Local offices close for Christmas

The Daily Astorian

In observance of Christmas Day on Monday, all federal and state offices and services are closed. Clatsop County offices are closed Friday and Monday. Astoria City Hall is closing at noon today, and is closed Monday. Gearhart and Seaside city halls are closed Monday. Cannon Beach and Warrenton city halls are closed Monday and Tuesday. All U.S. post offices are closed Monday, and there is no mail delivery.

Astoria, Jewell, Knappa, Warrenton/Hammond, Seaside (including Cannon Beach and Gearhart schools) and Ocean Beach School District schools and Clatsop Community College are closed for winter break.

The Astoria Library is closed Monday. The Seaside Library is closed Saturday and Monday, but open on Sunday. The Warrenton Library is closed Monday and Tuesday. All Timberland libraries in Washington state, including Ilwaco, Ocean Park and Naselle, are closed Saturday through Monday.

The Port of Astoria offices and services are closed today and Monday.

The transfer station is closed, and there is no garbage collection Monday through Recology Western Oregon (covering Astoria, Seaside, Gearhart and Cannon Beach); collection is a day late for the rest of the week. Peninsula Sanitation (covering the Long Beach, Washington, Peninsula) and Warrenton garbage collection are closed on Monday; customers with normal Monday service will have their garbage picked up on Tuesday. The transfer stations at Recology Western Oregon and Peninsula Sanitation are closed Monday.

The Sunset Pool and the Astoria Aquatic Center are closed Sunday and Monday.

The Clatsop County Heritage Museum, Oregon Film Museum, Flavel House and Carriage House are closed Sunday and Monday. The Uppertown Firefighters' Museum is closed for the winter. Capt. Gray's Port of Play and Lil' Sprouts are closed Saturday through Tuesday. Fort Clatsop and the Columbia River Maritime Museum are closed Monday. The Seaside Museum is closed Sunday and Monday.

Sunset Empire Transportation ("The Bus") is not running.

The Daily Astorian offices are closed Monday, and there is no newspaper.

Train crew not using electronic devices before deadly crash

By PHUONG LE
Associated Press

SEATTLE — Federal investigators say video aboard the Amtrak train that derailed in Washington state shows crews weren't using personal electronic devices and that the engineer remarked about the speed six seconds before the train went off the tracks south of Tacoma, killing three people.

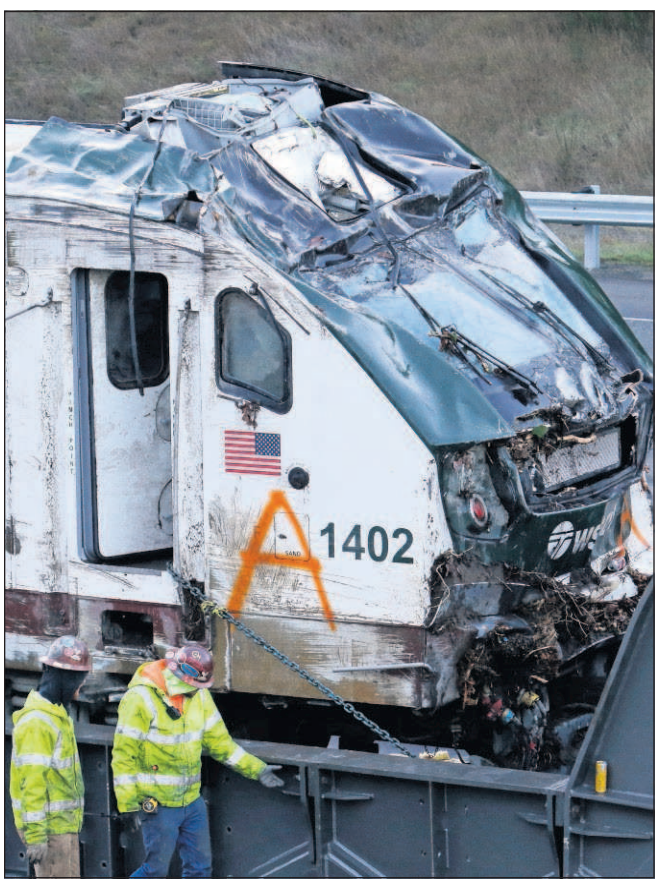
The National Transportation Safety Board also said Friday that the inward-facing video with audio showed it did not appear that the engineer placed the brake handle in the emergency braking mode.

The train was recorded at 78 mph — more than double the posted speed limit.

The train derailment Monday spilled cars onto the highway and closed the southbound lanes of the state's main north-south arterial.

Federal investigators trying to determine the cause of the wreck say their full investigation could take more than a year.

Nearly 300 people have died in train crashes that could have been prevented if railroads across the U.S. implemented critical speed-control technology that federal safety investigators have been pushing for close to five decades, according to rail crash data obtained by The Associated Press.



AP Photo/Elaine Thompson

The engine from an Amtrak train crash is checked by workers in DuPont, Wash.

But despite overwhelming evidence it could save lives, Congress extended the deadlines for railroads to implement so-called positive train control for years.

All the while, new high-speed train routes continue to spring into operation without the technology, including the new route involved in the Amtrak crash south of Tacoma and one in Florida that's expected to start service in the coming weeks.

Data that the National Transportation Safety Board provided to AP shows the crashes that the agency says could have been prevented by positive train control have led to 298 deaths, 6,763 injuries and nearly $385 million in property damage.

Washington Gov. Jay Inslee said Amtrak had committed to trying to ensure the technology will be in place statewide before the Dec. 31, 2018 deadline. Amtrak also offered to pay all costs associated with deadly train derailment near Tacoma, as well as medical and other expenses of the victims, Inslee said. Washington transportation officials said passenger service along the rail line where the Amtrak train derailed won't resume service until the advanced safety systems are in place.

Associated Press writers Michael Balsamo and Michael Sisak contributed to this report.

Georgia man attempts to rob Astoria gas station

By JACK HEFFERNAN
The Daily Astorian

A Georgia man was arrested after allegedly attempting to rob a convenience store at the 76 gas station on Marine Drive on Thursday night.

Astoria police responded to the station just before 9:30 p.m. for what was originally reported as a theft. They found a man in a nearby parking lot with a cloth covering his face. Earlier, the man allegedly gave an employee at the store a robbery note, asked for money and clutched what appeared to be a weapon in his pocket. The employee then grabbed a knife and refused to hand him money.

The man then allegedly swiped a candy bar and left. After finding him in the parking lot, one officer pointed a bean-bag shotgun at him as he refused to show his hands and was holding an object in his pocket. Once the officer warned him he would be hit with a bean bag, he surrendered, and the object turned out to be a silver cellphone. Brandon Denmark, 24, of Marietta, Georgia, was arrested and charged with second-degree robbery, third-degree theft and second-degree disorderly conduct.

FIVE-DAY FORECAST FOR ASTORIA

AccuWeather DOWNLOAD OUR APP TODAY

TONIGHT	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
34	44 / 33	42 / 37	45 / 33	44 / 31
Evening rain; otherwise, mostly cloudy	Mostly sunny and chilly	Chilly with periods of rain	Mostly cloudy with a bit of rain	Mostly cloudy with a shower

ALMANAC

Astoria through Thursday.

Temperatures

High/low	43°/26°
Normal high/low	48°/36°
Record high	60° in 1980
Record low	6° in 1990

Precipitation

Thursday	0.00"
Month to date	3.44"
Normal month to date	6.76"
Year to date	79.75"
Normal year to date	64.13"

SUN AND MOON

Sunset tonight	4:33 p.m.
Sunrise Saturday	7:56 a.m.
Moonrise today	10:46 a.m.
Moonset today	8:58 p.m.

First	Full	Last	New
Dec 26	Jan 1	Jan 8	Jan 16

UNDER THE SKY

Tonight's Sky: At 12:09 p.m. today, the sun will be at its lowest altitude of 21 degrees above the southern horizon for the year.

Source: Jim Todd, OMSI

TOMORROW'S TIDES

Astoria / Port Docks

Time	High	Time	Low
4:46 a.m.	7.9 ft.	10:21 a.m.	3.4 ft.
3:49 p.m.	8.2 ft.	10:35 p.m.	0.6 ft.

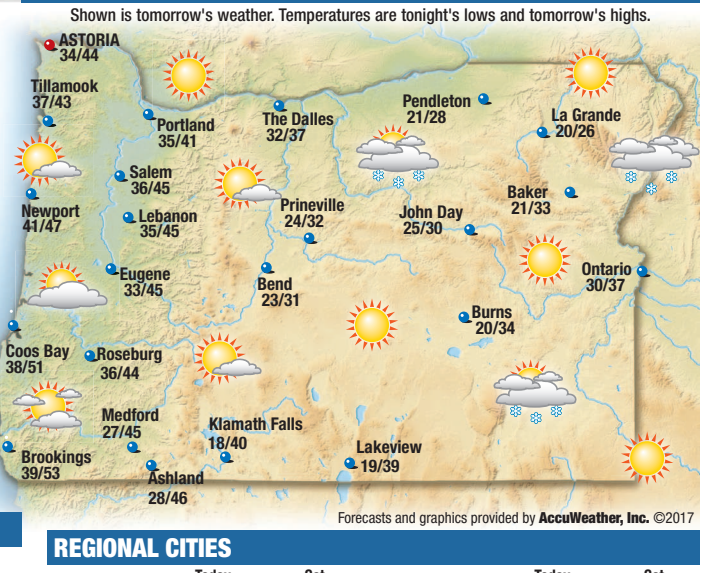
NATIONAL CITIES

City	Hi	Today Lo	W	Hi	Sat. Lo	W
Atlanta	63	58	c	68	45	r
Boston	35	33	sn	40	33	r
Chicago	40	26	sh	34	20	pc
Denver	44	19	pc	38	11	sn
Des Moines	35	18	c	29	17	c
Detroit	40	32	sh	38	26	c
El Paso	50	28	s	57	34	s
Fairbanks	22	5	pc	13	6	pc
Honolulu	80	70	s	81	71	pc
Indianapolis	53	34	sh	39	24	sn
Kansas City	37	20	pc	37	19	pc
Las Vegas	55	35	s	59	40	pc
Los Angeles	66	43	s	70	50	pc
Memphis	64	46	r	48	35	r
Miami	84	70	s	83	66	pc
Nashville	62	53	r	55	36	r
New Orleans	79	65	c	69	49	r
New York	49	46	c	53	40	r
Oklahoma City	37	24	c	47	24	c
Philadelphia	52	47	c	59	38	r
St. Louis	47	32	sh	43	25	sn
Salt Lake City	40	31	c	40	25	sn
San Francisco	56	42	s	57	43	pc
Seattle	41	30	c	40	29	s
Washington, DC	57	50	c	64	41	sh

Weather (W): **s**-sunny, **pc**-partly cloudy, **c**-cloudy, **sh**-showers, **t**-thunderstorms, **r**-rain, **sf**-snow flurries, **sn**-snow, **i**-ice.

REGIONAL WEATHER

Shown is tomorrow's weather. Temperatures are tonight's lows and tomorrow's highs.



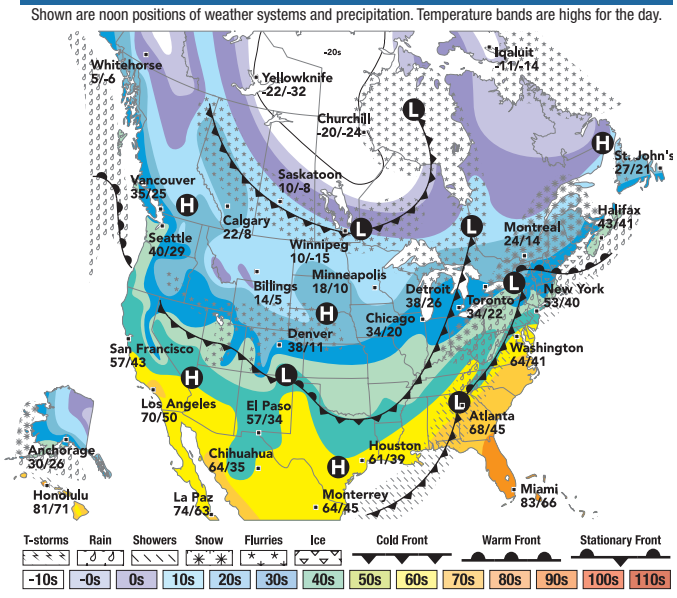
Forecasts and graphics provided by **AccuWeather, Inc.** ©2017

REGIONAL CITIES

City	Hi	Today Lo	W	Hi	Sat. Lo	W
Baker City	34	21	sn	33	11	sn
Bend	43	23	sn	31	23	s
Brookings	49	40	pc	53	43	pc
Eugene	41	33	c	45	30	s
Ilwaco	45	35	sh	44	36	s
Klamath Falls	39	18	pc	40	25	s
Medford	43	27	pc	45	29	pc
Newberg	40	37	c	43	33	s
Newport	46	41	sh	47	38	pc
North Bend	49	39	pc	52	39	pc
Olympia	40	26	pc	40	24	s
Pendleton	36	21	sn	28	15	s
Portland	40	35	sn	41	32	s
Roseburg	40	36	pc	44	37	pc
Salem	43	36	pc	45	31	s
Seaside	45	35	sh	44	35	s
Spokane	28	13	c	22	9	s
Springfield	42	34	c	45	33	s
Vancouver	40	35	sn	40	32	s
Yakima	37	22	sn	35	20	s

TOMORROW'S NATIONAL WEATHER

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.



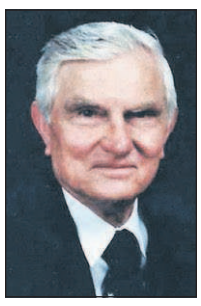
Horace Leslie McFarland

Gearhart

March 25, 1924 — Nov. 29, 2017

Leslie McFarland, of Gearhart, Oregon, passed away at home on Nov. 29, 2017, of lung cancer at the age of 93. He was born in Palmyra, Missouri, to Roy and Mattie McFarland on March 25, 1924.

The youngest of seven, he lived in Palmyra on the farm until entering the Army during World War II, where he was deployed to Europe as a truck driver. Upon his discharge in 1946, he joined two of his brothers in Portland working construction, and in 1947 came to Seaside, where he drove a log truck for the next 40 years.



Leslie McFarland

He met his wife, Loretta, in Seaside where she worked in her mother's restaurant and ice cream parlor, that is now the Bridge Tender on Broadway. They married in 1950, and bought their home near Gearhart, where they raised their family and remained the rest of their lives.

Les spent many years as a volunteer fireman with the Gearhart Fire Department. He also pitched for the men's fast-pitch softball team and collected many bowling trophies. He was a member of the Moose Lodge for almost 70 years, going through the chairs, receiving the Pilgrim Degree of Merit in 1980, and serving as the secretary of the Seaside Moose Lodge for 20 years. He was also an active member of the American Legion. He will be remembered for his unwavering help to anyone who needed a hand.

Les is survived by his daughter, Susan Weston; his stepson, David Gassner (Marilyn); his stepdaughter, Margaret Christenson (James); numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren; as well as many nieces, nephews and great-nieces and great-nephews. He is preceded in death by his wife, Loretta, in 2013; his six brothers and sisters; and his stepson, William.

A memorial service and pilgrim ceremony will be held at the Astoria Moose Lodge, 420 17th St., Astoria, Oregon, followed by a celebration of his life, at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 6, 2018, to which all of his friends are invited to attend.

Please visit the online guest book at hughes-ransom.com/obituary and facebook.com/hughesransommortuary to leave a comment or share a memory.

Funeral services are in the care of Hughes-Ransom Mortuary and Crematory in Astoria and Seaside.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

THURSDAY

Clatsop County Recreational Lands Planning and Advisory Committee, 1 to 3 p.m., fourth floor, 800 Exchange St.

LOTTERIES

OREGON

Thursday's Pick 4:
1 p.m.: 5-7-9-5
4 p.m.: 3-1-0-7
7 p.m.: 5-5-7-5
10 p.m.: 6-0-2-5

Thursday's Lucky Lines: 04-08-09-15-FREE-17-22-25-31
Estimated jackpot: $30,000

WASHINGTON

Thursday's Daily Game: 1-3-8
Thursday's Keno: 05-06-14-15-16-17-18-28-30-31-38-44-47-54-60-62-65-66-72-78
Thursday's Match 4: 11-12-14-21

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