

Researchers examine dead whale

'Limited' necropsy seeks cause of death

By Lyra Fontaine
EO Media Group

ARCH CAPE — Slightly north of the surfers and hikers, a small team from the Seaside Aquarium and Portland State University examined the remains of a whale at Oswald West State Park Thursday, Sept. 22. Curious passers-by stopped to take pictures and ask questions.

The dead humpback washed ashore at the state park's Short Sand beach on Tuesday. It originally beached in nearby Arch Cape on Friday, before washing back out to sea.

The team hopes to find some clues as to why the whale died, which may be challenging. Keith Chandler, the general manager of the Seaside Aquarium, said most of the whale's internal organs are gone after it blew up, and it has been dead for a while.

Portland State University biology research assistant Dalin D'Alessandro and Seaside Aquarium employees



LYRA FONTAINE/EO MEDIA GROUP

Tiffany Boothe and Molly Schmidt of the Seaside Aquarium, and Portland State University research assistant Dalin D'Alessandro, measure the whale.

Tiffany Boothe and Mollie Schmidt measured the whale and will take blubber and skin samples.

"We are looking for external signs of trauma and entanglement and possible hemorrhage by cutting through the blubber layer," D'Alessandro said, adding that they are examining exposed parts of the

whale, conducting a "limited necropsy" due to not having heavy equipment.

The whale is about 38 feet long and is missing its tail.

"Its tail was severed by something, probably after it was already dead," Chandler said.

Oswald West State Park will likely be its final resting

place, since the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department has decided to leave the whale and let nature take its course. However, when larger storms hit the coast over the next months or weeks, what's left of the mammal could wash back out to sea, Boothe said. It may take longer to decay in cooler weather.

Food Bank helps to nourish community

Essentials are needed to feed families

By Eve Marx
For Seaside Signal



R.J. MARX/SEASIDE SIGNAL

Karla Gann, director; and volunteers Tessa Beardsley and Derek Beatty at the Food Bank in Seaside.

The South County Community Food Bank drive takes place throughout the year, said board member Mary Blake. "But there is such a peak need during the fall, going in to bad weather conditions, that we're serving more people," she said.

Blake said the food bank has seen its numbers of people in food need double; the main reason, she said is there are so many more homeless. "There are more people living in a car," she said. "Or couch-surfing. More people have fallen off the grid. We normally give a food box out with anywhere from 65 to 130 pounds of food, but we've broken that into two collections because many people have no place to store it."

Blake said what's frightening is that if a person already living precariously misses one social security check, or one paycheck, or has an unexpected large bill, that can send them into food distress.

"We're seeing a real shift," she said. "An increase in seniors and families. Sixty percent of the children we're servicing live below the poverty line."

Food insecurity is defined as the state of being without reliable access to a sufficient quantity of affordable, nutritious food. Oregonhunger.org estimates that 15 percent of Oregonians are food insecure.

The South County Community Food Bank is associated with Clatsop Community Action and the Oregon Food Bank Network. "It's a year-round need we're addressing," Blake said. "Twenty percent of the population of Seaside, Gearhart and Cannon Beach is using the Food Pantry."

The South County Community Food Bank has been in operation for over 28 years, started in 1981 by a local Seaside grocery store owner who began giving hungry people food out of the back of his store. A few years ago the Food Bank was able to move to into its present location at 2041 North Roosevelt Drive.

"This is a brand-new facility but it also costs more to operate," Blake said. "We have increased utility costs for our walk in freezers and running our lights and our vehicle. We have an extremely streamlined use of our dollars, but if we were able to imagine a community without hunger, that is do-able."

What's needed? Peanut butter is an essential, as well as canned corn, canned tuna, Pop-Tarts, single serving soup.

"We need it all," Blake said.

The South County Community Food Bank is always looking for donations as well as volunteers. They also have some openings for new board members.

"We have a remarkable system we've implemented that is starting to get us more food," Blake said. "We have some tough challenges ahead. But people children shouldn't go hungry and seniors shouldn't feel so desperate."

The food bank is located on the east side of Highway 101 in Seaside across from Seaside High School at 2041 North Roosevelt Drive; 503-738-9800.

Housing fails to match employment gains

Housing from Page 1A

Warrenton's 27 percent, leaving many employees without housing options.

Of 21,693 housing units in Clatsop County, only 197 new units have been built since 2010, less than 1 percent of the housing stock, Leahy said. "This is a call for action for coming up with discussions and dialogue, and most importantly, solutions for this issue."

CEDR's emphasis is on workforce and affordable housing, Leahy said.

Affordable housing is defined as 30 percent of a person's income. "If you make \$15 per hour or \$30,000 annually, you can afford \$750 a month for your housing," he said.

'This is a call for action for coming up with discussions and dialogue, and most importantly, solutions for this issue.'

Kevin Leahy,
Clatsop Economic Development Resources

Those making \$20 per hour or \$40,000 annually can afford a little more than \$1,000 per month. Forty-five percent of the housing in Clatsop County is unaffordable by those standards, he said.

"Any type of housing built is good," Leahy said. "We want to work very closely with the city and move forward."

Seaside Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Brian Owen asked councilors

to help builders or developers "overcome hurdles" for affordable units.

"What I would like to see is something built in the Seaside area, an apartment-type structure that hits the need for the \$1,000-\$1,200 month renter, something that stable employees can handle and won't turn into a short-term rental situation," Owen said. "It's time for us to do something."

Owen urged discussions

with developers to overcome roadblocks to construction. He proposed public-private partnerships and nongovernmental financing to meet the housing need.

"If we can connect the dots, in six, seven months, we can have houses here," Owen said. "That would be my ultimate goal."

Councilor Randy Frank said the issue is "important to the towns of the county and our viability."

"Every time I see something new getting built, rebuilt or spaces expanding, we know there will be a demand for housing that's really not there," Frank said. "I applaud your efforts and we understand the need."

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