

Small-business & Ag HAPPENINGS

Wheat producers reminded of Dec. 12 conference call

SALEM — The Oregon Wheat Growers League and Oregon Wheat Commission will hold a special meeting at 8 a.m. Thursday by conference call to approve the Wheat Industry CEO.

For dial-in information, call the Oregon Wheat Commission Office at 503-467-2161 or e-mail tsimpson@oregonwheat.org.

OFB comments on gray wolf decision

SALEM — On Nov. 27, the Oregon Farm Bureau released the following statement: “After sitting pending for years, the Oregon Court of Appeals finally ruled on a challenge by Cascadia Wildlands to the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife’s decision to delist the gray wolf under the Oregon endangered species list. Oregon Farm Bureau and Oregon Cattlemen’s Association intervened in the lawsuit to support the delisting decision and ensure the Court understood the impacts on ranching families.

“The Court held today that a bill championed by OCA and OFB, which delisted the gray wolf, rendered the case moot and the challenge was dismissed. This is a huge win for ranch families and the livestock industry, which have long advocated for responsible wolf management in Oregon. It’s important to note that wolves are still listed in parts of eastern Oregon and western Oregon under the federal Endangered Species Act, though OFB has strongly supported the recent proposal to delist them.”

Oregon Mint Commission announces upcoming meeting for producers

SALEM — A press release from the Oregon Mint Commission announced to producers next month’s Oregon Essential Oil Growers League’s 71st annual meeting. The event is scheduled for Jan. 9-10, 2020, at the Salishan Resort in Gleneden Beach.

The Oregon Essential Oil Growers League is composed of more than 250 mint growers, researchers and supplier members. Topics and speakers at the 2020 meeting will include: gene mapping and biotechnology in mint with WSU’s Mark Lange and OSU’s Kelly Vining; the industry’s No. 1 problem — verticillium wilt control with OSU’s Kelly Vining and Jeremiah Dung and WSU’s Mark Lange; winter 2020 ENSO (El Niño - Southern Oscillating) weather pattern and impacts on the Pacific Northwest with meteorologist Phil Volker from ERF Company; and earthquakes in Oregon with Scott Burns, professor of geology at Portland State University. There also will be presentations on advancing water efficacies through innovative irrigation approaches, an update on the hemp industry in Oregon, advancements in managing weeds in mint, a buyer’s viewpoint on what is ahead for the mint industry and more.

Dec. 20 is the deadline for making reservations at the resort with special rates. Pre-registration for the annual meeting by Dec. 27 comes with a discount. Attendees may also register at the door. For registration information, go to www.oregonmint.org for more information.

EOU magazine recounts alumni’s efforts to repurpose ag waste

LA GRANDE — According to a press release from Eastern Oregon University, the fall edition of the EOU alumni magazine, *The Mountaineer*, tells stories of local people making an impact in their communities at home and abroad, including the efforts of EOU alumni to repurpose ag waste. Read the whole issue at www.eou.edu/mountaineer-magazine.

Secretary of State’s Office warns of business scam

SALEM — The Oregon Secretary of State’s office issued a warning of a known business scam. Newly formed Oregon businesses have received a solicitation from OR Certificate Services offering a Certificate of Standing/Existence for \$77.25. Many businesses do not need this certificate. Those that do may obtain one directly from the Secretary of State for \$10. This solicitation may appear to be from a government agency, but it is not.

Business owners who wish to request a refund after being misled by the solicitation may call OR Certificate Services at 1-855-210-6990 or 1-855-755-3357 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. EST.

If you believe you’ve been the victim of a business scam, email corporation.division@oregon.gov or call 503-986-2200.



Photo by J. Scott Applewhite/The Associated Press

Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, D-California, speaks last week during a news conference. House Democrats and the White House announced a deal on a modified North American trade pact Tuesday, handing President Donald Trump a major Capitol Hill win on the same day impeachment charges were announced against him. Both sides hailed the deal as a win for American workers.

USMCA moves forward

By Andrew Taylor
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — House Democrats and the White House announced a deal on a modified North American trade pact, handing President Donald Trump a major Capitol Hill win Tuesday on the same day that impeachment charges were announced against him. Both sides hailed the deal as a win for American workers.

They said the revamped U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement was a significant improvement over the original North American Free Trade Agreement, with Democrats crowing about winning stronger provisions on enforcing the agreement while Republicans said it will help keep the economy humming along.

“There is no question of course that this trade agreement is much better than NAFTA,” House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-California, said in announcing the agreement, saying the pact is “infinitely better than what was initially proposed by the administration.”

Trump said the revamped trade pact will “be great” for the United States.

“It will be the best and most important trade deal ever made by the USA. Good for everybody - Farmers, Manufacturers,

Energy, Unions - tremendous support. Importantly, we will finally end our Country’s worst Trade Deal, NAFTA!” the president said in a tweet.

The deal announcement came on the same morning that Democrats outlined impeachment charges against Trump. The trade pact is Trump’s top Capitol Hill priority along with funding for his long-sought border fence.

In Mexico City, President Donald Trump’s son-in-law and senior adviser, Jared Kushner, U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Canadian Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland joined Mexican officials to sign the updated version of the United States-Mexico-Canada trade agreement, or USMCA, at a ceremony in Mexico City’s centuries-old National Palace.

Mexican Foreign Minister Marcelo Ebrard congratulated the negotiators for reaching a second set of agreements to answer U.S. concerns about labor rights in Mexico, and regional content.

“Mission accomplished!” Ebrard told the gathered officials.

Lighthizer praised the joint work of the Trump administration, Democrats, business and labor leaders to reach an agreement, calling it “nothing short of

a miracle that we have all come together.”

“This is a win-win-win agreement which will provide stability for working people in all three countries for years to come,” Freeland said. “That is no small thing.”

A U.S. House vote is likely before Congress adjourns for the year and the Senate is likely to vote in January or February.

Pelosi was the key congressional force behind the deal, which updates the 25-year-old NAFTA accord that many Democrats — especially from manufacturing areas hit hard by trade-related job losses — have long lambasted.

She and Ways and Means Committee Chairman Richard Neal, D-Massachusetts, forged a positive working relationship with Lighthizer, whom they credited with working in good faith.

“Thanks to President Trump’s leadership, we have reached an historic agreement on the USMCA. After working with Republicans, Democrats, and many other stakeholders for the past two years we have created a deal that will benefit American workers, farmers, and ranchers for years to come,” Lighthizer said. “This will be the model for American trade deals going forward.”

NAFTA eliminated most tariffs and other trade barriers involving the United States, Mexico and Canada. Critics, including Trump, labor unions and many Democratic lawmakers, branded the pact a job killer for the United States because it encouraged factories to move south of the border, capitalize on low-wage Mexican workers and ship products back to the U.S. duty free.

Weeks of back-and-forth, closely monitored by Democratic labor allies such as the AFL-CIO, have brought the two sides together. Pelosi is a longtime free trade advocate and supported the original NAFTA in 1994. Trump has accused Pelosi of being incapable of passing the agreement because she is too wrapped up in impeachment.

The original NAFTA badly divided Democrats but the new pact is more protectionist and labor-friendly, and Pelosi is confident it won’t divide the party, though some liberal activists took to social media to carp at the agreement.

“There is no denying that the trade rules in America will now be fairer because of our hard work and perseverance. Working people have created a new standard for future trade negotiations,” said AFL-CIO President

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Barley breeders work toward new varieties

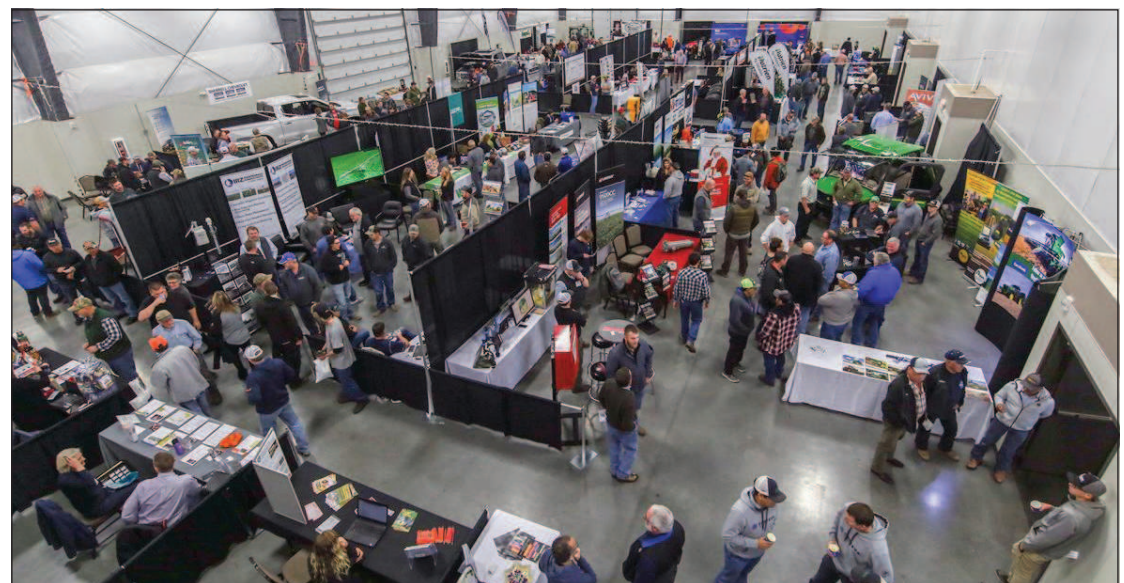
By George Plaven
Capital Press

HERMISTON — Oregon State University is poised to release several new varieties of barley for growers looking to tap into the beer, food and animal feed markets.

Daniela Carrijo, a postdoctoral student and agronomist with Barley World — the barley breeding program at OSU — provided an update of research projects Dec. 5 at the 46th annual Hermiston Farm Fair, held at the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center.

Barley World researchers are participating in a three-year, five-state project funded by the USDA to study “naked” barley, where the grain is naturally stripped of its outer-layer hull that is otherwise indigestible.

“Some advantages of naked barley is that it is edible as is,”



EO Media Group file photo

Patrons are shown at the Hermiston Farm Fair. Oregon State University is poised to release several new varieties of barley for growers looking to tap into the beer, food and animal feed markets, the school said in an update at last week’s fair in Hermiston.

Carrijo said. “It’s also considered a whole grain.”

OSU has already released a

few varieties of naked barley, with cheeky names like “Buck” and “Streaker.” Naked barley

has been around for 10,000 years, the result of a genetic

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