

Washington governor proposes major steps for orca recovery

By GENE JOHNSON
Associated Press

SEATTLE — With scientists warning that the Northwest's beloved killer whales are on the brink of extinction, Washington Gov. Jay Inslee announced dramatic plans Thursday to help the population recover — including \$1.1 billion in spending and a partial whale-watching ban.

"We are undertaking a herculean effort to save these iconic creatures," Inslee said in a prepared statement. "It will take action at every level of the environment across our entire state."



AP Photo/Ted S. Warren

Washington Gov. Jay Inslee walks past a photo of an orca whale after he talked to reporters about his 2019-2021 budget proposal on Thursday in Olympia, Wash.

Starved by a dearth of salmon, poisoned by contaminants, and buffeted by vessel noise that hinders their hunting and communication, the orcas that live in the waters between Washington state and Canada's Vancouver Island have failed to reproduce successfully in the past three years. One grieving whale carried her dead calf on her head for 17 days last summer in an apparent effort to revive it.

There are 74 left in the population, the lowest number since the 1970s, when hundreds of orcas were captured in the region and more than 50 were kept for aquarium display.

Inslee, who is mulling a Democratic presidential run in 2020, detailed the plans as part of his announcement of his priorities for the 2019-2021 state budget. The money would go toward protecting and restoring habitat for salmon, especially Chinook, the orcas' favored prey; boosting production from salmon hatcheries; stormwater cleanup; and quieting vessel traffic.

Nearly \$300 million would go toward complying with a court order that requires the state to replace culverts that block the path of migrating salmon.

Money would also support developing plans to move or kill seals and sea lions that feast on Columbia River salmon where they get blocked by dams or other structures, and changing state water quality standards to allow more water to be spilled over dams, helping young salmon reach the ocean.

Inslee called for a new capital gains tax and an increase in business taxes to help cover the tab.

The governor also said he intends to ban commercial whale watching of the local endangered orcas — known as the southern residents — for three years. He stressed that whale watching will be allowed for other whales in Washington waters, including non-resident orcas that pass through.

President Donald Trump on Tuesday signed a bipartisan bill into law that will likely keep early earthquake-warning projects in the Pacific Northwest on track.

The bill reauthorizes the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program for the first time since 2004. That program pays for core operations at the Pacific Northwest Seismic Network and other earthquake-monitoring projects around the country. In the recently

signed legislation, Congress added emphasis on developing earthquake early warning systems that detect seismic waves in advance of strong and damaging shaking.

The bill also directs federal agencies to gather information on the ability of communities to prepare, recover and adapt to earthquakes and for researchers to make a systematic set of seismic-hazard maps.

U.S. Sens. Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell, both Washington state Democrats, and Rep. Pramila Jayapal, D-Seattle, sponsored the bill.

Local businesses searched after getting bomb threats

Series of similar hoaxes across the United States

By JACK HEFFERNAN
The Daily Astorian

Two local businesses were evacuated Thursday after receiving bomb scares that were similar to other hoaxes across the U.S.

The FBI warned that emails were being sent pri-

marily to schools and businesses. Emails demanded Bitcoin payments to avoid explosions.

Police arrived at Wauna Federal Credit Union in Astoria around 1:30 p.m., and employees evacuated as the building was searched. Nothing was found, and the threat didn't appear credible, Astoria Police Deputy Chief Eric Halverson said.

Earlier in the day, a similar threat was made to Guild Mortgage Co. in Warrenton.

A Warrenton police detective and officer searched the building, and employees chose to evacuate for the day, Warrenton Police Chief Mathew Workman said.

"The detective had already heard there were several threats around the country, and we later found out that there were hundreds around the country," Workman said. "We erred on the side of caution."

Local police have forwarded information about the threats to the FBI.

Trump signs bill to keep early earthquake-warning system on track

By EVAN BUSH
The Seattle Times

The Astoria School Board is seeking a replacement for Position 3 after Matthew Lindstrom moved to Oregon City for work.

Lindstrom was appointed to the school board last year after the resignation of Shawn Helligso.

School board candidates must be registered voters who have lived within the school district for at least one year. They cannot be employees of the school district or a spouse of one.

"It is vital that community members applying for the

board understand the time commitment that it takes to be a board member," school Superintendent Craig Hoppes wrote in a release about the vacancy. "Applicants should consider an average

of five to 10 hours a month time commitment for school board work."

Applications are available at the Astoria School District office at 785 Alameda Ave. or at www.astoria.k12.or.us. Applications are due by noon Jan. 4 and can also be emailed to choppes@astoria.k12.or.us. Interviews will take place Jan. 9.

Lindstrom's replacement would be interviewed next month, appointed shortly thereafter and serve out his term through June. They would have to run for election in May to continue serving.

FIVE-DAY FORECAST FOR ASTORIA AccuWeather DOWNLOAD THE FREE APP

| TONIGHT | SATURDAY | SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY |
|--|-------------------------------------|------------------|--|----------------------------|
| 39 | 51 46 | 53 45 | 51 46 | 55 47 |
| Cloudy; a little rain early, then a shower | Mostly cloudy with a passing shower | Breezy with rain | Cloudy and breezy with a touch of rain | Windy with occasional rain |

ALMANAC Astoria through Thursday.
Temperatures:
 High/low: 55°/46°
 Normal high/low: 49°/36°
 Record high: 59° in 1969
 Record low: 11° in 1972
Precipitation:
 Thursday: 0.06"
 Month to date: 2.99"
 Normal month to date: 4.34"
 Year to date: 56.38"
 Normal year to date: 61.71"

SUN AND MOON
 Sunset tonight: 4:30 p.m.
 Sunrise Saturday: 7:51 a.m.
 Moonrise today: 12:35 p.m.
 Moonset today: 11:43 p.m.

UNDER THE SKY
 Tonight's Sky: Waxing crescent moon and Mars within 3 degrees.

Source: Jim Todd, OMSI

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

REGIONAL CITIES

| City | Today | Sat. | City | Today | Sat. |
|---------------|-------------------|-------------|------------------|-------|------|
| Baker City | 37 23 c 38 30 pc | Olympia | 51 36 r 47 42 c | | |
| Bend | 51 29 c 44 37 pc | Pendleton | 50 35 c 48 39 pc | | |
| Brookings | 50 43 r 54 50 c | Portland | 49 39 r 50 45 c | | |
| Eugene | 50 35 r 48 44 c | Roseburg | 49 38 r 49 46 c | | |
| Ilwaco | 53 43 r 51 47 c | Salem | 52 37 r 51 44 c | | |
| Klamath Falls | 45 29 sn 42 37 pc | Seaside | 53 40 r 52 47 c | | |
| Medford | 49 33 r 50 39 c | Spokane | 43 31 c 37 30 pc | | |
| Newberg | 50 38 r 49 43 c | Springfield | 51 37 r 49 44 c | | |
| Newport | 52 41 r 52 47 c | Vancouver | 51 39 r 49 44 c | | |
| North Bend | 52 41 r 56 49 c | Yakima | 45 29 c 43 34 pc | | |

TOMORROW'S NATIONAL WEATHER
 Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.

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

Astoria School Board seeks new member

The Daily Astorian



Matthew Lindstrom has resigned from the Astoria School Board.

and charged with driving under the influence of intoxicants. Gale allegedly was driving on the Riverwalk.

At 1:18 a.m. Wednesday, David Bezhan, 19, of

Battle Ground, Washington, was arrested by Seaside police on Broadway and Columbia streets and charged with DUI and minor in possession.

DEATH

Dec. 11, 2018

PASSETTI, Marion E., 86, of Seaside, died in Portland. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary in Astoria/Seaside is in charge of the arrangements.

ON THE RECORD

DUI
 At 2:49 a.m. Friday, Richard Ray Gale, 62, of Astoria, was arrested by Astoria police on 31st Street near the Astoria Riverwalk

PUBLIC MEETINGS

MONDAY

Astoria City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 1095 Duane St.

LOTTERIES

OREGON
Thursday's Pick 4:
 1 p.m.: 7-5-8-1
 4 p.m.: 5-5-1-0
 7 p.m.: 3-1-8-4
 10 p.m.: 2-5-3-2

WASHINGTON
Thursday's Lucky Lines: 1-6-11-13-18-24-27-30
 Estimated jackpot: \$15,000

WASHINGTON
Thursday's Daily Game:

8-7-8
Thursday's Keno: 09-12-20-24-27-29-38-41-44-47-49-53-55-60-61-67-68-72-73-78
Thursday's Match 4: 03-11-19-20

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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 9 a.m. the business day prior.

Obituaries may be edited for spelling, proper punctuation and style. Death notices and upcoming services will be published at no charge. Notices must be submitted by 9 a.m. the day of publication.

Obituaries and notices may be submitted online at DailyAstorian.com/forms/obits, by email at ewilson@dailyastorian.com, placed via the funeral home or in person at The Daily Astorian office, 949 Exchange St. in Astoria.

For more information, call 503-325-3211, ext. 257.

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