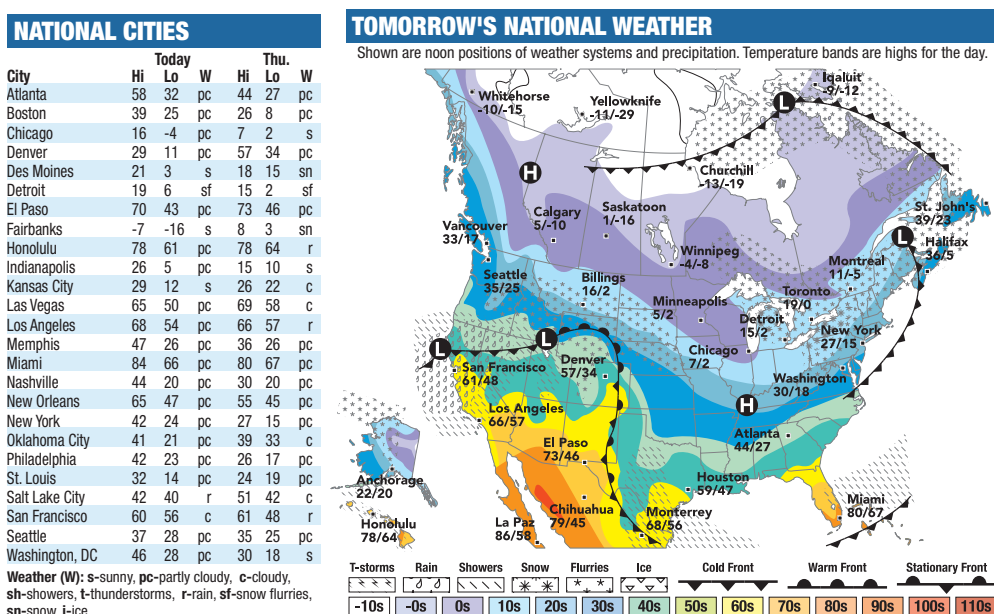
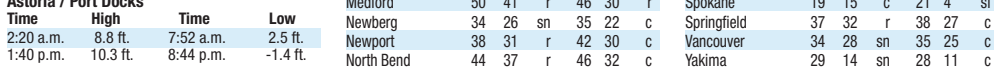
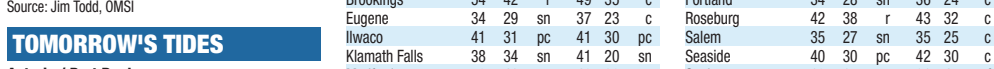
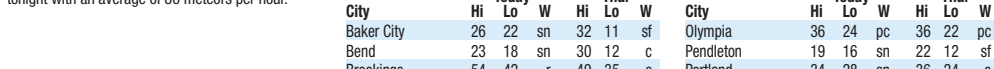
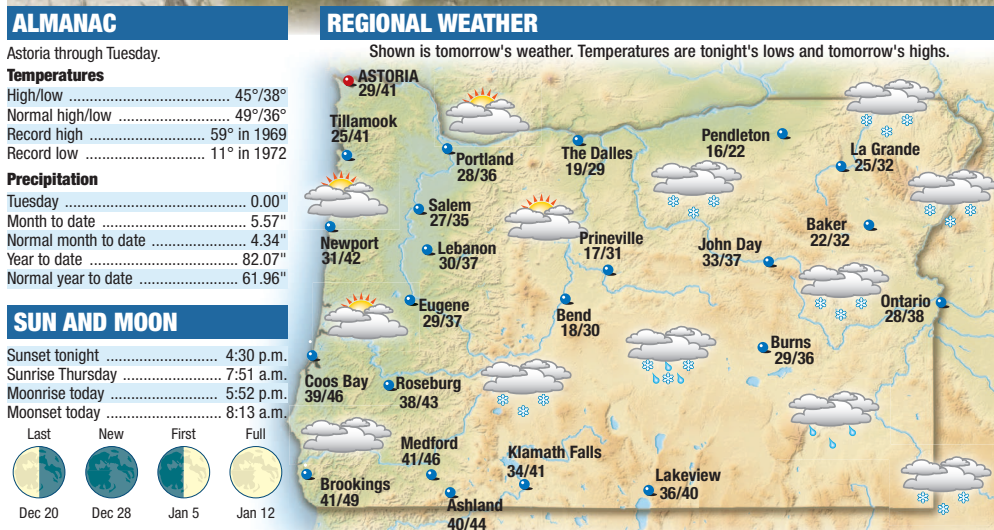
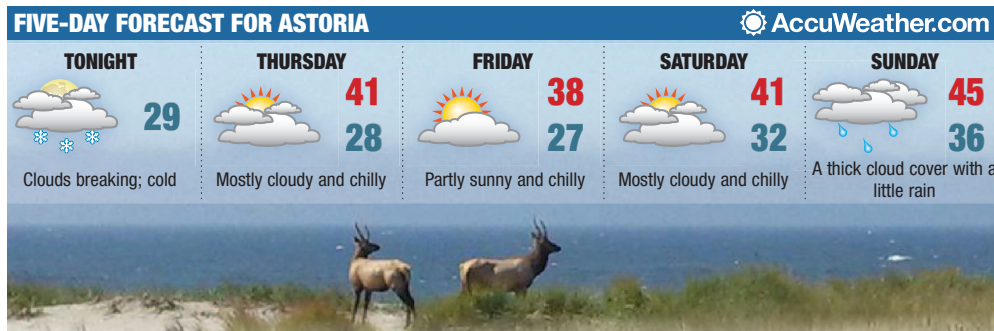
open spaces, but also stated her support for natural resource jobs.

"I am absolutely adamant that we need to continue to create jobs, particularly in Coos and Douglas counties," where the acreage in question is located, Brown said. "I am adamant that we need to continue to maintain public access, and I think for many of us that looks very different depending on whose, which types of shoes we walk in, and that we preserve our endangered species and our very unique habitats."

Brown said she expected the department to return to the State Land Board at its next meeting in February before finalizing an offer and purchase and sale agreement with Lone Rock, and implored those gathered at the meeting to work collaboratively to specify an alternative for the State Land Board to consider.

When the State Land Board convenes again in two months to do so, it will have a different composition — Secretary of State Jeanne Atkins and Treasurer Ted Wheeler, both Democrats, are finishing terms.

They will be replaced by Republican Dennis Richardson and Democrat Tobias Read, both of whom have served in the state Legislature.



Deadline looms for health insurance sign-up

The Daily Astorian

Coastal Family Health Center is offering free help to anyone who wants to enroll in affordable health insurance on www.healthcare.gov by Thursday to get coverage for Jan. 1.

Those who sign up after Thursday can get covered on Feb. 1. This assistance is available to all Oregon residents. Premiums are based on

income and family size, and can be free of charge to some. "If they have an email account, it's a very quick process" said Janae Jasper, eligibility specialist at the center, who can also help people set up the required email account if they don't have one.

In addition to private healthcare insurance, Jasper also helps enroll people in the Oregon Health Plan, free

healthcare coverage for those who qualify, based on income and family size. Everyone must renew annually, and she can help with that process.

Jasper is available either by appointment by calling 503-325-8315, or walk-ins can come to 2158 Exchange St., Suite 304. From 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesdays, she is at the state Department of Human Services office at 450 Marine Drive.

ON THE RECORD

DUII arrests

• At 10:22 p.m. on Dec. 7, Warrenton Police received a call from a person at the Iredale Inn, who said a man at the bar appeared to be very intoxicated and looked like he was preparing to leave soon.

An officer drove by and saw a vehicle matching the caller's description leave the inn. He followed the car, watching the driver make several traffic violations and negotiate corners with difficulty. The officer stopped Eugene Michael Barrow, 55, of Warrenton, who had a blood alcohol content of .13 percent. Barrow was

arrested for driving under the influence of intoxicants. The officer forwarded a case for possible overservice at the Iredale Inn to the Oregon Liquor Control Commission for further investigation.

• On Friday, Warrenton Police received a call from Astoria 911 Dispatch that a man believed to be drunk was heading from the Mini Mart on West Marine Drive in Astoria, across the Youngs Bay Bridge toward Warrenton. An officer caught up to the car and saw it swerving and drifting on U.S. Highway 101. Zachary Alan Madrid, 27, of Seaside, was

stopped and arrested for DUII. His blood alcohol content was .20 percent.

• At 9:49 p.m. on Monday, a Warrenton Police officer observed a car turn north on South Main Street in Warrenton and weave back and forth in the lane, committing various traffic violations, and nearly hitting an elk that was standing on the side of the road. When he was pulled over, driver Craig Timothy Martin, 46, of Warrenton, was "visibly intoxicated," according to police reports. His blood alcohol content was .10 percent and he was charged for DUII.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

WEDNESDAY

Clatsop County Housing Authority Board, 5 p.m., Judge Guy Boyington Building, 857 Commercial St., Astoria.

Clatsop County Board of Commissioners, 6 p.m., Judge Guy Boyington Building, 857 Commercial St., Astoria.

Astoria School Board, 6:15 p.m., study session, 7:30 p.m., regular meeting, Capt. Robert Gray School third-floor boardroom, 785 Alameda Ave.

Warrenton-Hammond School Board, 7 p.m., Warrenton Grade School multipurpose room, 820 S.W. Cedar Ave.

Wickiup Water District Board, 6:30 p.m., 92648 Svensen Market Road, Svensen.

THURSDAY

Cannon Beach Parks Committee, 9 a.m., 163 E. Gower St.

Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce Council, noon, 818 Commercial St., Suite 203.

Cannon Beach Design Review Board, 6 p.m., City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.

Seaside Transportation Advisory Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway. Seaside School District, 6 p.m., 1810 S. Franklin, Seaside.

LOTTERIES

OREGON

Tuesday's Pick 4:
1 p.m.: 5-8-4-1
4 p.m.: 8-9-7-5
7 p.m.: 0-5-1-0
10 p.m.: 7-6-4-5
Tuesday's Mega Millions:
2-15-26-34-41, Mega Ball: 14
Estimated jackpot: \$59 million

WASHINGTON

Tuesday's Daily Game:
8-9-7
Tuesday's Keno: 05-07-08-10-11-16-17-21-25-32-35-38-40-46-51-54-60-62-71-78
Tuesday's Match 4: 07-11-13-22

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OBITUARY POLICY

The Daily Astorian publishes paid obituaries. The obituary can include a small photo and, for veterans, a flag symbol at no charge. The deadline for all obituaries is 10 a.m. the