

## IN BRIEF



Warrenton Fire Department

**A car crashed into the AT&T Store in Warrenton.**

## Car crashes into AT&T Store in Warrenton on Sunday

A car crashed into the AT&T Store in Youngs Bay Plaza in Warrenton on Sunday afternoon, causing significant damage.

Police say the driver stepped on the gas instead of the brake.

— *The Astorian*

## DEATHS

**Dec. 13, 2019**

**SHANER, Ruth Louise**, 93, of Seaside, died in Seaside. Caldwell's Funeral & Cremation Arrangement Center of Seaside is in charge of the arrangements.

**Dec. 12, 2019**

**BROWN, Dennis Michael**, 57, of Seaside, died in Portland. Ocean View Funeral & Cremation Service of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

## ON THE RECORD

### Sex abuse

• Roajsha Roven Calhoun, 20, was arraigned Monday for sexual abuse in the first degree, sexual abuse in the third degree and furnishing alcohol to a person under 21 years old.

### Assault

• Rick R. Escalera, 41, of Bakersfield, California, was arrested Sunday on S. Main Avenue in Warrenton for assault in the fourth degree and criminal mischief in the second degree.

• Bryan Keith Bristow, 54, was arrested Thursday at the Clatsop County Jail for assault in the fourth degree.

• Amber Leanne Wilson, 36, of Astoria, was arrested Friday on Sunset Beach Lane for assault in the fourth degree and harassment.

### Restraining order

• Kenneth Jerome Vanderlit, 42, of Warrenton, was arrested Sunday at the Astoria EcoWash in Astoria for violation of a restraining order.

### DUII

• Jacob McCleary, 33, was arrested Sunday at the Home Depot parking lot for driving under the influence of intoxicants.

• Matthew Charles Johnson, 52, of Portland, was arrested Friday on Oregon Highway 103 and U.S. Highway 26 for DUII, driving while suspended or revoked and failure to install an ignition interlock device. His blood alcohol content was 0.13%.

• John Leslie Tucker, 46, of Rainier, was arrested Friday on S. Roosevelt Drive for DUII. His blood alcohol content was 0.22%.

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

### TUESDAY

**Union Health District of Clatsop County**, 8 a.m., Providence Seaside Hospital, Room B, 725 S. Wahanna Road, Seaside.

**Port of Astoria Commission**, 4 p.m., 10 Pier 1 Suite 209.

**Astoria Historic Landmarks Commission**, 5:15 p.m., City Hall, 1095 Duane St.

**Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District Board of Directors**, 5:15 p.m., Bob Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A, Seaside.

**Warrenton City Commission**, 5:15 p.m., special session on budget, City Hall,

225 S. Main Ave.

**Seaside Planning Commission**, 7 p.m., work session, City Hall, 989 Broadway.

**Shoreline Sanitary District Board**, 7 p.m., Gearhart Hertz Station, 33496 West Lake Lane, Warrenton.

### WEDNESDAY

**Seaside Tourism Advisory Committee**, 3 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

### THURSDAY

**Seaside Transportation Advisory Commission**, 6 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

**Seaside School District Board of Directors**, 6 p.m., 1801 S. Franklin.

# Helping Hands considers Wapato for housing center

Would convert jail to space for homeless

By **MEERAH POWELL**  
*Oregon Public Broadcasting*

Helping Hands announced Friday that it is looking to turn north Portland's never-used Wapato Jail into a mixed-use facility for people experiencing homelessness.

Helping Hands Reentry Outreach Centers operates emergency shelters and reentry program facilities in Clatsop, Tillamook, Yamhill and Lincoln counties. It's hoping to do something similar with Wapato.

Wapato owner Jordan Schnitzer purchased the facility from Multnomah County last year, envisioning it as a homeless shelter. He announced in October that he planned to demolish the building unless he could find funding to support that vision.

"We decided that it would be a shame if this was torn down," Alan Evans, founder and CEO of Helping Hands, said at a press conference Friday.

Evans, who experienced homelessness and addiction for more than 25 years before founding Helping Hands, wants to turn the former prison into the Bybee Lakes Hope Center—a facility that would offer support services from outside partners, an emergency shelter and a transitional housing program.



Meerah Powell/Oregon Public Broadcasting

**Helping Hands Reentry Outreach Centers founder and CEO Alan Evans spoke at Wapato Jail in Portland on Friday.**

*'WE DECIDED THAT IT WOULD BE A SHAME IF THIS WAS TORN DOWN.'*

Alan Evans | founder and CEO of Helping Hands

"I've been in a couple prisons in my life and this is not one of them," Evans said. "This is a building. This is an opportunity, and we believe that we can make a difference here."

Helping Hands' case statement on Bybee Lakes Hope Center estimates operating expenses for the facility would be about \$1.4 million.

Schnitzer said he estimates the nonprofit will need \$3 million to \$4 million in donations to get the project off the ground. He said

he'd be willing to commit \$1 million.

"You need some big contributions initially," Schnitzer said.

Although Helping Hands' current operations near the coast do not rely on any state or federal funds, Schnitzer acknowledged that Wapato is a large facility. He said his hope would be for community leaders to recognize the project's potential once it begins to gain donations.

"Here's a chance for them to rise to the occasion and to

reach out to Alan (Evans) and say, 'Gee, we didn't think this thing could work, but by gosh, if you have an organization that's proven itself and thinks it can, we want to help,'" Schnitzer said. "(Multnomah County Chair) Deborah Kafoury, (Portland) Mayor Ted Wheeler, county commission, Metro council, whoever it is — reach out and see if we can make this dream into reality."

Oregon State Sens. Betsy Johnson and Lew Frederick also attended Friday's press conference and spoke in support of the project.

Schnitzer specifically said that no deals were final yet.

"This is just an interim announcement about a new program that has high hopes, high risk, but it's going to take a lot of steps and a lot of things need to go right," he said.

Schnitzer said he will reevaluate the project — and Wapato's fate — in the next few months.

Evans said Helping Hands will begin to accept donations for the project through its website immediately. He said the nonprofit will have a specific website for Bybee Lake Hope Center up in a few days.

"We're asking business owners who are worried about the people sleeping in their doorways to join our team," Evans said. "We're asking politicians. We're asking other people to join together to see if we can make a difference together as a team."

## Northwest killer whales, prey shrinking in size

Chinook salmon continue to get smaller

By **LYNDA V. MAPES**  
*Seattle Times*

Hungry young orcas grow up to be stunted orcas, new research shows, revealing that salmon-run downturns can have lifelong effects.

The findings, published last month in the peer-reviewed scientific journal *Endangered Species Research*, were based on aerial photos taken by drone of whales in both the southern and northern resident orca populations.

The photos document just how closely the health of resident killer whales is tied to the abundance of their favorite prey: big Chinook salmon.

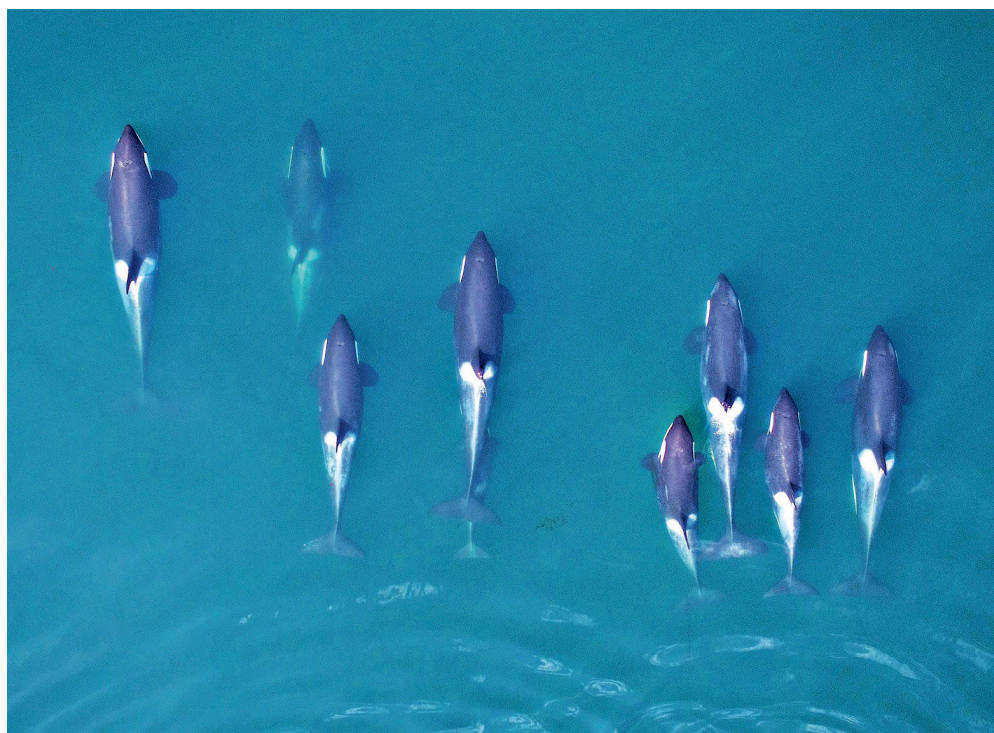
Younger whales born since the 1980s in both the northern and southern populations of salmon-eating resident orcas are shorter in length than older whales that grew up when Chinook runs were more abundant, the photos revealed.

It was a significant difference: The stunted whales growing up in lean times were on average nearly 19.5 inches shorter than older adults, according to the paper published by authors from SR3: Sealife Response, Rehabilitation and Research, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Vancouver Aquarium and Southall Environmental Associates Inc., an environmental consulting firm.

The findings suggest the effects of hunger not only can be lethal, taking out calves and adults, but also can have long-term consequences for the condition of the whales that survive, said John Durban, author and senior scientist with Southall.

"It was shocking; some of these effects are pretty big," Durban said. "The average difference in size is a couple of feet."

The stunted whales actually were the lucky ones; some of the others born and growing up in the same



John Durban/National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**A photo of northern resident killer whales taken with a drone above the surface. Images like this were used to estimate individual lengths and patterns of growth in the population.**

time frame didn't make it at all. A spike in killer-whale deaths tracked closely with a West Coast-wide crash in Chinook abundance in the 1990s, according to a 2009 paper published in *Biology Letters*, by lead author John K. B. Ford, working then for Canada's Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

While that relationship is changing statistically, scientists know lack of adequate prey is affecting southern residents' survival. So are boat noise and pollution. Scientists also are looking at inbreeding and disease as contributors to the decline of the southern residents.

Northern and Alaskan resident killer whales have grown significantly in population even as the southern residents have declined. The northern and Alaskan residents have several advantages over the southern residents. They have access to a wider variety of fish runs and cleaner, quieter water. They also get first crack at Washington-origin fish. Many of the Chinook born in Washington rivers head north to British Columbia and the Gulf of Alaska, where they are caught by fishermen and orcas before the southern residents ever get a chance at them.

The southern residents were listed as an endangered

species in 2005. Their population goes up and down, but recently has continued to decline, and is now at a 30-year low. There are only 73 left.

Meanwhile Chinook are also shrinking. Jan Ohlberger, of the School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences at the University of Washington, and other authors have documented a pattern of smaller body size in Chinook over the past 40 years. Fish today measure up to 9% shorter than in the past. Chinook have shrunk all down the coast of Washington, and clear to California.

Predation by the other growing populations of killer whales is shrinking the fish, more than human fishing pressure, Ohlberger and his co-authors determined in a paper published Monday in the research journal *PNAS*.

"It really comes back to the observation everyone has, whether you are a scientist or a fisherman, Chinook have been getting increasingly smaller, and size has really decreased in the last 15 years," said Daniel Schindler, professor in the School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences at the University of Washington and a co-author on the paper. Computer modeling

of possible causes identified whales for the shrinkage in part because fishing has declined even as the population of killer whales has nearly tripled — and whales are even more size selective in their catch than fishermen, Schindler said.

Today killer whales are estimated to consume more than 2.5 million Chinook a year, more than fishermen catch in the commercial, recreational and subsistence fisheries combined.

Killer whales preferentially target large Chinook because they deliver more calories for the hunting effort. The shrunken Chinook mean orcas have to work harder to get enough to eat. Declines in length imply a reduction in caloric value of an average sized Chinook of 30% to 40%, Ohlberger and his co-authors reported in the paper.

As orcas and Chinook shrink, transient killer whales are doing well. These orcas travel throughout the coast, and eat only marine mammals, including seals, sea lions, porpoises and minke whales. All of those marine mammals have rebuilt to healthy populations since people stopped hunting them, with federal protection enacted in 1972, growing in population by about 4% a year.

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