

Oregon's high court to consider proposed gun-control measure

Backers want November vote

By ANDREW SELSKY
Associated Press

PORTLAND — A proposed ballot measure that would restrict ownership of assault weapons and large-capacity magazines wound up in the Oregon Supreme Court after a gun rights proponent petitioned for a review of the ballot title, saying it was politically charged and deceptive.

The state's high court received the review one day before the deadline, said Philip Lemman of the Oregon Judicial Department. The topic has become incendiary amid a flood of school shootings, many of them carried out with AR-15 semi-automatic assault rifles.

Backers of the statewide initiative told a news conference in a church in Portland they are ready to launch a statewide campaign to gather enough signatures to put the measure on the November ballot as soon as the court finishes its deliberations.

"We want to move forward and give Oregonians the chance to vote," said Pastor Mark Knutson of the Augustana Lutheran Church, one of the three chief petitioners. "We are ready. As an organization we are building tre-

mendous capacity throughout the state to get the 88,000 signatures that are required in the time that we are given, by July 6."

The campaigners are counting on the participation of youth, who protested across the nation to demand stricter gun laws, to help gather signatures, and on places of worship.

In his request to the Supreme Court for a review, gun rights advocate Roger Beyer said the ballot language "uses the politically charged and emotionally laden words, 'assault weapons,' and 'large capacity magazines.'" The description is also misleading, argumentative, and deceptive because it implies the measure applies only to a limited and belligerent group of "assault weapons" gun owners."

The proposed measure, known as Initiative Petition 43, would go before voters in the November election if enough verified signatures are collected in time. If on the ballot, a "yes" vote would require registration with the Oregon State Police of "assault weapons," defined to include certain semi-automatic rifles or pistols with a detachable magazine; pistol or rifles with a fixed magazine holding more than 10 rounds of ammunition and certain semi-automatic shot-

guns; and magazines with a capacity of more than 10 rounds.

Background checks would also have to be conducted. Weapons would have to be disposed of if they're not registered. The attorney general's office on May 23 issued its review, edit and approval of the ballot initiative's caption, statement and summary. But Beyer had issues with it.

"A fair read of IP43 leaves only one reasonable impression as to its major effect and intended purpose, and that is to criminalize the possession, purchase or transfer of most semi-automatic firearms and their magazines," Beyer wrote in his petition with the Supreme Court.

In the press conference in Knutson's church, Knutson joined with a rabbi and a Muslim imam to announce that from June 29 through July 1 a signature-gathering campaign will be launched at churches, synagogues and mosques around the state — if the Supreme Court has finished assessing the request for review.

State law says the court's review "shall be conducted expeditiously" so the signatures can be collected.

The Supreme Court can either approve the certified ballot title as-is, rewrite it or order the attorney general to make changes.

Group threatens lawsuit over habitat protection for orcas

By PHUONG LE
Associated Press

SEATTLE — A conservation group wants the federal government to move forward with protecting offshore areas along the West Coast to help endangered killer whales.

The Center for Biological Diversity told the National Marine Fisheries Service on Wednesday that it plans to take legal action if the agency keeps delaying a designation for offshore habitat where the Puget Sound orcas would be protected.

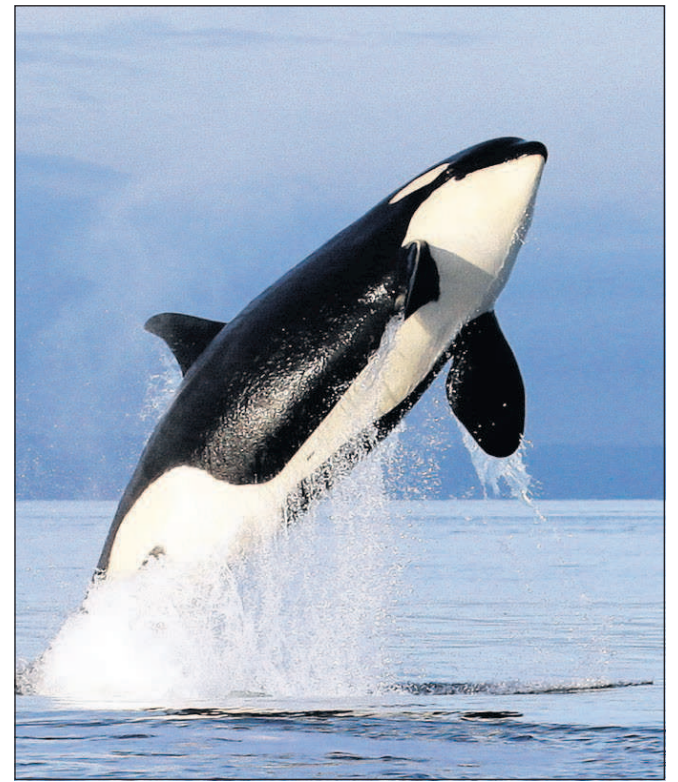
The fish-eating whales typically spend summers in inland waters of Washington state and winters foraging along the coast. They have struggled with food shortages, pollution and noise and disturbances from boats. There are now just 76 of the animals, a 30-year low.

Most inland waters of Washington state, including Puget Sound and the waters around the San Juan Islands, received protection as critical whale habitat in 2006. Coastal and offshore areas in the Pacific Ocean weren't included at that time.

In 2014, the conservation group petitioned the fisheries service to expand habitat protection. It asked the agency to add an area from Cape Flattery, Washington, to Point Reyes, California, extending about 47 miles offshore.

Satellite tagging surveys have shown that the whales forage for food along the coast in the winter, some traveling down to Northern California.

The fisheries service said in 2015 that it would move ahead with revising the orcas' critical habitat and collecting and ana-



AP Photo/Elaine Thompson

A conservation group says the federal government is failing to protect offshore areas along the West Coast to help the endangered Puget Sound orcas.

lyzing more data to develop a rule in 2017.

The group said in its letter Wednesday that the agency is violating U.S. law by not taking action in a reasonable time to protect habitat for the population of southern resident killer whales.

"The southern residents desperately need protected foraging areas full of salmon to feed them through the winter," Catherine Kilduff, an attorney and marine scientist at the Center for Biological Diversity said in a statement. "Without swift federal action, these whales will continue their steep slide to extinction."

Michael Milstein, a spokesman for NOAA Fisheries, said the agency is moving as quickly as it can and that the work remains a high priority.

He said the agency has been gathering data, including tracking the whales' winter movements and reviewing the science.

"As much as we'd like to do it fast, we have to take the time to do it right," Milstein added.

Meanwhile, a task force convened by Washington state Gov. Jay Inslee in March is coming up with recommendations at the regional, state and federal level to save the whales. A final report is due in November.

FIVE-DAY FORECAST FOR ASTORIA AccuWeather DOWNLOAD THE APP

TONIGHT	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
48	59 47	60 49	66 49	70 52
Mostly cloudy with a little rain	Mostly cloudy with a couple of t-showers	Rather cloudy with a couple of showers	Sun and some clouds	Nice with some sun

ALMANAC REGIONAL WEATHER

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

Temperatures	High/Low: 63°/55°
Normal High/Low: 63°/49°	Record High: 94° in 1903
Record Low: 40° in 1933	
Precipitation	Thursday: Trace
Month to date: Trace	Normal month to date: 0.72"
Year to date: 33.14"	Normal year to date: 34.08"

SUN AND MOON	Sunset tonight: 9:05 p.m.
Sunrise Saturday: 5:24 a.m.	Moonrise today: 2:46 a.m.
Moonset today: 3:06 p.m.	

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2018

UNDER THE SKY

Tonight's Sky: Giovanni Cassini's birthday (1625).

Source: Jim Todd, OMSI

TOMORROW'S TIDES

Time	High	Time	Low
10:38 a.m.	6.4 ft.	4:43 a.m.	1.4 ft.
10:47 p.m.	8.4 ft.	4:26 p.m.	1.7 ft.

NATIONAL CITIES

City	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Atlanta	91	70	pc	90	70	pc
Boston	79	59	s	79	60	s
Chicago	72	61	t	82	63	c
Denver	94	57	pc	94	63	s
Des Moines	89	70	t	89	69	pc
Detroit	81	63	pc	77	63	t
El Paso	103	76	pc	98	75	s
Fairbanks	68	47	c	68	49	sh
Honolulu	89	75	pc	88	76	pc
Indianapolis	91	70	t	86	70	t
Kansas City	86	69	t	92	71	pc
Las Vegas	101	78	s	103	76	s
Los Angeles	81	63	pc	81	63	pc
Memphis	95	73	pc	93	74	pc
Miami	88	78	t	87	76	t
Nashville	95	69	s	94	71	pc
New Orleans	92	72	s	91	72	t
New York	82	66	pc	80	62	pc
Oklahoma City	86	71	pc	93	72	pc
Philadelphia	84	65	pc	82	64	t
St. Louis	93	74	pc	93	74	pc
Salt Lake City	90	67	s	94	56	s
San Francisco	69	56	pc	67	53	pc
Seattle	66	51	sh	62	48	t
Washington, DC	86	70	pc	85	71	t

TOMORROW'S NATIONAL WEATHER

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

Keyser appointed to ocean council

By BRENNIA VISSER
The Daily Astorian

Haystack Rock Awareness Program coordinator Melissa Keyser will be appointed by Gov. Kate Brown to serve on the Oregon Ocean Policy Advisory Council.

The council is a statewide marine policy advisory body that advocates for environmental conservation and coastal community interests. Keyser, who has led the Hay-

stack Rock program in Cannon Beach since 2015, heard about the position while serving on another advisory board about preserving the state's rocky shorelines.

"I am happy to do my part in raising awareness about the vast issues that affect our ocean," Keyser said. "We all have to be doing more. I didn't apply because I thought I was better or more qualified than anyone else. I wanted to make more of an impact."

Her role will be to represent coastal communities when the state looks at addressing environmental issues like ocean acidification, environmental education and plastic pollution.

With her background as an environmental educator, Keyser hopes to advocate for environmental programs and solutions that can balance the need for conservation with providing recreational opportunities in natural spaces.

Trails End Recovery fined over water pollution

The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — The state Department of Environmental Quality has fined Trails End Recovery \$23,104 for violating stormwater permit requirements and causing pollution to local waterways.

Trails End Recovery collects and repurposes construction and landscaping debris and other materials along U.S. Highway 101 Business near the Lewis and Clark

National Historical Park.

The company was fined for discharging an oily sheen and vehicle wash water into a tributary of the Lewis and Clark River; allowing compost to overflow from containment bins and spill into a roadside ditch that flows to the tributary; exposing large, uncovered stockpiles to stormwater runoff; allowing soil to spill into a wetland area; and failing to conduct required site inspections to reveal potential prob-

lems and prevent pollution.

A state inspector identified the violations after a complaint about the facility and a site visit in June 2017.

Adding soil, compost and other solids to waterways is considered pollution because it alters the properties of the water, can be harmful to aquatic life and reduces the safety of the water for public use.

Custom Excavating By Dean Larson Inc. does business as Trails End Recovery.

DEATH

June 7, 2018

OWEN, James W., 99, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Ocean View Funeral & Cremation Service of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

- MONDAY**
- Youngs River Lewis & Clark Water District Board**, 6 p.m., 34583 U.S. Highway 101 Business.
 - Cannon Beach Rural Fire Department Board**, 6 p.m., Fire-Rescue Main Station, 188 Sunset Ave.
 - Seaside City Council**, 7 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

LOTTERIES

- OREGON**
- Estimated jackpot: \$41,000
 - Thursday's Pick 4:**
 - 1 p.m.: 5-1-8-0
 - 4 p.m.: 5-2-5-2
 - 7 p.m.: 7-1-2-8
 - 10 p.m.: 5-9-6-1
 - Thursday's Lucky Lines:** 01-08-10-15-19-24-26-29
- WASHINGTON**
- Thursday's Daily Game:** 2-9-0
 - Thursday's Keno:** 08-09-11-18-23-30-34-37-38-43-45-48-50-55-57-59-64-66-72-77
 - Thursday's Match 4:** 02-07-12-24

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