Given their freedom

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STATE

More than 3,000 Washington prisoners mistakenly freed early

OLYMPIA, Washington (AP) — An error by Washington state’s Department of Corrections that resulted in wrongly calculated sentences for about 3 percent of the prison population led to the early release of more than 3,000 prisoners in the state since 2002.

At a news conference Tuesday announcing the error, Gov. Jay Inslee said he has ordered immediate steps to correct the longstanding computer glitch.

“Frankly, it is maddening,” Inslee said. Authorities say a July 2002 state Supreme Court ruling required the Corrections Department to apply good-behavior credits earned in county jail to state prison sentences. However, the programming fix ended up giving prisoners with sentencing enhancements too much so-called good time credit.

Sentencing enhancements include additional time given for certain crimes, like those using firearms or those committed near schools. Under state law, prisoners who get extra time for sentencing enhancements cannot have that time reduced for good behavior.

An analysis showed as many as 3,200 offenders were released early, and another 3,100 who are still incarcerated had inaccurate release dates. The average number of days for early release was 49. Based on a previous ruling of the Supreme Court, most offenders will not have to return to prison.

Inslee told corrections officials to stop releasing prisoners affected by the glitch until a hand calculation is done to ensure the offender is being released on the correct date. A broad fix to the software problem is expected to be in place by early January.

The governor said two retired federal prosecutors will conduct an independent investigation to figure out why it has taken so long to correct the problem.

“I have a lot of questions about how and why this happened, and I understand that members of the public will have those same questions,” Inslee said.
The U.S. Supreme Court is treading gingerly on a question of immense importance to the growing Latino population in the U.S.: whether states must count all residents, or only eligible voters, in drawing electoral districts.

The justices on Tuesday displayed little of the aggressiveness that often marks Supreme Court arguments as they heard a case about the meaning of the principle of “one person, one vote.” The court established 50 years ago that districts must be roughly equal in population.

Two Texas voters are asking the court to prohibit states from basing electoral maps on total population, instead of the number of eligible voters. They argue that including children and people who are not citizens inflates the voting power of urban residents and dilutes the votes of rural residents.

Civil rights groups say such a change would damage Latino political influence. Texas picked up four congressional seats after the 2010 census, mainly because of the growth in its Hispanic population.

If the challengers prevail, many of those new Texans would not be counted in drawing legislative district lines because they are too young to vote, not citizens or otherwise prohibited from voting.

Justice Anthony Kennedy at one point wondered whether states could produce districts that were roughly equal in terms of overall population and eligible voters. “Why is one option exclusive of the other? Why can’t they have both?” Kennedy asked.

Texas Solicitor General Scott Keller said such an outcome could only be achieved at the expense of other traditional requirements about redistricting, including relatively compact districts that don’t split counties.


Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Samuel Alito appeared most open to the challengers’ argument, but another usually reliable conservative voice was silent. Justice Antonin Scalia did not comment at all during the hour-long session.

“It is called ... one person, one vote. That seems to be designed to protect voters,” Roberts said.

The court’s liberal justices seemed more clearly disposed to upholding the districting plan for the Texas Senate that is being reviewed.

Questioning William Consovoy, the Texas voters’ lawyer, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg noted that a decision in his favor would mean that women in America should have been excluded from redistricting decisions before they won the right to vote.

Ginsburg also pointed to a half-century tradition of states using total population. “Now you’re saying they can’t do it anymore,” Ginsburg said.

Consovoy responded that if “tradition were the rule,” the court’s landmark “one person, one vote” cases would have come out the other way.

His clients, Texas residents Sue Evenwel and Edward Pfenninger, live in mainly rural districts outside Houston. Their districts have at least 170,000 more eligible voters than a downtown Houston district with equal population.

Maria D Carmen Vasquez
Maria has been part of our Washington Beef Team since November 15, 2007 and works in our Fabrication department on the Loin line. Her supervisor Humberto Agundis says that Maria is sure to notify him when there is water leaking from the sanitizer (meat washing station) which allows him to notify maintenance to fix the problem and save water. Maria is a very responsible employee and does a great job of producing high quality product. She enjoys her work and is always here on time and ready at her work station. Maria says that WA Beef is a very good place to work because of the great benefits, I get paid every week, plus I get a bonus for my attendance at work which allows me to have a little extra money in my pocket. Maria is in her spare time enjoys shopping for groceries, cooking, and dining out with her children.

Jesus Roman
Jesus has been part of our Washington Beef Team since June 14, 2002 and works in our Rendering department as a Lead. His supervisor Allino Garcia says that Jesus has been doing a great job working with his coworkers to ensure they are following safety procedures and ensuring the quality of our rendering products. He is an asset to the team by making sure that any trainee he is currently working with is motivated, has good knife skills and feels as comfortable as possible. Jesus enjoys working at WA Beef, he says "I always want to learn something new and the job I do gets me motivated to come to work every day. My challenge is to help my supervisor, I want things to run smoothly on my line."
As an oncology nurse one of my biggest responsibilities is to educate patients and their families, not only about current symptoms from their chemotherapy or radiation treatments, but preventive measures as well and what they can do to prevent these cancers from happening.

One of these preventive measures is the vaccine for HPV. HPV stands for the Human papillomavirus. It is one of the most commonly sexually transmitted diseases. HPV is so common that nearly all sexually active men and women get it at some point in their lives. There are many different types of HPV some of which can cause cancers. I believe increasing awareness about HPV and the HPV vaccine is an important way to increase vaccination rates. We, as mothers in particular, need to be more educated regarding this vaccine and the severity of what HPV can cause.

Almost all cervical cancers are caused by HPV. When a female is infected with HPV, and the virus doesn’t go away on its own, abnormal cells can develop in the lining of the cervix. If these abnormal cells are not found early through routine cervical cancer screening (pap tests) and treated, pre cancers and then cervical cancer can develop.

There are two vaccines for the prevention of certain HPVs. The FDA has approved Gardasil for the prevention of several types of cancer. The vaccine is approved for use in females and males ages 9 to 26. The FDA has also approved Cervarix for prevention of cervical cancer caused by two different types of HPV.

These vaccines are given in three doses over a 6-month period. HPV vaccines offer the best protection and are recommended for preteen girls and boys starting at age 11 or 12 years, allowing enough time for these young people to develop an immune response. Both teen males and females who did not receive the vaccine at a young age are still able to obtain the vaccination. Young women can get HPV vaccine through age 26, and young men can get vaccinated through age 21.

Being an oncology nurse and seeing many HPV related cancer cases makes me passionate about helping educate others and spread awareness about prevention. The physical and emotional strain it takes on patients and their families is so sad and if it can be prevented with a simple series of vaccinations then I want to make sure that happens. I highly encourage everyone to vaccinate their children and educate others regarding this issue.
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Wisdom for your decisions
Prestige Motors opens Pasco location

PASCO, Washington

After several years in the Yakima area, Prestige Motors has recently opened a new location in Pasco to serve the ever-growing Tri-Cities area. Below is an interview with Jake Hancock, general sales manager of the new location.

Why did Prestige Motors decide to move into the Tri-Cities market?

We decided on the Tri-Cities over other markets mainly to service our clientele and ease the commute to Yakima. We felt that moving into the Pasco market could help us establish a stronger bind with the Tri-Cities community. Because of this move, our efforts and focus have also shifted into the Hermiston, Oregon area as well.

What makes Prestige Motors different from the other local dealers in our area?

Prestige Motors isn’t just a used car dealership. We go the extra mile in our customer service to not just service the client at the point of sale, but go above and beyond to make sure that they feel a part of our store.

Prestige motors in Yakima has been known for their generosity and their involvement in local charities and servicing the community. Is that same direction that PM Pasco is going in?

We have helped local charities in Yakima and embedded ourselves with the community. It’s our top priority to be involved in the community and give back to our local charities.

What kind of services will you provide other then selling cars?

We have our top of the line service department that is fully staffed and qualified for every type of vehicle that we offer. Our detail department also has the latest in state-of-the-art equipment.

Prestige Motors’ new location is at 2520 West Court Street. Their Yakima location is 2318 South 1st Street.

By Dr. Joseph Castleberry

After the wise men were gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up! Flee to Egypt with the child and his mother,” the angel said. “Stay there until I tell you to return, because Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.” That night Joseph left for Egypt with the child and Mary, his mother, 15 and they stayed there until Herod’s death. This fulfilled what the Lord had spoken through the prophet: “I called my Son out of Egypt!”—Matthew 2:13-15 NLT

During my years as an expatriate living in a certain country, several national leaders fled the country to avoid imprisonment. Once when I inquired the leaving of one of them, a friend said to me, “Don’t worry about him. In our country you can’t rise to the presidency unless you have first suffered political exile.” The status of exile can serve as proof of the dramatic patriotism that maximum leadership demands.

Nevertheless, political exile constitutes a grave offense against human rights. Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights insists that “Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference.” That fortress of liberty also states: “Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution.”

As the Roman Catholic document “Exsul Familia Nazarethana” says: “Jesus, Mary and Joseph, living in exile in Egypt to escape the fury of an evil king, are, for all times and all places, the models and protectors of every migrant, alien and refugee of whatever kind who, whether compelled by fear of persecution or by want, is forced to leave his native land, his beloved parents and relatives, his close friends, and to seek a foreign soil.”

According to Matthew 25:40, when we serve such people, we minister to Jesus in the same way. The exile to Egypt did not represent the first time Jesus would abandon his rights for our wellbeing. Before emptying himself of his human rights, Jesus had put aside his divine rights by taking human form (Philippians 2:7). And the flight to Egypt wasn’t the last time he would suspend his human rights for us, but rather the first instance in a long series of ironies. In the end, his exile from Heaven and the sacrifice of his human rights made possible the inexorable day of his coronation as King for life over all humanity. And his life and reign will be eternal.

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United Way of Benton & Franklin Counties is seeking applications for programs and services for the July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2018 Community Solutions investment funding cycle.

The Board of Directors has identified the following outcomes from the region-wide Community Solutions Plan as priorities for investment:

EDUCATION
- Increase the number of children ready for kindergarten
- Increase the number of people who graduate from high school
- Increase the skills and competencies of adults

HEALTH
- Increase the number of people who practice preventive health care
- Decrease the number of people treated for preventable diseases
- Increase the number of people who have access to quality, affordable and timely health care

SAFETY
- Decrease the number of neglect and abuse incidents
- Decrease the number of violent crimes against people
- Increase neighborhood safety

SELF-SUFFICIENCY
- Increase the number of people who reside in stable and affordable housing
- Increase the number of people who are financially self-sufficient
- Increase the number of people who consume adequate and nutritious food

Applications are due February 12, 2016 by 4:00 p.m.
Eligibility criteria and application information can be found at www.unitedway-bfco.com/funding-application.

An informational meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 11, from 3:00 - 4:30 p.m. at United Way, 401 N. Young Street, Kennewick.
Reservations can be made online at unitedway-bfco.com or by calling (509) 783-4102.
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**SPORTS**

**Seahawks lose at home to Rams for first time since 2004**

SEATTLE, Washington (AP)

Todd Gurley scored a touchdown on a 2-yard run with 10:34 left to play and the St. Louis Rams ended the Seattle Seahawks’ 5-game winning streak by beating them 23-17 on Sunday afternoon.

Akeem Ayers returned a fumble 45 yards for a touchdown in the first quarter for the Rams, who swept the Seahawks for the first time since 2004 playoffs.

Seattle never held the lead in the game, something that hadn’t occurred since Wilson’s first week as an NFL starter in week one of the 2012 season. Seattle’s streak of 25 straight games with at least 100 rushing yards also came to an end. It was the Seahawks’ third home loss of the season, something unthinkable in years past.

Gurley rushed for 85 yards on 19 carries. Case Keenum got his third win as a starter for the Rams, and completed 14 of 23 passes for 103 yards.

Keenum threw a 28-yard touchdown pass to Kenney Britt in the second quarter, and for the first time since 2004, who swept the Seahawks.

Rams ended the Seattle Seahawks’ 5-game winning streak by beating them 23-17 on Sunday afternoon.

**WORLD**

**Desperate people in China are buying cans of air from Canada**

BEIJING, China (AP)

When it comes to cutting greenhouse gas emissions, climate activists who showed up in Paris for COP21 hoped negotiators would understand that desperate times call for desperate measures. Well, in the case of people in China who are fed up with inhaling polluted air, it seems desperate times call for buying air imported from the wilds of Canada.

On the heels of the first-ever government-issued red pollution alert in Beijing and ongoing smog problems in other major cities, people in the Asian nation are snapping up cans of Vitality Air. "Our first shipment of 500 bottles of fresh air were sold in four days," the Edmonton, Canada–based company’s cofounder Moses Lam said. Lam, who works as a banker, said Vitality Air was born after he and Troy Paquette managed to sell a plastic sandwich bag of air on eBay for $160 as a joke. "That’s when we realized there is a market for this," Lam said.

In a place where the air pollution is so bad that people have been told to stay home from work and school—and those who do go out have to wear masks—it’s no longer hard to see why inhaling Vitality Air might be appealing.

"The sun is rising on the horizon. Sunlight peeks through the trees as you move towards the opening in the trailhead," reads a description on the Vitality Air website of the location in Banff National Park in Alberta, where the company collects its air. Meanwhile, people in China have been dealing with air so smoggy that some days the sun is completely obscured—to the point that last year the government put up an LED billboard of a fake glowing sun in Beijing.

Harrison Wang, the company’s representative in China, said that the canisters—which cost $22 for 7.7 liters of air—are mostly being bought by well-off Chinese women. "In China, fresh air is a luxury, something so precious," he said.

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**Personal vs. business**

**Dear Dave,**

Do you view personal debt and business debt the same way? I have about $210,000 in farm loans that are mostly tied up in land I rent to farmers. It’s the only debt I have, and the rental prices supply me an income of about $200,000 a year.

**Dear Anne,**

Your debt required you to personally sign for it, right? So, it’s all personal debt. The law is going to treat you exactly the same if you don’t pay a Small Business Administration (SBA) loan as the law treats you with an unsecured personal line of credit. You’re still going to get your butt sued, and they’re still going to come take your stuff or garnish your wages. It’s debt! The only way it’s personal debt versus business debt is in your mind.

If I’m in your shoes, I’m going to live on as little as I can and pay this off like I was trying to pay off a house. If I made $200,000 a year on investments, and everything was paid for except one of my investments, how quickly would I pay that one investment off? Two years. In your situation, surely you can live on $100,000 a year! — Dave
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