

Experts prepare plan to capture ill orca if necessary

By PHUONG LE
Associated Press



Brian Gisborne/Fisheries and Oceans Canada via AP, file

In this Aug. 7, 2018, file photo, southern resident killer whale J50 and her mother, J16, swim off the west coast of Vancouver Island near Port Renfrew, B.C. Nearly two months after an international team of experts began taking extraordinary measures to save the young sick orca, the critically endangered whale is skinnier than ever. Now NOAA Fisheries and its partners are weighing whether to intervene further to help the orca known as J50.

SEATTLE (AP) — Federal biologists said Wednesday they are preparing a plan to capture and treat a sick, critically endangered orca if there is no other way to save her in the wild.

Officials said they will intervene and rescue the orca only if she becomes stranded or separated from the rest of her tightly knit group of whales.

They want the 4-year-old orca known as J50 to survive in the wild and contribute to the recovery of southern resident killer whales, without putting the rest of the orcas in her pod at risk.

“We don’t intend to intervene while she’s with her family. If we are presented with a situation where a rescue is the only viable alternative, we will rescue her,” Chris Yates, assistant regional administrator for NOAA’s protected resources division, told reporters during a call.

Veterinarians believe they have exhausted treatment options in the field that included twice injecting the free-swimming whale with antibiotics in Pacific Northwest waters. Despite the treatment, J50 is thinner than ever due to undetermined health issues.

“This is a very sick whale,” said Joe Gaydos, a wildlife veterinarian and science director of SeaDoc Society. “We don’t think she has long.”

Another whale in the same pod, known as J35, triggered international sympathy this summer when she kept the body of her dead calf afloat in waters for more than two weeks.

The two whales are among just 75 of the fish-eating orcas that spend time in Pacific Northwest waters.

The southern resident killer whales don’t have

enough chinook salmon, the staple of their diet. They also face threats from toxic contamination as well as vessel noise and disturbances that disrupt their ability to communicate and forage.

There hasn’t been a successful birth in the population since 2015. Losing J50 would also mean losing her reproductive potential.

NOAA Fisheries said the next steps could include doing a hands-on physical exam, which could lead to quick medical treatment and release. Another option at that point would be hold-

ing her in a marine net pen in Puget Sound for a short time for rehabilitation and medical care before returning her to the wild to reunite with her family.

J50 has lagged behind her group in the ocean, at times trailing for miles, raising questions about what criteria would be used to determine if she has separated enough for scientists to attempt capture.

Yates said J50 would have to show more extreme behavior than what she has exhibited so far, and scientists will act if they don’t believe she’ll reconnect with her pod.

An international team of Canadian and U.S. whale experts has mounted an intensive effort to help the orca since concerns were raised in mid-July.

They have taken breath and fecal samples but still don’t know for certain what’s wrong with J50.

Response teams have tried to give her medication to help with parasitic worms, which they believe she has based on fecal samples taken from her mother.

Teams have also dropped live salmon from a boat as J50 and her pod swam behind — a test to see whether fish could be used as a means of delivering medication.

Romance writer accused of killing spouse wrote how-to essay in 2011

PORTLAND (AP) — A woman accused of gunning down her chef husband is a self-published romance writer who once penned an essay titled “How to Murder Your Husband.”

Nancy Crampton Brophy, 68, published the 700-word treatise in 2011 on the website See Jane Publish, *The Oregonian/OregonLive* reported.

“As a romantic suspense writer, I spend a lot of time thinking about murder and, consequently, about police procedure,” she wrote. “After all, if the murder is supposed to set me free, I certainly don’t want to spend any time in jail.”

She has also written such titles as “The Wrong Husband,” a 2015 novel about a woman who escapes an abusive spouse during a shipwreck in the Mediterranean and falls in love with one of the men sent to find her.

Crampton Brophy was arrested last week on a preliminary charge of domestic violence murder in the death of her husband of 27 years, Daniel Brophy, at the Oregon Culinary Institute early on June 2. He was a well-liked instructor there, and

the killing baffled many.

Crampton Brophy announced the death of her husband on Facebook a day after the killing, saying she was “struggling to make sense of everything right now.” Her attorney, Jane Claus, declined to comment to *The Associated Press* on Wednesday about the charge or her client’s writing.

The affidavit filed by police in support of her arrest remains under seal, so many details of the case have yet to be divulged. Authorities have not publicly suggested a possible motive for the killing.

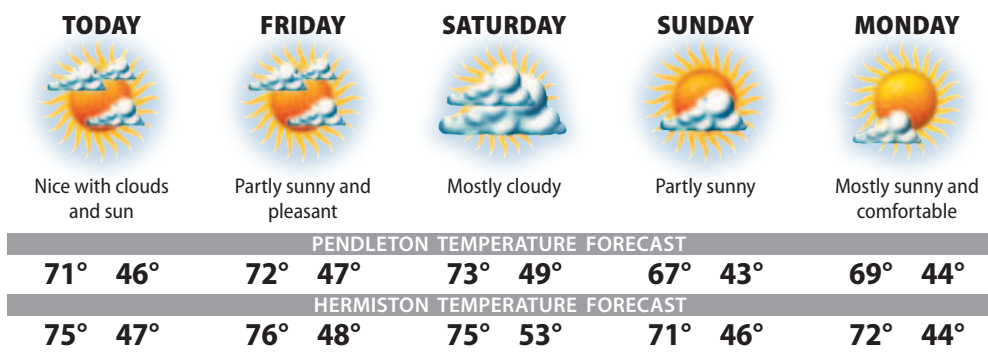
In her 2011 essay, Crampton Brophy discussed several potential motivations for wanting to kill a spouse, including infidelity, abuse or greed.

“Divorce is expensive, and do you really want to split your possessions?” she wrote in a section about financial motives.

“I find it is easier to wish people dead than to actually kill them,” she wrote. “I don’t want to worry about blood and brains splattered on my walls. And really, I’m not good at remembering lies.”

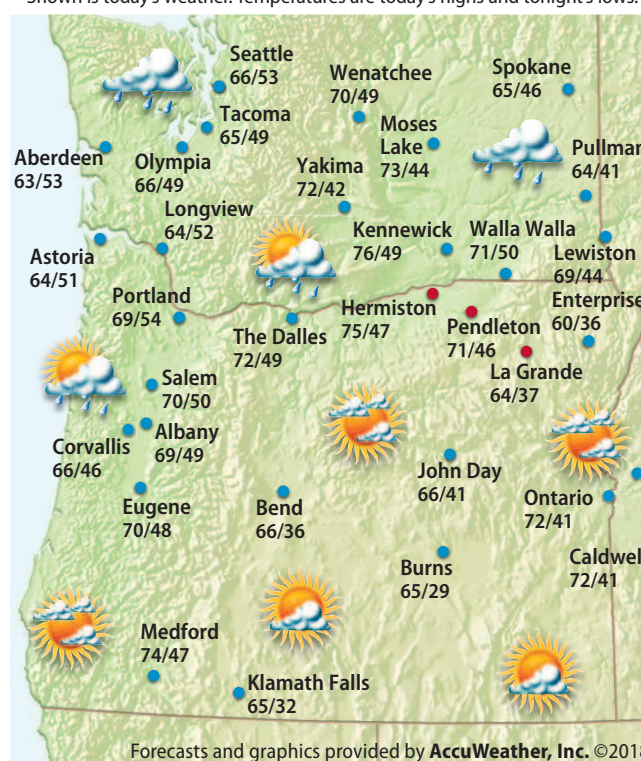
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OREGON FORECAST

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.



ALMANAC

PENDLETON through 3 p.m. yest.

TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	71°	48°
Normals	79°	51°
Records	95° (1892)	25° (1921)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	0.00"
Normal month to date	0.18"
Year to date	6.52"
Last year to date	11.37"
Normal year to date	8.56"

HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yest.

TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	74°	46°
Normals	80°	49°
Records	96° (1953)	31° (2014)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	Trace
Normal month to date	0.14"
Year to date	5.15"
Last year to date	6.65"
Normal year to date	6.26"

WINDS (in mph)

	Today	Fri.
Boardman	WSW 7-14	WSW 4-8
Pendleton	WSW 7-14	NW 6-12

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	6:31 a.m.
Sunset tonight	7:11 p.m.
Moonrise today	11:00 a.m.
Moonset today	9:41 p.m.

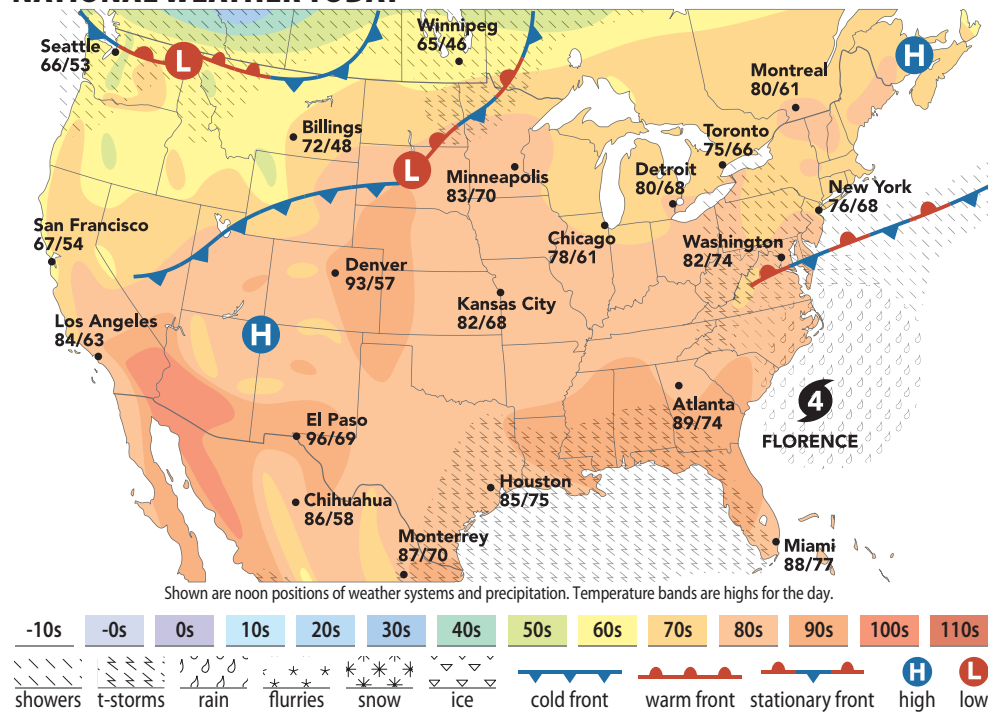
First Full Last New
Sep 16 Sep 24 Oct 2 Oct 8

NATIONAL EXTREMES

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)

High 108° in Imperial, Calif. Low 26° in West Yellowstone, Mont.

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



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BRIEFLY

Oregon wildlife officials to hunt for killer cougar

SALEM (AP) — Oregon wildlife officials with guns and dogs are preparing to search for a cougar believed to have killed a woman on rugged terrain in the shadow of the state’s highest peak.

Brian Wolfer of the state wildlife department said if a cougar is tracked down, wildlife officials will kill it and then check for a DNA match with DNA left on hiker Diana Bober, 55, whose body was found Monday almost two weeks after she was last heard from.

Wolfer acknowledged that other cougars might be killed, but said killing and testing is the only option and that capturing a mountain lion in the steep terrain isn’t an option.

Bober’s death marked the first fatal attack by a wild cougar in Oregon and the second in the Pacific Northwest this year.

Washington OKs killing more wolves that attacked cattle

OLYMPIA, Wash. (AP) — State wildlife officials will kill members of a new wolf pack that have attacked cattle in northeast Washington.

Department of Fish and Wildlife Director Kelly Susewind authorized the killing Wednesday. It’s the second time in a month he’s approved lethal remove of wolves.

Officials say the wolves killed a calf and injured five others on federal grazing land in Ferry County this month. The attacks occurred in an area once occupied by the Profanity Peak wolf pack.

Susewind authorized “incremental” removal of one or two wolves. Efforts to trap or shoot the animal will begin after Thursday afternoon.

Earlier this month, an agency marksman shot and killed a male member of the Togo wolf pack.

Two environmental groups won a temporary restraining order to stop the killing of that pack, but a judge declined to extend that order Aug. 31.

Fired Nike account executive sentenced in fraud case

PORTLAND (AP) — A fired Nike wholesale account executive has been sentenced to more than a year in federal prison for defrauding his former employer out of more than \$750,000.

The Oregonian/OregonLive reports 51-year-old David Reichert was sentenced Tuesday after pleading guilty in April to two counts of wire fraud.

Reichert, who worked for the Oregon-based sportswear company for more than 15 years, gave significant discounts to two Missouri-based retail companies he operated with a friend. He never disclosed his ownership interests in the two companies.