

IN BRIEF

Fire danger level raised to moderate

The fire danger level in Northwest Oregon has been lifted to moderate.

The Oregon Department of Forestry said that as temperatures increase, fire managers will raise the fire danger level. The change is effective at 1 a.m. on Tuesday.

Officials say campfires will only be allowed at designated camping sites. Also, motorists traveling on forest roads are required to have a shovel and 1 gallon of water or a 2.5 pound or larger fire extinguisher. Nonindustrial use of chain saws is allowed.

— The Astorian

Oregon will get \$2.8 million for Equifax data breach

SALEM — Oregon will receive \$2.8 million as part of a settlement with the credit monitor Equifax after an enormous 2017 data breach affected nearly 1.8 million Oregonians.

The settlement, announced Monday, was between Equifax and 48 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

The agreement also settles ongoing investigations by the Federal Trade Commission and the federal Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

About \$175 million of that is going to the states and territories, while up to \$425 million will go to redress consumers' losses and for credit monitoring.

Equifax is also paying a \$100 million fine to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

The breach affected about 147 million people, compromising their Social Security numbers, birthdates, addresses, credit card numbers and for some, their driver's license numbers.

"These self-described 'stewards' of our data turned out to be incredibly careless with Oregonians' personal information and let down consumers — who had no choice about providing access to their data in the first place — in a big, big way," Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum said in a statement Monday.

— Oregon Capital Bureau

DEATH

July 21, 2019

FREEL, Raymond Alfie, 65, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

MEMORIAL

Sunday, July 28

SMITH, Marjorie Jean — Celebration of life at 2 p.m., at 240 S.W. Kalmia Ave. in Warrenton.

ON THE RECORD

Burglary

• Genine Celeste Tuifua, 39, of Astoria, was arrested Saturday on Grand Avenue and 27th Street in Astoria for burglary in the second degree and theft in the second degree. She was arrested June 8 for burglary in the second degree and theft in the third degree at the same property.

DUII

• Luz Greenfield, 48, of Long Beach, Washington, was arrested Sunday on U.S. Highway

101 near Camp Rilea for driving under the influence of intoxicants. Her blood alcohol content was 0.17%.

• Dylan Henry Leonard Clodgo, 26, of Astoria, was arrested Saturday on Marine Drive in front of Astoria High School for DUII.

• Manuel Juan Alanis, 39, of Las Vegas, was arrested Friday on the Astoria Bridge for DUII. His blood alcohol content was 0.24%.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

TUESDAY

Astoria Library Board, 5:30 p.m., Flag Room, 450 10th St.

Seaside Airport Advisory Committee, 6 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

Warrenton City Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall, 225 S. Main Ave.

Astoria Planning Commission, 7 p.m., City Hall, 1095 Duane St.

WEDNESDAY

Clatsop County Board of Commissioners, 6 p.m.,

Judge Guy Boyington Building, 857 Commercial St.

THURSDAY

Sunset Empire Transportation District Board, 9 a.m., Astoria Transit Center, 900 Marine Drive.

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

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



Katie Frankowicz/The Astorian

Kids play with giant soap bubble wands at a block party on 14th Street in Astoria on Friday afternoon. A portion of 14th Street closed down for a block party presented by Coast Community Radio that featured performances by local musicians and DJs, a beer and wine garden, barbecue, lawn games and several pop-up activity tents and shops.

The Astorian wins 4 state journalism awards

The Astorian



Colin Murphey/The Astorian

Erick Bengel was honored for a story about Video Horizons in Astoria, pictured, and Universal Video in Seaside.

News staffers at The Astorian were honored last week with four awards in the Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association annual journalism competition.

Former features editor Erick Bengel won first place for lifestyle coverage for a story about how two North Coast video stores — Video Horizons in Astoria and Universal Video in Seaside — have managed to hold on, even as traditional brick-and-mortar outlets have become a rarity.

Former photographer Colin Murphey won sec-

ond place for a photo essay about the fire devastation in Paradise, California.

Ellela Wilson won third place for her In One Ear columns.

And former reporter Brenna Visser won third place for a feature story about a Seaside man killed by police.

The competition was judged by members of the Kentucky Press Association.

"I'm proud of our journalists, and I'm glad their work is recognized by their peers in the industry," said Jim Van Nostrand, The Astorian's editor.

Orca sanctuary pitched for San Juan Islands

Haven for whales from theme parks

By TOM BANSE

Northwest News Network

An environmental nonprofit is gauging interest in the creation of an orca enclosure in Washington's San Juan Islands.

The leaders of the Whale Sanctuary Project say a cordoned-off bay or cove somewhere in the San Juan Islands could be the ideal home for orcas retired from theme parks. It also could serve as a rehabilitation site if government biologists temporarily corral an ailing wild orca for treatment.

But the sanctuary idea is drawing flak from some quarters, and a brush-off from the owners of captive killer whales.

"We need a community to embrace our vision in order for this to work," said Lori Marino, founder and president of the Whale Sanctuary Project. "We don't want to be anywhere where it is not embraced."

Over the past couple of years, the sanctuary team scouted the Washington state, British Columbia and east-

ern Canada coasts looking for sites of 60 to 100 aquatic acres with quiet surroundings and nearby utilities for the staff facilities. The goal is to secure a natural setting where former show orcas could live out their lives with higher quality of life than in a small, concrete tank.

In particular, whale lovers in the Pacific Northwest have long wanted to bring home the last surviving captive orcas of the many taken from the Salish Sea in the 1960s and '70s. A southern resident killer whale named "Lolita" — also known as Tokitae — lives at the Miami Seaquarium and a northern resident named "Corky" is in SeaWorld's care.

The Miami Seaquarium's ownership has steadfastly refused entreaties to consider retiring Lolita, their sole orca, to her natal home. SeaWorld holds 20 orcas, the majority of whom were born in captivity, at three theme parks in Orlando, San Antonio and San Diego.

"We're not interested," said Dr. Chris Dold, chief zoological officer for SeaWorld.

"Putting them in a sea pen introduces a tremendous level of risk," Dold said. "Envi-



SeaWorld San Diego

SeaWorld parks said it has no interest in turning over its captive orcas to the Whale Sanctuary Project.

ronmental changes, weather, potential harmful algal blooms, potential infectious diseases of which our whales would not have been exposed to — not having grown up in that environment."

Dold insisted the orcas in his care "have great lives and receive the utmost of care" and contribute to scientific understanding for killer whale conservation.

The principals in the Whale Sanctuary Project said they are confident the attitudes of orca owners like SeaWorld will evolve in due course. The nonprofit's plan is to establish their sanctuary first, then make agreements to receive suitable orcas.

"The ethic around keeping whales in captivity for performance purposes has really shifted," said Charles Vinick, the sanctuary project's executive director. "We have to move forward and acquire the site so there is a facility fully staffed and ready to accept a whale from a captive facility."

The Whale Sanctuary Project board and staff includes people who helped return the orca "Keiko," the star of the movie, "Free Willy," to Icelandic waters from Newport. The advisory board also includes environ-

mental luminaries such as explorer and oceans advocate Jean-Michel Cousteau, oceanographer Sylvia Earle, and OrcaLab co-director Paul Spong.

One figure not on board is the director of the Seattle-based orca advocacy group, The Whale Trail. Donna Sandstrom said she is alarmed by the possibility that nonnative whales could be released into a saltwater net pen in Puget Sound. She said this creates risks of disease transmission to the endangered native population. Sandstrom also wondered if resident orcas might hear the calls of nonnative orcas and decide to stay away.

"With all the threats facing the southern resident killer whales, putting nonnative cetaceans in the heart of their range is about the most foolhardy thing I could think of," Sandstrom said.

Vinick responded that the proposed refuge enclosure will have quarantine areas to prevent pathogens from passing back and forth.

Multiple government bodies would be involved in permitting an orca sanctuary once the nonprofit settles on a final location to submit for approval.

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

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