

IN BRIEF

Warrenton to conduct smoke test of sewer lines

Warrenton will smoke test sewer lines later this month.

The tests are scheduled for May 29 through May 31 and will be conducted by Civil West Engineering Services.

According to the city, smoke testing is an efficient and cost-effective way to identify leaks in the system, as well as locations where unwanted storm-water is entering sewer lines. Workers above ground can spot any smoke escaping through the holes in the system.

During testing, people in Warrenton may see smoke escaping from their eaves and yard drains.

Smoke may also enter houses through faulty or improper traps and drains. The city recommends pouring water into all drains, including floor drains, prior to testing to minimize smoke entering a home. The smoke is nontoxic, nonflammable and harmless to people, animals and plants.

Smoke should exit through the vent stacks of houses and possibly escape through manholes. However, any other observed smoke in a house can indicate that dangerous and toxic gases are also able to enter the home. If this is the case, city staff suggest contacting a professional plumber.

People who notice smoke in their house or on their property should report it immediately to the personnel conducting the smoke tests or call the Warrenton Public Works Department at 503-861-0912.

— *The Astorian*

Health officials report new measles cases in Washington

SEATTLE — Four new measles cases have been diagnosed in western Washington involving people who spent time at the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, authorities said.

The Washington State Department of Health said Wednesday that two of the cases were in King County, which is home to Seattle, with one each in Pierce and Snohomish counties.

In a statement, the health department said the exact exposure information wasn’t known but all of those infected spent time in the airport.

The new cases come after a Pierce County man was diagnosed with measles over the weekend.

Public health officials in late April declared a Pacific Northwest measles outbreak that sickened more than 70 people was over after six weeks passed without a new infection in southwest Washington state, said Dr. Alan Melnick, head of the Clark County public health department.

— *Associated Press*

DEATHS

May 15, 2019
PEELER, Rev. Lance V., 49, of Astoria, pastor of Grace Episcopal Church, died in Astoria. Ocean View Funeral & Cremation Service of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

May, 5, 2019
CHESSER, Clark D., 79, of Warrenton, died in Astoria. Ocean View Funeral & Cremation Service of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

MEMORIAL

Saturday, May 18
MARANGON, Vittorio “Vitto” — Celebration of life and potluck from 1 to 4 p.m., Clatsop Post 12 American Legion, 1132 Exchange St. Bring a dish and a favorite funny story.

ON THE RECORD

DUII
• Vanessa Ahl, 40, of Astoria, was arrested by Astoria police on Tuesday for driving under the influence of intoxicants. A report came into the Oregon State Police around 6 p.m. Tuesday about a Jeep Wrangler driving westbound in the wrong lane on U.S. Highway 30 near Svensen. Ahl allegedly drove to Astoria, where she was contacted by police in the Safeway gas station and registered a blood alcohol content of 0.23%.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

THURSDAY
Cannon Beach Parks and Community Services Committee, 9 a.m., City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.
Seaside Transportation Advisory Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.
Cannon Beach Design Review Board, 6 p.m., City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.

Seaside student threatens school shooting

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Astorian

SEASIDE — A Seaside High School student was suspended Tuesday after threatening a school shooting.

The student sent an email to several classmates warning them not to come to school Wednesday because there would be a school shooting, according to Seaside police. Police contacted the student, who admitted to sending the email.

“The juvenile denied that

they had intended to carry out the treat and that the threat was made because they were frustrated over an unknown reason,” the police said in a news release. “The early investigation did not discover any known access to firearms, nor was there any indication that other students were involved as a potential co-conspirator.”

The Seaside School District decided to hold classes Wednesday, with an increased police presence, after determining there was no threat

to students or staff. The student was not taken into custody by police, but faces an administrative inquiry and possible expulsion.

Possible criminal charges will be forwarded for review to the Clatsop County Juvenile Department and the district attorney’s office after investigation.

The threat comes after two students at the high school were arrested in February for bringing an unloaded gun to campus in an attempt to intimidate another student.

“Thank you to the courageous students who made us aware in a timely manner,” the school district said in a message Tuesday to students and parents. “Our biggest deterrent to violent acts against our school community is our student body who choose (to) say something when they see something.”

Police ask anyone with information about the threat to contact Detective Guy Knight with the Seaside Police Department at 503-738-6311.

Summer, fall fishing seasons set for Columbia River

The Astorian

Chinook salmon returns to the Columbia River will be the lowest in almost a decade this summer.

As Oregon and Washington state fishery managers set seasons for the summer and fall, they had to balance below-average projections for a number of salmon stocks with what is expected to be a better run of coho.

Fall and summer fisheries will operate under another year of reduced seasons and bag limits and, in some cases, closures, state fishery managers announced Tuesday.

On the Columbia River, the summer fishing season will be limited to steelhead



Center for Whale Research
Chinook salmon returns are expected to be low.

and coho retention. Anglers will not be able to keep steelhead — hatchery or wild — from Aug. 1 through Aug. 31. They will not be able to keep any Chinook or sockeye salmon during the summer fisheries.

Only 35,900 summer Chinook are forecast to return to the river, the lowest return since 2000 and,

according to fishery managers, too small to allow harvest by nontreaty fisheries. Sockeye salmon retention is also off limits due to projected low escapement of fish to spawn.

The fall season, which starts on Aug. 1, is based around a projected return of 349,700 fall Chinook, higher than last year’s actual

return of 293,400.

Upriver bright Chinook are also predicted to return in numbers higher than last year. But the allowed harvest rate on this stock is reduced, which means a shorter retention season for anglers hoping to bag fall Chinook.

“The reduced harvest rate for upriver bright fall Chinook has made it challenging to design fall recreational fisheries the last two years,” said John North, fisheries manager for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife’s Columbia River program. “Working with the public in the recent season-setting process, we tried to balance opportunity with management constraints for fall Chinook and steelhead.”

Oregon officials support federal wolf delisting

Commission vote set for June

By GEORGE PLAVERN
Capital Press

SALEM — Oregon wildlife officials are backing a proposal by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to lift endangered species protections for gray wolves in the Lower 48 states.

Curt Melcher, director of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, submitted a letter in May in support of federal delisting. While the Oregon wolf population continues to grow, the department is “currently situated to become the primary wildlife agency responsible for wolf conservation and management statewide,” he wrote.

Wolves are already delisted in Eastern Oregon, but remain federally endangered west of highways 395, 78 and 95.

Since returning to Oregon in 1999, wolves are gradually but steadily expanding in numbers. According to the latest population estimate, the state counted at least 137 known wolves in 2018, a 10% increase over the previous year.

Most packs remain concentrated in northeast Oregon, though several groups are now documented in the Cascade Range — including the Rogue pack near Crater Lake, White River pack south of Mount Hood and



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has written a letter in support of removing wolves from the federal Endangered Species List.

Indigo group in the Umpqua National Forest.

“We fully expect this expansion to continue regardless of listing status as we have documented increasing numbers, packs and breeding pairs where they are not currently listed in the eastern third of Oregon,” Melcher wrote.

Environmental groups oppose delisting wolves, arguing the species exists today at just 1% of its former numbers and less than 10% of its former range. The Fish and Wildlife Service has so far received 74,562 comments about its proposal.

In a previous interview, Jason Rylander, senior attorney at Defenders of Wildlife in Washington, D.C., said the Trump administration is failing to consider the entirety of wolf range, including the Pacific Northwest.

“They seem to have this idea that historic range of the wolf does not matter,”

Rylander said.

The Department of Fish and Wildlife manages wolves under the state’s Wolf Conservation and Management Plan, which Melcher said requires the agency to diligently monitor threats to wolves — such as poaching, diseases and habitat destruction.

“Based on empirical data and a viability analysis, these threats are not having a significant impact on the Oregon population,” he said.

The Oregon wolf plan also regulates when wolves can be killed after repeatedly preying on livestock. As it stands, wolves cannot be killed in western Oregon except in defense of human life. But if the species is delisted, it would be subject to so-called “chronic depredation” guidelines.

Wolves in western Oregon would fall under Phase I of the wolf plan, which, Melcher said, would “pro-

vide protections similar to what would occur under the Oregon ESA.” Phase I defines chronic depredation as four confirmed attacks on livestock in six months, with strict rules for ranchers implementing nonlethal deterrents.

Eastern Oregon is now in Phase III of the wolf plan, which allows for ranchers to request killing wolves after just two confirmed attacks on livestock over any period of time.

The state is nearly finished with a long-overdue update of the wolf plan, which was supposed to be completed in 2015. If passed, the definition of chronic depredation in Phase III would change to two confirmed attacks on livestock in nine months.

A draft of the revised plan was released in April, and the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission is scheduled to vote at its meeting June 7 in Salem.

REGATTA

BINGO NIGHT

FUNDRAISER

\$10 to play

PRIZES!

May 20, 6:30 pm

Astoria Elks

Admission includes cards and dessert. Daubers available for purchase. Doors open at 6 pm.

Clatsop Post 12

Friday, May 17th
Baked Chicken Dinner
\$8.00 • 4pm ‘til gone
“Karaoke Dave” at 6PM

Saturday, May 18th
Armed Forces Day
National Anthem “Chris Lynn Taylor”
Presentation of Colors & Service Flags
Prayer
Program
*Presentation of 50-60 Membership Certificates
*POW/MIA CEREMONY
Post Everlasting - 3 Chaplains
BBQ Pork Rib Dinner
\$8.00 • 4pm ‘til gone
Music by Greg Parke at 3:30pm

Welcome To All Veterans, Families of & Friends

ASTORIA AMERICAN LEGION
1132 Exchange Street • 325-5771

the **Astorian**

Established July 1, 1873
(USPS 035-000)
Published Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday by EO Media Group, 949 Exchange St., PO Box 210, Astoria, OR 97103 Telephone 503-325-3211, 800-781-3211 or Fax 503-325-6573.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Astorian, PO Box 210, Astoria, OR 97103-0210

DailyAstorian.com
MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
MEMBER CERTIFIED AUDIT OF CIRCULATIONS, INC.

Circulation phone number: 503-325-3211
Periodicals postage paid at Astoria, OR
ADVERTISING OWNERSHIP
All advertising copy and illustrations prepared by The Astorian become the property of The Astorian and may not be reproduced for any use without explicit prior approval.
COPYRIGHT
Entire contents © Copyright, 2019 by The Astorian.
Printed on recycled paper

Subscription rates Effective May 1, 2019
MAIL (IN COUNTY)

EZpay (per month)	\$11.25
13 weeks in advance	\$37.00
26 weeks in advance	\$71.00
52 weeks in advance	\$135.00

Out of County Rates available at 800-781-3214

DIGITAL

EZpay (per month)	\$8.00
-------------------	--------