

Idaho wolf derby starts at sunrise

By KEITH RIDLER
Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho — A hunting derby with \$1,000 each for whoever kills the most wolves and coyotes is scheduled to start at sunrise Friday in east-central Idaho.

Idaho for Wildlife's three-day Predator Hunting Contest and Fur Rendezvous is planned on private ranch land and U.S. Forest Service land around Salmon.

"I think we're going to have a good turnout," said Steve Alder, organizer of the contest. He didn't have an estimate on the number of hunters, though, due to the remoteness of the area.

The group earlier this year received permission to include land administered by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management but the agency withdrew the permit in November following two lawsuits by environmental groups.

Losing the 3.1 million acres of BLM land cut the area for the derby in half,

and also eliminated lower elevation areas likely to have more coyotes and wolves. A coalition of environmental groups, as well as Democratic U.S. Rep. Peter DeFazio of Oregon, tried but failed to get the Forest Service to revoke the permit it issued.

"The world is looking at this with a lot of dismay," said Amy Atwood, an attorney at the Center for Biological Diversity. "We're not going to go away and we're going to keep fighting."

She said the group has a litigation strategy to prevent another derby but declined to go into details.

The derby last year drew 230 people, about 100 of them hunters, who killed 21 coyotes but no wolves. Alder said the BLM's revoking the group's permit might have persuaded more hunters to take part this year. He said 40 hunters from outside Idaho have committed.

He said ranchers have also been contacted in advance so hunters can use that land. Also, he noted, possible wolf

sightings are being tracked. "We've heard some reports and we're trying to pinpoint where those are so we can put in hunters," he said.

Besides the \$1,000 prizes, Alder said, fur buyers will also be available with the potential pay for a black wolf pelt up to \$600.

"People love the black ones," Alder said. "And the pure white. If you can find a big white pelt, that's beautiful. That's worth quite a bit."

The region where the derby is planned is considered a key area for wolves that could grow in number, with some pack members dispersing to surrounding states. At least one Oregon environmental group that would like to see more wolves in that state is involved in the lawsuits against the derby for that reason.

"As we learn more about these animals, the more we've come to revere them," said Atwood. "When you remove them from the landscape it upends the order of things."

Stranded sea turtle recovering at Oregon Coast Aquarium

LONGVIEW, Wash. (AP) — A young sea turtle roughed up by chilly, choppy waters off the coast of Washington state is making a strong recovery in Oregon.

"Solstice" was found on the beach near the north end of the Long Beach Peninsula on Dec. 21, the winter solstice.

The 40- to 50-pound female olive ridley turtle was dehydrated, and her body temperature was about 15 degrees below the typical 75 degrees.

Solstice's caretakers are nurturing her with hydration baths, fluids and practice swims. Her body temperature has risen 12 degrees since she arrived at the Oregon Coast Aquarium in Newport, Erin Paxton, a spokeswoman for the aquarium, told *The Daily News* of Longview.

Olive ridley turtles are typically found in tropical waters from Peru to California.

During storms, warm currents sometimes carry sea turtles into the colder northern latitudes, Paxton said. As the warm water dissipates, the turtles get hypothermic.

"(She) is a very special patient," Paxton said of



Courtesy photo Oregon Coast Aquarium

Solstice shows off her dark scales and olive green shell during a hydration bath.

Solstice. "(She's) doing better than many other turtles we've received."

Two sea turtles were found dead on the northern Oregon Coast on Dec. 24 and Dec. 29, and some marine biologists say it's possible more may arrive.

Last summer, a live sea turtle was found near Florence, Oregon, but it was pushed out to sea by people on the beach, and the Oregon Coast Aquarium staff was unable to relocate it. Last fall, the aquarium staff unsuccessfully attempted to save a sea turtle beached near Lincoln City.

Paxton says the aquarium has in the past released sea turtles near San Diego. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife

"(She) is a very special patient. (She's) doing better than many other turtles we've received."

— Erin Paxton

Spokeswoman for the Oregon Coast Aquarium

Service must approve a release of Solstice, though no plans are set.

Sheridan woman killed in hit-and-run crash

SHERIDAN (AP) — State police say an 81-year-old Sheridan man is being questioned in connection with the hit-and-run death of a woman using a wheelchair on a Yamhill County highway.

Oregon State Police says 66-year-old Connie Nickeson of Sheridan was killed in the Thursday crash on highway 18B.

Police say the man briefly stopped before leaving the scene in his damaged vehicle. He was later located, and authorities say he is cooperating.

Troopers don't believe alcohol was a factor in the crash. They're investigating why the man left the scene.

Oregon fans marry in Rose Bowl parking lot

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — Steven Twomey and Lisa DeFluri were set to have a

BRIEFLY

beach wedding in Oregon in July. But when their beloved Oregon Ducks got a berth to the College Football Playoff semifinal at the Rose Bowl, they changed their plans.

Twomey and DeFluri were married Thursday at the tailgate party in Pasadena about 100 yards from the entrance to the stadium.

The two 25-year-old teachers from Eugene were married by Twomey's stepdad, who registered online to perform the ceremony. DeFluri's parents couldn't make it but they were able to watch via Skype.

Tipsy birds help scientists study alcohol, speech

PORTLAND (AP) — Scientists know little about why humans slur their speech when they drink alcohol.

Researchers at Oregon Health and Science University hope tipsy songbirds can help them uncover clues.

OHSU researcher

Christopher Olson is recording the sounds made by male zebra finches.

Olson tells KATU that a trained ear can hear evidence of slurring in the songs of birds that were given alcohol with their helping of diluted white grape juice.

Olson says finches learn song patterns similar to the way humans learn to speak. He says he hopes to learn why alcohol affects birdsong, and human speech.

Family sues Eastern State Hospital over death

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP) — The family of a Tri-Cities man who died after being found unconscious on the floor of an Eastern State Hospital restroom has filed a lawsuit claiming the hospital is at fault.

Misael Rodriguez, 43, was involuntarily committed for observation in August 2013 and suffered fatal injuries 11 days later, *The Spokesman-Review* reported

Little impact in SeaTac from \$15 minimum wage

SEATAC, Wash. — City leaders in SeaTac say they've noticed little impact on the overall economy one year after voters increased the hourly minimum wage to \$15.

KING-TV reports an estimated 1,500 total workers saw their minimum wage increase under the new law, including 400 who live in the city limits.

City manager Todd Cutts says there has been no impact on sales tax or property tax, and no change in the number of business licenses issued.

The law requires hoteliers with more than 100 rooms to pay workers \$15 an hour.

Scott Ostrander, former general manager of the Ce-

darbrook Lodge in SeaTac, said before the law was passed he would close several rooms in his hotel to avoid having to comply.

However Cedarbrook Lodge is now moving forward with a 63-room expansion and recently started paying the \$15 per hour minimum wage.

Paul Guppy, researcher at the Washington Policy Center, said some employers are removing benefits like free meals to make up for the wage increase.

"We're not seeing the big

benefits that proponents said we would because so few people are affected," said Guppy. "And at the same time, it's not having a ripple effect through the economy. It just affects so few jobs, it's not having much impact."

The state Supreme Court is expected to decide soon whether Port of Seattle workers at Sea-Tac Airport will be included in the wage increase. That would increase the number of people affected by the \$15 per hour minimum wage to around 6,500.

Corrections

The East Oregonian works hard to be accurate and sincerely regrets any errors. If you notice a mistake in the paper, please call 541-966-0818.

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AccuWeather.com Forecast

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
30° 24°	35° 27°	37° 32°	41° 34°	42° 31°

PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST
30° 23° 34° 28° 36° 30° 40° 33° 39° 30°

HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST
30° 23° 34° 28° 36° 30° 40° 33° 39° 30°

ALMANAC

PENDLETON through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE HIGH LOW

Yesterday 21° 7°

Normals 40° 26°

Records 67° (1939) -12° (1979)

PRECIPITATION 24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"

Month to date 0.00"

Normal month to date 0.06"

Year to date 0.00"

Last year to date 0.00"

Normal year to date 0.06"

HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE HIGH LOW

Yesterday 24° 10°

Normals 39° 27°

Records 60° (1959) -13° (1979)

PRECIPITATION 24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"

Month to date 0.00"

Normal month to date 0.04"

Year to date 0.00"

Last year to date 0.00"

Normal year to date 0.04"

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today 7:36 a.m.

Sunset tonight 4:22 p.m.

Moonrise today 2:49 p.m.

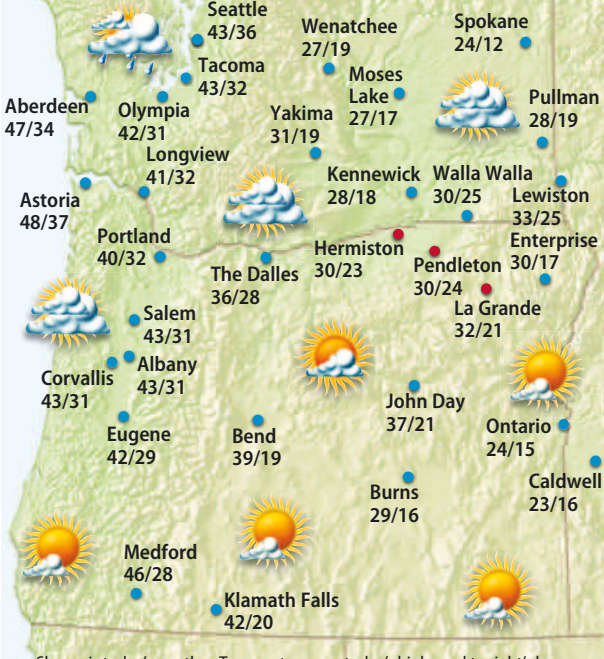
Moonset today 5:04 a.m.

Full Jan 4

Last Jan 13

New Jan 20

First Jan 26



REGIONAL FORECAST

Coastal Oregon: Mostly sunny today; however, mostly cloudy across the north. A moonlit sky tonight.

Eastern and Central Oregon: Partial sunshine today; however, more clouds across the north.

Western Washington: Mostly cloudy today; a passing shower in central parts during the afternoon.

Eastern Washington: Mostly cloudy today.

Cascades: Clouds and sunshine today. Partly cloudy tonight. Partly sunny tomorrow.

Northern California: Plenty of sunshine today. Clear tonight; cold. Plenty of sun tomorrow.

REGIONAL CITIES

	Today			Sat.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	48	37	c	49	39	pc
Baker City	23	15	sn	32	20	pc
Bend	39	19	pc	39	25	pc
Brookings	52	39	s	53	41	s
Burns	29	16	s	34	18	pc
Enterprise	30	17	sn	33	20	pc
Eugene	42	29	pc	48	34	pc
Heppner	34	23	c	37	26	pc
Hermiston	30	20	c	34	28	pc
John Day	37	21	pc	37	22	pc
Klamath Falls	42	20	s	43	26	s
La Grande	32	21	c	36	26	pc
Meacham	31	22	c	32	24	pc
Medford	46	28	s	50	32	pc
Newport	48	38	c	51	40	pc
North Bend	51	36	s	53	40	pc
Ontario	24	15	s	30	21	s
Pasco	28	19	c	34	27	pc
Pendleton	30	24	c	35	27	pc
Portland	40	32	pc	45	36	pc
Redmond	38	18	pc	38	22	pc
Salem	43	31	pc	48	33	pc
Spokane	24	12	c	27	23	c
Ukiah	36	23	c	37	26	pc
Vancouver	40	31	c	45	34	pc
Walla Walla	30	25	c	35	30	pc
Yakima	31	19	c	34	24	c

WORLD CITIES

	Today			Sat.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	41	17	s	42	23	s
Hong Kong	65	58	s	67	61	s
Jerusalem	53	41	pc	52	41	c
London	50	37	pc	51	32	r
Mexico City	71	42	s	71	42	pc
Moscow	36	32	c	36	29	sn
Paris	49	33	r	54	38	r
Rome	51	37	s	57	43	pc
Seoul	28	13	s	34	23	pc
Sydney	82	72	t	85	70	s
Tokyo	44	35	pc	47	35	pc

WINDS

(in mph)	Today	Saturday
Boardman	SW 3-6	NE 3-6
Pendleton	SW 4-8	SW 3-6

UV INDEX TODAY

0 1 1 1 0 0
8 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m.
0-2, Low 3-5, Moderate 6-7, High; 8-10, Very High; 11+, Extreme

The higher the AccuWeather.com UV Index™ number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

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NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.



National Summary: Rain will expand from southeastern Texas to Tennessee today. Snow and ice will expand over the southern High Plains. Thunderstorms will erupt near the Gulf Coast. Spotty snow will affect the Great Lakes.

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)
High 82° in Tamiami, Fla. Low -24° in Craig, Colo.

NATIONAL CITIES

	Today			Sat.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Albuquerque	35	17	sn	37	14	pc
Atlanta	52	48	r	58	56	c
Atlanta City	46	34	pc	47	45	r
Baltimore	45	28	pc	41	38	r
Billings	38	13	c	14	2	sn
Birmingham	51	48	r	66	53	t
Boise	25	18	s	33	31	c
Boston	39	22	s	45	27	s
Charleston, SC	58	49	r	67	61	c
Charleston, WV	40	32	c	54	51	r
Chicago	30	23	c	35	28	r
Cleveland	33	24	pc	44	43	r
Dallas	39	36	r	50	30	c
Denver	35	13	s	31	3	sn
Detroit	33	21				