

Washington’s state budget scrimps on replacing salmon-blocking culverts

By GENE JOHNSON
Associated Press

SEATTLE — Washington faces a federal court order to fix under-roadway pipes that block migrating fish by 2030, but a budget passed by lawmakers puts the state at risk of missing the deadline and could delay salmon recovery even as the Pacific Northwest’s endangered orcas are starving.

The Legislature’s two-year transportation budget, approved last weekend, devotes \$100 million to fixing culverts — large pipes that allow streams to flow under roadways, but can prevent salmon from reaching their spawning grounds.

The \$100 million is about one-third of what Gov. Jay Inslee requested, and far less than what many — including some lawmakers, state officials, conservationists and Native American tribes — agree is necessary.

“We are extremely disappointed in the Legislature’s last-minute decision to underfund culvert removal,” Lorraine Loomis, chair of the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, said in a written statement. “Underfunding culvert removal at this point makes it almost impossible to



In this June 22, 2015, file photo, Melissa Erkel, a fish passage biologist with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, looks at a culvert along the north fork of Newaukum Creek near Enumclaw, Wash.

meet the court’s deadline and will slow salmon recovery.”

Salmon recovery has become an urgent priority as the region’s resident killer whale population has fallen. The whales primarily eat Chinook salmon.

The Legislature did direct about \$50 million to other important salmon-restoration efforts, including a dam removal on the Nooksack River and flood-plain work

along the Dungeness and Cedar rivers. But even lawmakers who wrote the transportation budget said they were unhappy with the culvert money.

The House budget called for \$214 million and the Senate \$274 million, but when legislators met to negotiate their differences, they settled on just \$100 million. Proposals for more spending relied on passing a carbon

fee, borrowing more money or imposing weight fees on vehicles earlier than planned, none of which happened.

“We’d love to give more. Can’t. Don’t have any money,” said Senate Transportation Chairman Steve Hobbs, a Lake Stevens Democrat. “I hope it spurs the conversation that we need to raise some other revenue to pay for this. It’s a huge expense and it has to be done.”



AP Photo/Ted S. Warren,File
In this April 10, 2019, file photo, a Boeing 737 MAX 8 airplane being built for India-based Jet Airways lands following a test flight at Boeing Field in Seattle.

Grounded Max jets could contribute to higher summer fares

By DAVID KOENIG
AP Airlines Writer

The grounding of Boeing 737 Max jets likely means that fare increases this summer will be larger than already expected and airlines will struggle to handle disruptions such as storms that shut down hub airports.

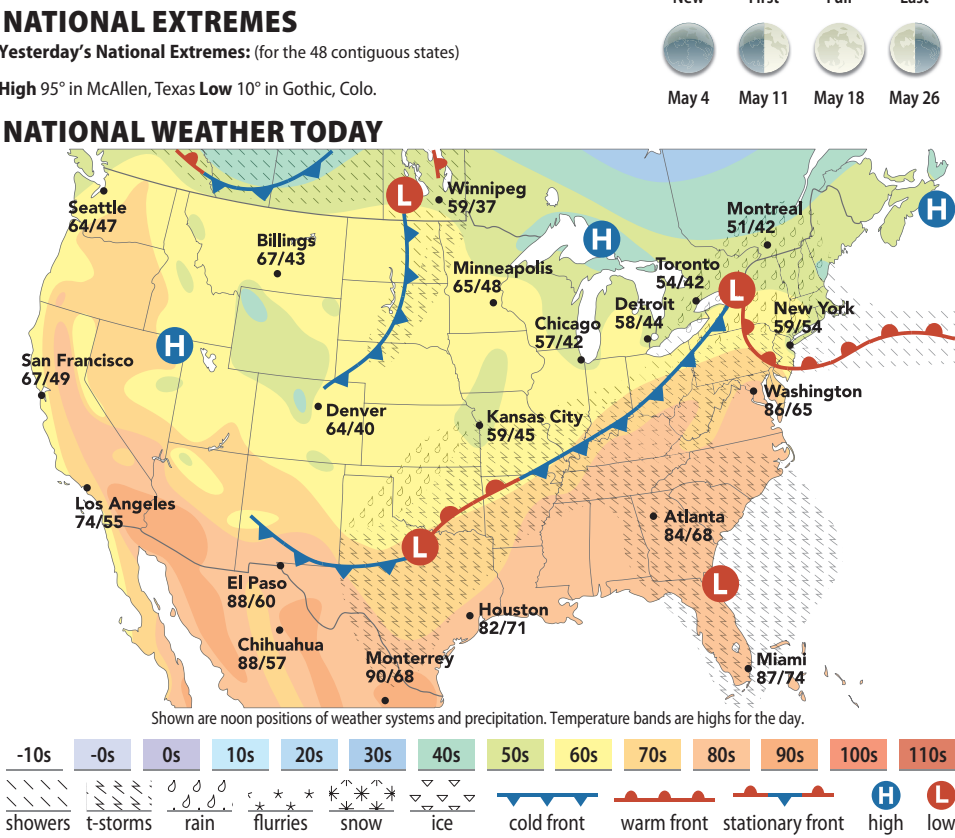
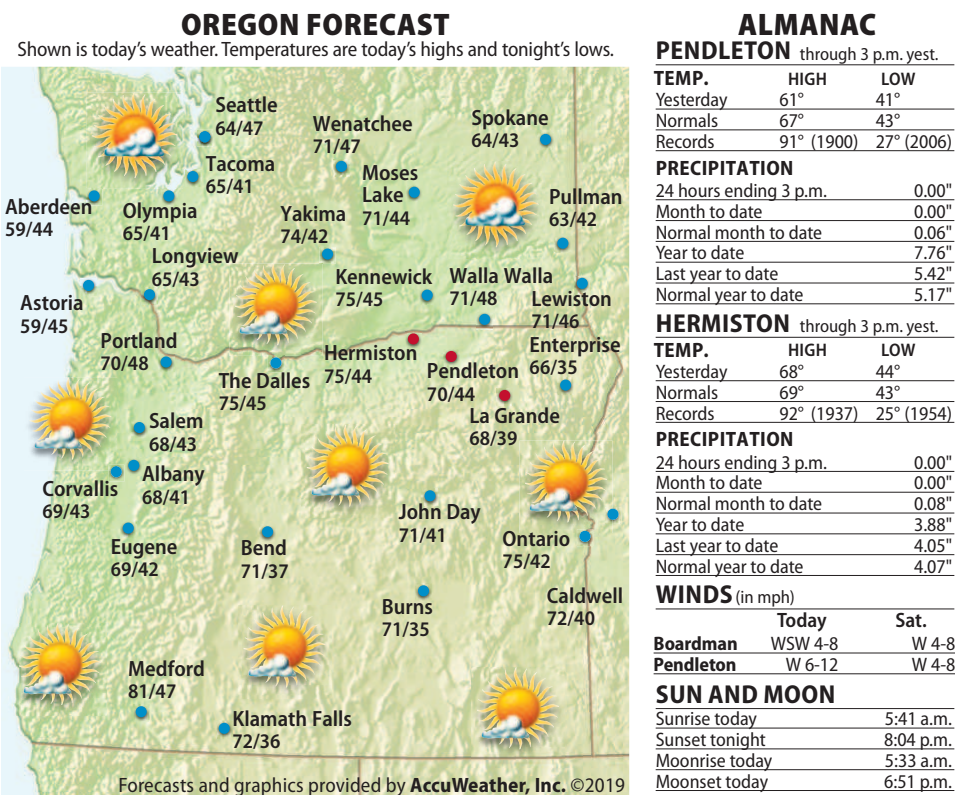
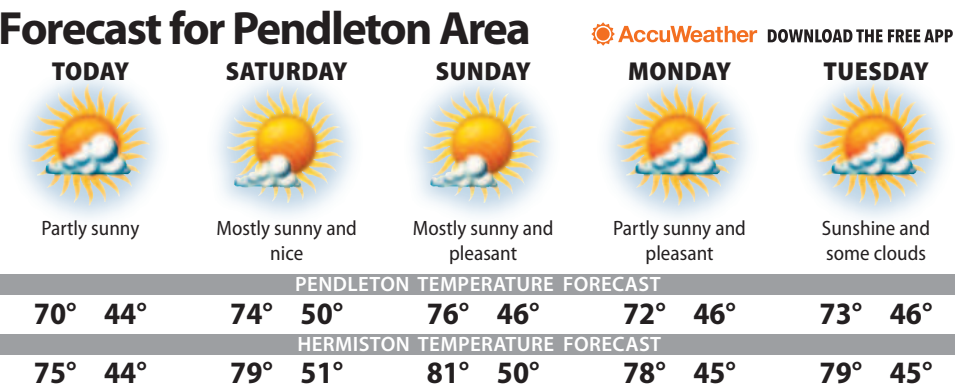
With Max jets grounded after two deadly accidents, U.S. airlines will operate about 200 fewer daily flights than planned through the heart of the peak summer season. That’s around 35,000 seats lost every day.

Travel-data firm Hopper said this week that it expects the average domestic round

trip in May will cost \$236, 7% more than a year ago, and keep rising in June. Most of that increase is due to the price of jet fuel and other economic causes, but some of it is due to the Max, according to Hayley Berg, the firm’s economist.

The grounding of Max jets will leave other planes more crowded.

“We expect a certain level of chaos,” said Henrik Zillmer, CEO of AirHrik, which helps travelers get compensation for travel disruptions. “With so many passengers being rebooked, flights may get more overbooked than usual, especially when weather or other factors cause cancellations.”



Tentative settlement reached in Hawaii brewery lawsuit

KAILUA - KONA , Hawaii (AP) — The parent company of a Hawaii brewery agreed on a tentative settlement with the plaintiffs in a lawsuit over allegations that the company’s packaging and advertising misleads customers.

Craft Brew Alliance Inc., which owns Kona Brewing Co., reported to investors last week that it expects to spend about \$4.7 million to settle the suit, though the company’s general counsel, Marcus Reed, said the exact figure will depend on the number of people who file claims in the case.

A federal judge in California has set a June 13 hearing to consider preliminary approval of the class-action settlement between the plaintiffs and Portland-based Craft Brew Alliance. The judge ordered that motion be filed by May 23.

Assuming the court approves the settlement agreement, that will be followed by a notice period to then be followed by the claims period, Reed said.

The lawsuit, filed in 2017, accuses the company of using “false and deceptive packaging and advertising” to mislead custom-

ers into believing Kona Brewing Co. beer was brewed in Hawaii.

The complaint said the plaintiffs, who were California residents at the time of its filing, relied on representations like those when they bought Kona Brewing Co. beer and believed they were buying beer brewed in Hawaii. Had they known it was brewed in the mainland, they wouldn’t have bought the beer “or would have paid significantly less for it,” the complaint states.

Lead attorneys for the plaintiffs in the case did not return a phone call Tuesday from *West Hawaii Today*.

Appeals Court overturns death row inmate’s conviction

PORTLAND (AP) — The Oregon Court of Appeals has overturned the conviction and death penalty sentence of an inmate accused of fatally stabbing another inmate in a prison yard.

The *Oregonian*/OregonLive reports the ruling this week found that 54-year-old David Lee Cox, who was sentenced to death in 2000, received ineffective counsel.

The Oregon attorney general’s office said Wednesday it was reviewing the ruling and hasn’t decided whether to appeal.

The court says one trial witness testified that the killing was part of a murder-for-hire conspiracy involving a prison group called the Lakota Club. The court says Cox’s lawyer should have investigated that theory and called witnesses who could have refuted it.

Cox was convicted of stabbing 31-year-old inmate Mark Dean Davis in the back. Cox was serving time for robbery, attempted murder, kidnapping, attempted assault and burglary convictions.

Man accused in Portland stabbing faces hate crime charge

PORTLAND (AP) — Court documents say a man accused in a Portland stabbing Tuesday night used the n-word before the incident and is now facing a hate crime charge.

The *Oregonian*/OregonLive reports 27-year-old Jeffrey Larison was arraigned Wednesday in Multnomah County Circuit Court on allegations of second-degree intimidation, unlawful use of a weapon and assault.

Court documents say Larison threatened to kill Josef Boring and used the n-word before stabbing the man in the back as the man turned to run away on a street in Portland’s Old Town.

According to a probable cause affidavit, Boring was treated for the single stab wound, which was closed with two staples.

Second-degree intimidation alleges that Larison intentionally subjected Boring to “offensive physical contact” because of his perception of Boring’s race or color of skin.

It wasn’t known if Larison had an attorney.

CORRECTIONS: The May 1 article “Pacific Power rolls out new meters” misstated a Pacific Power official’s name, the name of Pacific Power’s installation contractor’s name, and the type of information smart meters transmit. The official’s name is Cory Estlund, the contractor’s name is Aclara, and smart meters transmit ID numbers. The *East Oregonian* works hard to be accurate and sincerely regrets any errors. If you notice a mistake in the paper, please call 541-966-0818.

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