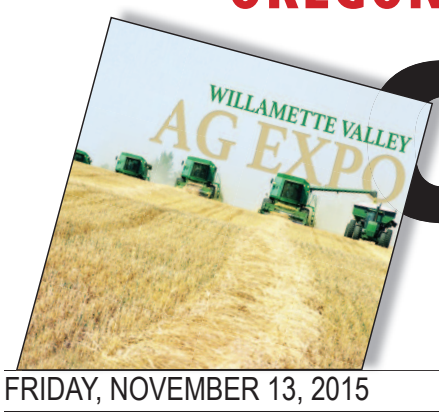
**OREGON:** WILLAMETTE VALLEY AG EXPO SPECIAL SECTION INSIDE




# Capital Press
The West's Ag Weekly

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# So wet, yet so far from drought recovery

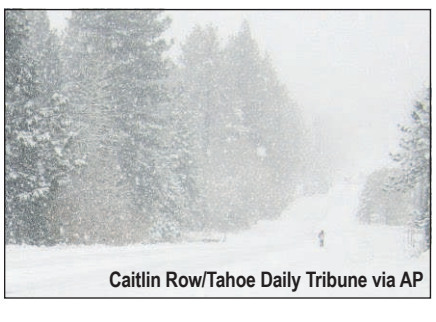
## Water watchers cheer cloudbursts, but it's still early

By DON JENKINS
Capital Press

The precipitation pelting the West, punctuated by snowstorms in the mountains, has raised reservoirs, given snowpacks an early start and eased drought conditions in places, but water supply officials looking ahead to the 2016 growing season have been largely unimpressed.

A storm marching through Washington on Wednesday morning was expected to drop up to 10 inches of rain in the Olympic Mountains and 10 inches of snow in the Cascades before dusting Eastern Washington and the Idaho Panhandle. Southern Idaho and Northern California already have had significant snowstorms.

*Turn to WATER, Page 12*


Caitlin Row/Tahoe Daily Tribune via AP

A pedestrian walks in the snow along Ski Run Boulevard Nov. 10 in South Lake Tahoe, Calif., Water experts say recent storms haven't changed the drought picture in the West.

# CHANGING LIVES ONE BLUE JACKET AT A TIME

STORY AND PHOTOS
By TIM HEARDEN
Capital Press

Emily Kraxberger didn't grow up on a farm. Her family had 2 acres in Canby, Ore., near Portland, where they had a small vegetable garden.

Kraxberger

But as a teenager in high school, Kraxberger was drawn to agriculture classes such as floral science and landscaping.

Through those classes, she was introduced to FFA.

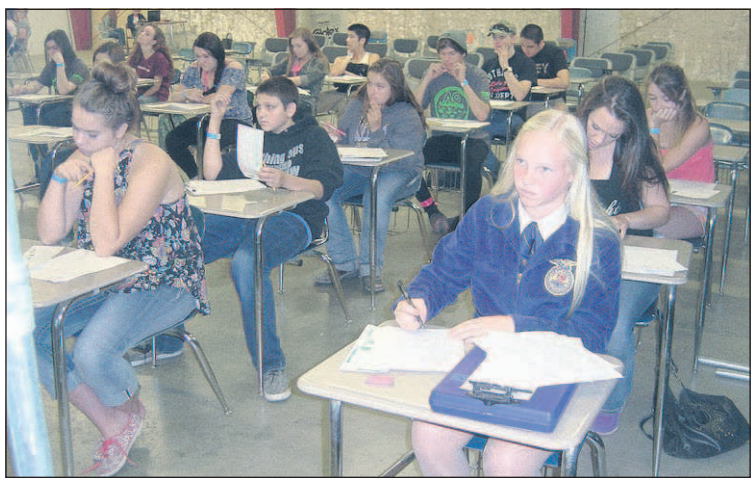
It changed her life.

"In my sophomore year, I had an instructor who told me I should come to a leadership camp," she said. "That's how I became involved. Then I got some chickens, and on our small piece of property I raised chickens."

Kraxberger stayed involved after high school, interning in FFA's state office while earning an agricultural sciences degree at Oregon State University and going to work there full-time after graduation.

*Turn to FFA, Page 12*

FFA members from Northern California await a series of competitions Oct. 15 at Shasta College in Redding, Calif. FFA membership nationwide has reached record levels.


FFA members take a test of their veterinary knowledge during a competition Oct. 15 at Shasta College in Redding, Calif. Many students say FFA's competitions help prepare them for college.

**"The organization had done so much for me when I was in high school. I really attribute all of my success to FFA."** — **Emily Kraxberger,** FFA's associate director of programs

# Oregon takes wolves off endangered species list

## West side wolves still under federal protection

By ERIC MORTENSON
Capital Press

SALEM — After nearly 11 hours of emotional testimony, back and forth discussion and two timeouts for legal advice from a state attorney, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Commission voted 4-2 Monday to take gray wolves off the state endangered species list.

In making the decision, commission members agreed with an ODFW staff appraisal that the state's wolves have expanded in number and range to the point that they no longer need protection under the state Endangered Species Act.

Oregon's wolves remain covered under the federal ESA in the western two-thirds of the state, and ODFW officials say the state wolf management plan remains in effect and will protect wolves from illegal hunting.

The decision doesn't close the book on Oregon's work to manage wolves. Some commission members made it clear they preferred to delist wolves only in the eastern third of the state, where most of Oregon's 82 confirmed wolves live, but were prevented from doing so by language in the state law.

Meanwhile, conservation groups are expected to file a lawsuit over the commission's decision.

"I think that's very likely," said Amaroq Weiss of the Center for Biological Diversity. "I think they're in violation of the law. They didn't pay attention to the science."

*Turn to WOLVES, Page 12*

The wolf OR-7 is seen in the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest in southwest Oregon. The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission voted Monday to remove wolves from the state's endangered species list.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

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