

# Imported guard dogs deployed as part of wolf-sheep study

Gathered as puppies in Europe

By KEITH RIDLER  
Associated Press

BOISE — Federal scientists are trying to decide if it's time to let the big dogs out.

Nearly 120 dogs from three large breeds perfected over centuries in Europe and Asia to be gentle around sheep and children but vicious when confronting wolves recently underwent a study to see how they'd react to their old nemesis on a new continent.

The dogs were gathered as puppies in Portugal, Bulgaria and Turkey and sent to the American West, where they spent four years guarding sheep.

"When we were first looking at doing this, a lot of people wanted to know: What dog do I use in dealing with wolves and grizzly bears?" said Julie Young, a Utah-based research biologist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Wildlife Research Center.



Julie Young/U.S. Department of Agriculture  
**A Kangal dog greets Ben Hofer of the Hutterite Rockport Colony near Pendroy, Mont., in 2013.**

The department looked to areas where dog breeds developed to guard sheep against wolves and brown bears.

Then scientists supplied Cao de Gado Transmontanos, a large though lean and agile dog developed in a mountainous region of Portugal; Karakachans, developed by nomadic shepherders in a mountainous

area of Bulgaria; and Kangals, another powerful breed with an instinct for guarding, this one originating in Turkey.

Dogs from all three breeds can weigh up to 140 pounds, about the size of a wolf. The dogs were sent to guard 65 herds in Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Washington state and Oregon.

Scientists are still analyzing information from notes, remote cameras and GPS col-

lars, Young said, with four or five scientific papers expected in the next year. But overall, she said, the dogs did well keeping away wolves and better than traditional guard dogs at deterring coyotes.

One dog died during the study. It was hit by a vehicle as sheep crossed a road.

For decades, most U.S. sheep producers have used large white dogs such as Great Pyrenees, Akbash or Maremma Sheepdogs. Light brown Anatolian Shepherds are also used.

But the reintroduction of wolves in the American West in the 1990s has led to questions about whether those breeds are up to the task. Since wolves returned to Idaho in 1995, the Agriculture Department's Wildlife Services says, wolves have killed 50 guard dogs through the end of last year and injured nearly 40 others in the state. Federal officials in 2017 killed 56 wolves in Idaho due to attacks on livestock.

Young said the study found wolves left areas when

sheep bands, dogs and herders arrived, but their absence emboldened smaller predators such as coyotes.

Not all dogs in the study succeeded. Jill Swannack, president of the Washington State Sheep Producers, is a veterinarian who also has a ranch with about 800 sheep on private land in eastern Washington state. She received three Karakachans.

"When we came home, they preferred to be home with us," she said. "They really didn't bond to the sheep."

She also said the dogs were only about 70 or 80 pounds. One went to a young family with sheep near their house, and now that dog plays with the children and has successfully guarded those sheep against coyotes.

The dogs that work best at her ranch are Anatolian Shepherds, though wolves killed one in 2014.

Wolves are a "phenomenal predator," Swannack said. "I would be happy if we didn't have them, but I'm also a realist, and we do have them. So

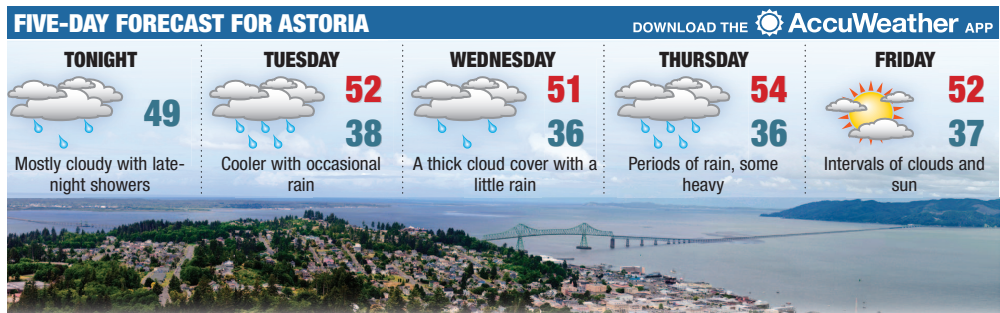
we need the tools to deal with them and the support."

Ranchers can call the Agriculture Department's Wildlife Services to kill wolves that attack livestock. Environmentalists, though, have been working to reduce the need for that and see guard dogs as one solution.

"Most of the year, the livestock guardian dogs are an excellent deterrent," said Suzanne Stone of Defenders of Wildlife, noting the exception is in the spring when wolves are guarding dens with pups.

The imported guard dogs cost about \$500 apiece, including transportation to the U.S., Young said, and nearly all were just a few months old when they arrived.

She said the Karakachans tended to be more vigilant, the Kangals inclined to investigate, and the Cao de Gado Transmontanos better at assessing threats. Ultimately, she said, sheep producers might benefit from a mix of dogs that includes some that stick near the sheep and others that patrol the perimeter.



**ALMANAC**  
Astoria through Sunday.

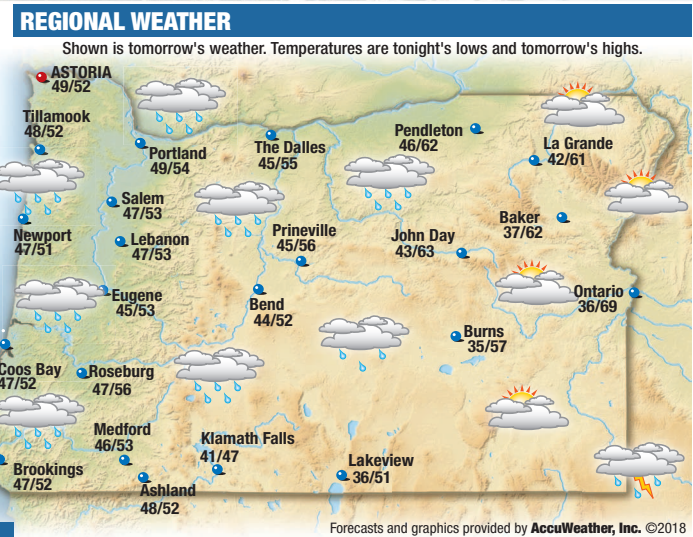
**Temperatures**  
High/low ..... 65°/40°  
Normal high/low ..... 54°/39°  
Record high ..... 72° in 1934  
Record low ..... 28° in 2009

**Precipitation**  
Sunday ..... 0.00"  
Month to date ..... 1.12"  
Normal month to date ..... 2.75"  
Normal year to date ..... 19.73"  
Normal year to date ..... 20.14"

**SUN AND MOON**

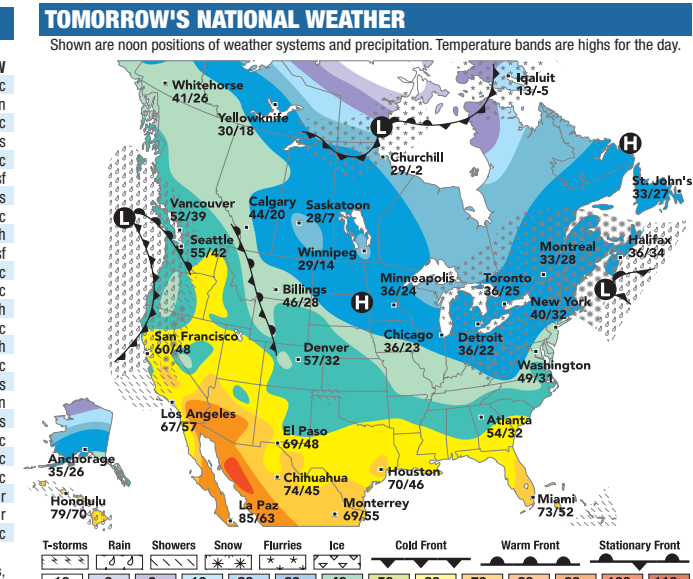
Sunset tonight ..... 7:17 p.m.  
Sunrise Tuesday ..... 7:32 a.m.  
Moonrise today ..... 5:08 a.m.  
Moonset today ..... 2:35 p.m.

New Mar 17  
First Mar 24  
Full Mar 31  
Last Apr 8



**REGIONAL CITIES**

City	Today	Tues.	City	Today	Tues.
	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W		Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W
Baker City	60 37 s	62 41 sh	Olympia	66 43 pc	52 38 r
Bend	63 44 pc	52 32 r	Pendleton	65 46 s	62 42 sh
Brookings	65 47 c	52 42 r	Portland	68 49 pc	54 41 r
Eugene	65 45 c	53 36 r	Roseburg	71 47 pc	56 38 r
Ilwaco	64 49 pc	51 41 r	Salem	68 47 pc	53 39 r
Klamath Falls	61 41 c	47 27 r	Seaside	67 49 pc	52 39 r
Medford	71 46 pc	53 36 r	Spokane	57 33 s	60 40 c
Newberg	70 48 pc	53 40 r	Springfield	68 47 c	52 39 r
Newport	64 47 c	51 40 r	Vancouver	67 49 pc	52 41 r
North Bend	63 47 c	53 41 r	Yakima	65 40 s	58 38 r



**UNDER THE SKY**  
Tonight's Sky: Leo Minor is a small and faint constellation in the northern sky, just north of its much larger cousin Leo and near Ursa Major.

Source: Jim Todd, OMSI

**TOMORROW'S TIDES**

Astoria / Port Docks

Time	High	Time	Low
12:01 a.m.	7.1 ft.	5:27 a.m.	3.3 ft.
11:18 a.m.	7.8 ft.	6:17 p.m.	0.6 ft.

**NATIONAL CITIES**

City	Today	Tues.
	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W
Atlanta	53 34 pc	54 32 pc
Boston	42 30 pc	33 29 sn
Chicago	43 26 pc	36 23 pc
Denver	55 24 c	57 32 s
Des Moines	45 24 pc	42 24 pc
Detroit	39 27 sf	36 22 sf
El Paso	62 42 pc	69 48 s
Fairbanks	29 12 pc	34 18 pc
Honolulu	79 69 c	79 70 sh
Indianapolis	42 26 pc	38 22 sf
Kansas City	51 24 pc	48 25 pc
Las Vegas	72 56 pc	77 60 pc
Los Angeles	72 58 pc	67 57 sh
Memphis	54 34 s	52 31 pc
Miami	80 52 t	73 52 sh
Nashville	51 32 pc	49 29 c
New Orleans	64 46 s	65 45 s
New York	42 34 pc	40 32 sn
Oklahoma City	55 32 s	57 30 s
Philadelphia	42 33 c	42 26 pc
St. Louis	44 29 pc	42 26 pc
Salt Lake City	62 42 pc	68 51 pc
San Francisco	69 56 c	60 48 r
Seattle	68 49 pc	55 42 r
Washington, DC	39 33 c	49 31 pc

## Planning Commission looks to fill vacancy

The Daily Astorian

Clatsop County is searching for applicants to fill a vacancy on the Planning Commission.

The term runs through June 2020.

The commission usually meets the second Tuesday of every month at 10 a.m. It makes decisions on land use issues and recommendations

to the Board of Commissioners. Jacque Presley, who was appointed to the commission in October, stepped down recently to focus more time on Angels for Sara Sanctuary — her nonprofit dog rescue organization.

Applicants must reside in rural areas, as the commission has reached its legal limit of representatives from cities.

The deadline to apply is March 23 at 4 p.m. County commissioners will make the appointment.

Additional information can be found by contacting Planning Manager Will Caplinger at 503-325-8611 or wcaplinger@co.clatsop.or.us. Forms are available from the County Manager's office at 800 Exchange St., Suite 410, or at www.co.clatsop.or.us.

## Clatsop college to commemorate Pi day Saturday

The Daily Astorian

Clatsop Community College is celebrating Pi day Saturday in the Patriot Hall gym.

The event, from 1:59 to 6

p.m., is loosely timed around the mathematical constant and celebrates Albert Einstein's birthday.

The college's house band,

the Pi'd Pipers, will open the event, which includes math games, face painting, prizes and pie sales to support the local Phi Theta Kappa chapter.

## ON THE RECORD

### DUII

- At 1:24 a.m. Sunday, Christian Ace Nelson, 41, of Marysville, Washington, was arrested by the Clatsop County Sheriff's Office on Lief Erikson Drive near Tongue Point and charged with driving under the influence of intoxicants.
- At 6:20 p.m. Saturday, Ryan Clayton Palek, 19, of Astoria, was arrested by Oregon State Police on U.S. High-

way 101 and charged with DUII, reckless driving and recklessly endangering another person. An officer allegedly spotted the car traveling 90 mph at a curve. Witnesses had reported earlier that a beer can had been thrown and one of the occupants had vomited out the window. Palek's blood alcohol content was 0.12 percent.

- At 12:52 a.m. Saturday, Tara Massey, 32, of Warren-

ton, was arrested by Warrenton police on the 850 block of Warrenton Drive and charged with DUII and resisting arrest. Her blood alcohol content was 0.18 percent.

- At 10:21 p.m. Friday, Cody Gedenberg, 24, of Seaside, was arrested by Seaside police on the 1700 block of Roosevelt Drive and charged with DUII. His blood alcohol content was 0.18 percent.

## DEATH

March 12, 2018

FLUES, Florence M., 85, of Astoria, died in Forest Grove. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

**MONDAY**  
Youngs River Lewis & Clark Water District Board, 6 p.m., 34583 U.S. Highway 101 Business.

Cannon Beach Rural Fire Protection District Board, 6 p.m., Fire-Rescue Main Station, 188

Sunset Ave.  
**Seaside City Council**, 7 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

1801 S. Franklin, Seaside.  
**Warrenton City Commission**, 6 p.m., City Hall, 225 S. Main Ave.  
**Lewis & Clark Fire Department Board**, 7 p.m., main fire station, 34571 Highway 101 Business.

## LOTTERIES

**OREGON**  
**Sunday's Pick 4:**  
1 p.m.: 2-1-7-8  
4 p.m.: 2-8-1-8  
7 p.m.: 5-5-1-7  
10 p.m.: 5-5-2-2  
**Sunday's Lucky Lines:** 03-06-11-16-19-23-26-30  
Estimated jackpot: \$21,000  
**Saturday's Pick 4:**  
1 p.m.: 5-1-9-7  
4 p.m.: 0-0-1-1  
7 p.m.: 0-8-6-2  
10 p.m.: 0-4-7-5  
**Saturday's Lucky Lines:** 01-07-10-13-19-24-27-31  
Estimated jackpot: \$19,000  
**Saturday's Megabucks:** 9-20-22-25-27-48

Estimated jackpot: \$1 million  
**Saturday's Powerball:** 43-44-54-61-69, Powerball: 22  
Estimated jackpot: \$420 million  
**Friday's Pick 4:**  
1 p.m.: 6-4-2-5  
4 p.m.: 8-6-7-2  
7 p.m.: 5-5-2-4  
10 p.m.: 2-0-7-8  
**Friday's Lucky Lines:** 03-07-12-13-18-23-2530  
Estimated jackpot: \$18,000  
**Friday's Mega Millions:** 7-17-18-46-66, Mega Ball: 22  
Estimated jackpot: \$318 million

18-23-25-38-39-43-45-50-57-59-63-66-67-70-80  
**Saturday's Match 4:** 01-03-12-19  
**Saturday's Daily Game:** 5-3-1  
**Saturday's Hit 5:** 08-14-19-28-39  
Estimated jackpot: \$420,000  
**Saturday's Keno:** 04-07-08-15-16-17-19-25-27-28-35-39-40-41-45-50-58-67-72-74  
**Saturday's Lotto:** 12-19-23-27-29-43  
Estimated jackpot: \$2.7 million  
**Saturday's Match 4:** 01-09-20-24  
Estimated jackpot: \$2.7 million  
**Saturday's Daily Game:** 1-4-8  
**Friday's Keno:** 03-07-08-09-12-18-22-30-42-46-53-58-60-62-63-66-68-69-78-79  
**Friday's Match 4:** 04-10-15-17

**WASHINGTON**  
**Sunday's Daily Game:** 1-5-3  
**Sunday's Keno:** 01-02-08-09-16-

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