

IN BRIEF

States reopen portion of Columbia River to salmon fishing

Salmon fishing on a portion of the Columbia River will reopen Saturday.

Fishery managers in Oregon and Washington state will allow fishing of fall Chinook, hatchery coho and steelhead from the Warrior Rock line upstream to fishing deadlines at Bonneville Dam. Any steelhead caught will need to be released through Oct. 31. Fishermen are allowed to catch Chinook, but only hatchery coho may be retained.

Camas Slough remains closed to all salmon and steelhead fishing until Sept. 30.

Last week, fishery managers had closed the recreational salmon fishery from Astoria to the Bonneville Dam because of high impacts to a natural, listed salmon stock. After a brief pause, however, fishery managers felt they could reopen a portion of the river.

— *The Astorian*

MEMORIALS

Friday, Sept. 17
ROPKINS, Philip Robert — Memorial from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. in the Camp Rilea Armory Building, 33168 Patriot Way in Warrenton. Because it is a military establishment, identifica-

tion is required at the gate for all attendees.

Saturday, Sept. 18
CLARK, Judith “Judy” Paulsen — Celebration of life at 11 a.m. at the Peace First Lutheran Church, 725 33rd St. in Astoria.

CORRECTION

Wrong day — A break-in in Aldrich Point was reported to law enforcement on Sept. 1. An On the Record item on A2 on Sept. 4 incorrectly said the break-in was reported on Aug. 31.

ON THE RECORD

Assault
 • Dillon R. Fitzpatrick, 29, of Hammond, was arrested Sunday on Russell Drive in Warrenton for assault in the fourth degree.

Burglary
 • Steven Wolf, 44, of Warrenton, was arrested Wednesday on S. Main Avenue in Warrenton for burglary in the first degree and harassment.

Theft
 • Timothy Joseph Butcher, 61, of Ventura, California, was indicted Aug. 26 for unauthorized use of a vehicle and theft in the first degree.

• Anita Kay Rogers, 57, of Seaside, was arrested on Sept. 3 for theft in the first degree at Walmart in Warrenton. Rogers was an employee at Walmart.

• Ronald Lee Nida, 61, of Rainier, was arrested Sept. 3 for theft in the second degree and criminal mischief in the third degree at Walmart. The person with him, Cynthia A., Wiseman, 53, of Astoria, was arrested for criminal trespass in the second degree.

Criminal mischief
 • Timothy Edward Adams, 41, of Knappa, was arrested Sunday for criminal mischief in the third degree, possession of burglary tools and theft in the second degree at

Walmart in Warrenton.

DUII
 • Taylor Deshaun Florence, 26, of Seaside, was arrested Thursday morning at the Holiday Inn Express & Suites parking lot near Marine Drive and Columbia Avenue for driving under the influence of intoxicants and reckless driving. He was also charged with driving with a suspended license.

• Jaden Michael Bradford, 23, of Boulder City, Nevada, was arrested Monday at U.S. Highway 101 and Cullaby Lake for DUII, driving uninsured and driving without an operator’s license.

• Jennifer Leann Lawler, 48, of Seaside, was arrested Sunday near the U.S. Highway 101 and U.S. Route 26 junction for DUII.

• Curtis E. Newman, 45, of Bend, was arrested Sept. 3 on U.S. Highway 30 near milepost 26 for DUII. He was also cited for driving with a suspended license and driving uninsured.

Reckless driving
 • Tiffanie Lisa Boldizar, 53, of Redmond, Washington, was arrested Thursday on U.S. Route 26, near milepost 19, for reckless driving and two counts of reckless endangerment of a high-way worker.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

MONDAY

Seaside Tree Board, 4 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.
Airport Advisory Committee, 4 p.m., terminal building at Astoria Regional Airport.
Seaside City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

TUESDAY

Clatsop Care Health District, 5 p.m., (electronic meeting).
Cannon Beach City Council, 6 p.m., work session, (electronic meeting).
Lewis and Clark Fire Department Board, 6 p.m., main fire station, 34571 U.S. Highway 101 Business.
Warrenton City Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall, 225 S. Main Ave.

the Astorian

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TRUCKIN'

Luke Whittaker/Chinook Observer

Axel Redinger, 4, pushes a toy truck toward the surf while playing on Waikiki Beach.

Expedition to search for new species of beaked whale

A search at the garbage patch

By JES BURNS
Oregon Public Broadcasting

Oregon researchers are on their way to the Great Pacific Garbage Patch to look for a potentially new species of whale.

The expedition, led by a team from Oregon State University, will sail nearly a week onboard the R/V Pacific Storm to get to the search location — the area of the Pacific about halfway between Oregon and Hawaii where the ocean’s stray trash congregates.

“It’s a high-risk, high-reward project — a somewhat needle in the haystack trip,” said expedition lead Lisa Ballance, director of Oregon State’s Marine Mammal Institute. “At the same time, we have some good indicators that where we are headed, this animal is there.”

The researchers know the whale they’re looking for is a type of beaked whale. These shy whales live in remote parts of the ocean, hunting squid at extreme depths. They resemble an oversized porpoise, with a somewhat comi-



Simon Ager/Sea Shepherd Conservation Society

An unidentified beaked whale photographed off Baja California, Mexico.

cally small head.

“There have been some sightings of a cryptic whale. Quick photographs snapped. ... We’ve taken a look at them. We don’t know what that animal is. So we want to go find it,” she said.

Relatively little is known about the whales; in fact, six known species of beaked whale have never actually been observed alive. And because so little is known, there is no way of tracking how human activity in the ocean is affecting their populations.

The area with the garbage patch is technically called the North Pacific Gyre and it’s a massive area to search. And the expedition will only

have about 20 days on location. But the researchers think that if beaked whales behave like other whales, they will frequent the same areas from year to year to feed.

“Humans do the same thing. We have our favorite restaurants, our favorite grocery stores. So the more we know about whales, dolphins and porpoises, the more we learn that that is actually not unusual and it may actually be typical for beaked whales,” Ballance said.

Once they make it to the gyre, the researchers will tow an underwater microphone behind the boat 24 hours a day to try to pick up whale calls. They’ll also be scanning the surroundings with high-pow-

ered binoculars. If successful, they will then attempt to photograph and collect DNA samples to try to determine what species the whales are.

If the researchers are able to record the unique whale calls of new or previously unobserved species of beaked whales, it will give them a tool to track the populations to understand more about their numbers, range and if human-caused noise in the ocean is disrupting their behavior.

It’s unknown if there’s a connection between the Great Pacific Garbage Patch and the beaked whales that are suspected to live in the area. As a side project, the researchers will be catching the whales’ primary food source — squid — living among the plastic and other trash floating in the area and analyzing them.

“If we can understand the extent to which squids might be impacted by the plastic, it’s another step (closer to understanding) the impacts on the beaked whales themselves,” Ballance said.

Part of the funding for the expedition comes from sales of Oregon’s gray whale license plate, which supports Oregon State’s Marine Mammal Institute in Newport.

State emphasizes disaster preparedness

By SAM STITES
Oregon Public Broadcasting

Oregon’s Office of Emergency Management is calling on residents to think critically about how they’re preparing for the next big crisis event.

Over the past year, Oregon has taken a beating from severe wildfires and drought, destructive ice storms, tragic heat events and a pandemic that continues to fill hospitals and morgues statewide.

With those events in mind, the state is asking Oregonians to “honor with action,” meaning that the Office of Emergency Management wants people to pay respect to those who have lost their life, home or livelihood to a disaster event by taking individual preparedness more seriously. According to Andrew Phelps, the director of the Office of Emergency Management, those actions can look very simple, but go a long way in terms of emergency protection.

That includes doing things like identifying evacuation routes at home, work or school; establishing an emergency plan and practicing it; packing a go-kit with essential items such as copies of important documents, medications and phone chargers; and signing up for emergency notifications.

“If you and I are prepared for an emergency, we know how to get out of our homes or evacuate our communities, we’ve signed up for alerts and we’ve got our kits or shelter-



Nathan Parsons/Warm Springs Agency

The Lionshead fire started small and later erupted during the Labor Day weekend windstorm in Oregon last year.

in-place kits ready, that’s two more families that don’t necessarily need assistance from the fire department or police department,” Phelps said. “Those resources can then go to families that are under-resourced or folks that have disabilities and can’t access transportation to evacuate.”

The Office of Emergency Management also suggests other actions to take that include establishing or joining a Community Emergency Response Team or a Neighborhood Emergency Team; creating relationships with neighbors to ensure everyone is checked in on when an emergency takes place; and donating to or volunteering with disaster relief organizations such as the American Red Cross.

Since the 9/11 attacks in 2001, governors across the nation have proclaimed September as National Preparedness Month to remind Americans that, while the nation’s first responders are

highly trained and skilled at what they do, there will be occasions in which they’re stretched to the limit. In those events, the onus will be on everyone to do their part to take care of themselves and each other.

Phelps was living in New York City during 9/11, and he remembers how, even in a city with emergency infrastructure as well-resourced as New York, there was still devastation that followed as emergency responders rushed toward the World Trade Center, leaving massive gaps in service elsewhere.

Fast forward 20 years and nearly 3,000 miles away from New York, a different type of crisis had Oregon’s emergency responders as they rushed to save lives and property amid historic wildfires. Meanwhile, smoke wreaked havoc on vulnerable populations and caused people to be hospitalized.

Just a few months later,

an ice storm left hundreds of thousands across the state without power. And a few months beyond that, extreme heat killed upward of 120 people.

At the same time, a Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake hundreds of years overdue looms every day.

Phelps believes that while Oregonians are aware of the dangers they face year in and year out, they’re woefully unprepared. That’s the major message behind National Preparedness Month.

“I don’t think everybody understands that emergencies and disasters can impact them,” Phelps said. “We have hazards of fires, hazards of flooding and earthquakes and winter storms and utility outages, but the one hazard that we really struggle with is this hazard of apathy, where folks think, ‘It can’t happen to me,’ or ‘I can prepare later before the disaster happens.’”

Phelps said the Office of Emergency Management is struggling to help Oregonians see just how vulnerable they are. That’s the main message behind the agency’s push to get people thinking about preparedness during the month of September, as the nation remembers 9/11, and as Oregon remembers the destruction that took place just a year ago.

“All of those things make such a huge difference between being a disaster victim or disaster survivor,” he said.