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EAST OREGONIAN

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Election creates uncertain future for migrants

By SOPHIA TAREEN
Associated Press

CHICAGO — Immigration hotlines are buzzing. Legal clinics are seeing an influx of clients. Public schools are fielding frantic questions from parents and students.

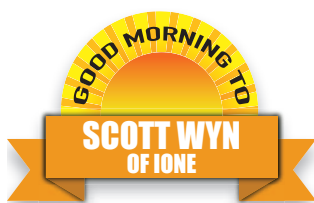
Since the election, Donald Trump's tough talk on immigration has stirred anxiety nationwide among immigrants regardless of legal status. They are turning to lawyers, schools, advocacy groups and congressional offices for help.

"We're operating with a lot of unknowns, and a certain amount of fear comes with that," said Vanessa Esparza-López, a managing attorney at the Chicago-based National Immigrant Justice Center.

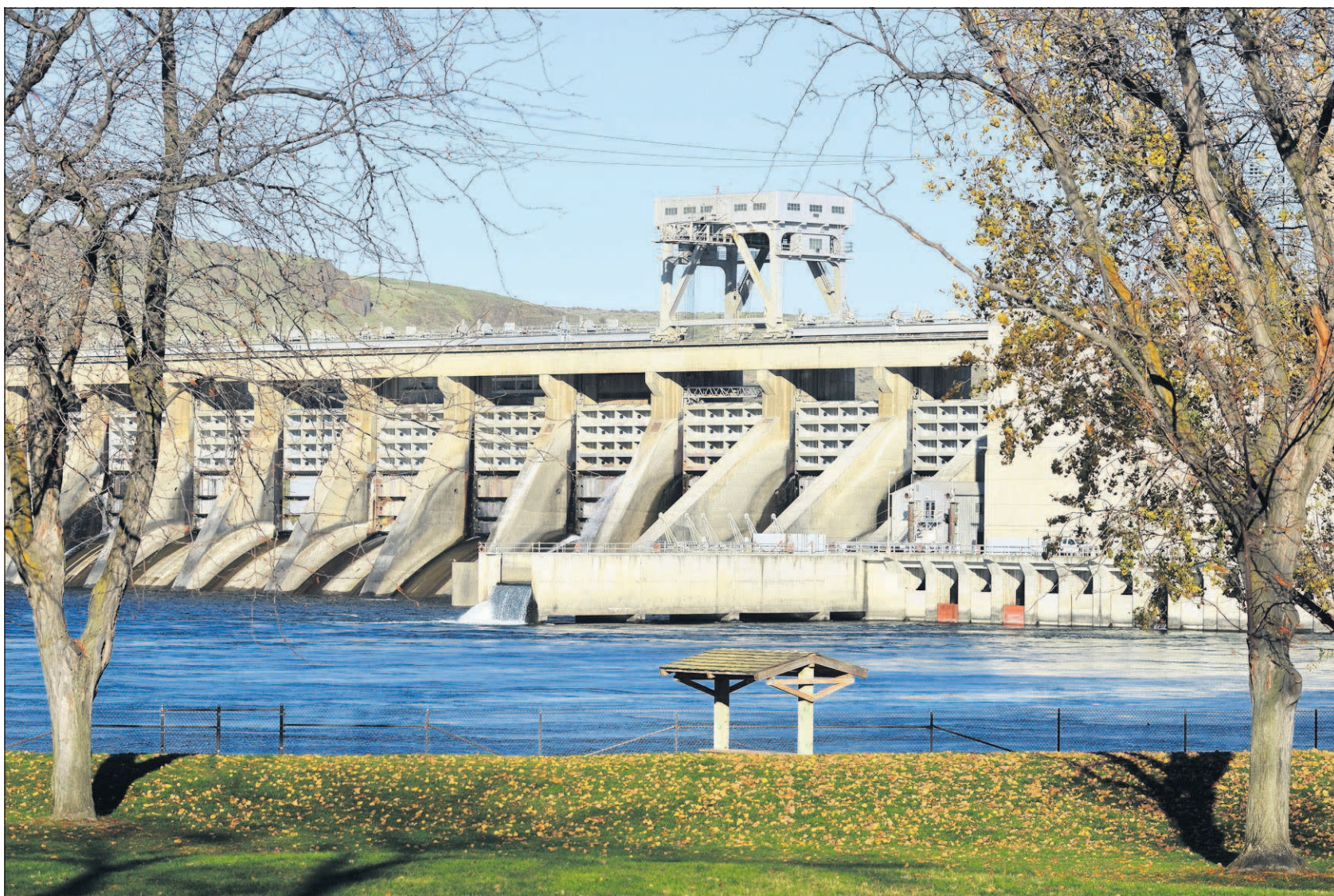
In Chicago, a hotline run by the state's largest immigrant-rights group received more than 330 calls in the week after the election, compared with the usual 100 or so. Denver school officials sent a letter to parents in response to questions about the election's effect on students living in the country illegally.

The New York Legal Assistance Group said it's receiving 40 to 60 daily calls about immigration, up from 20 to 30. The Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles reported 19 walk-ins on a single day, all with citizenship

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Visit Kopacz Nursery for free gardening gloves



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

The Bonneville Power Administration, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation will develop an updated environmental impact statement on the 14 dams on the Columbia River system.

Fine-tuning flows

Agencies to address federal dams in study

By GEORGE PLAVEN
East Oregonian

After nearly two decades, the federal government is taking another look at how to operate and maintain its network of dams through the interior Columbia Basin.

The dams — 14 in all — are critical to the way of life in the Pacific Northwest. They provide for the transportation of goods, irrigation of crops, recreation for boaters and anglers and enough hydroelectricity to power roughly 7 million homes. Agencies also are responsible for protecting endangered fish, wildlife and other cultural resources.

Now, thanks in part to a court order, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation and Bonneville Power Administration are developing an updated environmental impact statement, or EIS, that will impact everything from salmon survival to the cost of

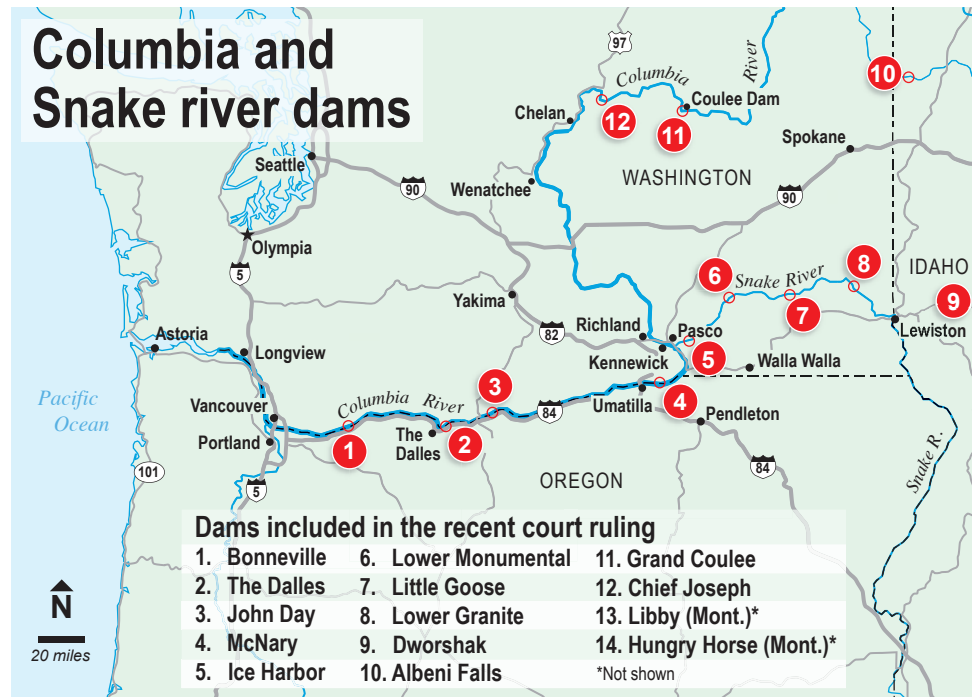


Photo by Andy Porter/Union-Bulletin
Dressed in her orca costume, Port Townsend resident Debra Ellers was part of a small group of demonstrators at a meeting in Walla Walla Thursday to draw public comment on a new Environmental Impact Statement for 14 federal dam projects on the Columbia and lower Snake rivers.

"At the end of the day, it's not about what we think. It's about what the public thinks."

Public comments for the scoping period are due Jan. 17, 2017. The next meeting will be held Monday from 4-7 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Express in Pasco.

Breaching dams

The agencies will have until spring 2020 to come up
See DAMS/16A

flipping on the light switch.

The process is underway with a series of public scoping meetings in Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana, including Thursday's stop in Walla Walla that drew 123 people. The Columbia River System includes Bonneville, The Dalles, John Day

and McNary dams on the main stem Columbia River between Oregon and Washington, as well as Ice Harbor, Lower Monumental, Little Goose and Lower Granite dams on the Lower Snake River.

Steve Fischer, environmental team lead for the

Army Corps Northwest Division in Portland, said the open house-style meetings are intended to gather input on issues that will be analyzed and potentially incorporated as part of the final EIS.

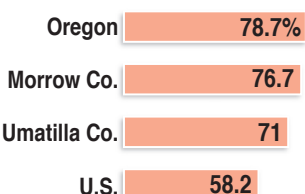
"This is a key time in the process," Fischer said.

UMATILLA COUNTY VOTER TURNOUT

Moving, college and candidates: reasons not to vote

General election voter turnout

(Percent turnout per region)



Sources: United States Election Project, Oregon Secretary of State
EO Media Group graphic

3 of 10 registered voters in county didn't cast a ballot, or at least it wasn't counted

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

Tucker Wilson of Helix turned 18 last December and said he voted in both the primary and general election. "I'm not necessarily pleased with the outcome," he said. "But I'm hoping for the best."

Yet unofficial results from Umatilla County Elections Division show

Wilson's ballot has not been counted, and neither were those of 10,725 other county residents. That was enough to give Umatilla County the worst voter turnout in the state.

Wilson said he mailed his ballot Oct. 30 from Spokane, where he is studying biology at Whitworth University. Maybe that was not enough time, he said, to make it to the elections department.

More than 27,600 Umatilla County voters cast ballots in the November general election, generating a turnout just better than 71 percent. The Oregon Secretary of State's Elections Division reported neighboring Morrow County was at 76.7 percent, and Josephine County in southwest Oregon had the second worst turnout at almost 74 percent. The statewide voter turnout was

78.5 percent. Walla Walla County had the top turnout, with almost 85.5 percent of its 5,211 voters casting ballots.

Counties keep lists of who voted and who did not. The East Oregonian obtained a copy of the Umatilla County list, which contains the names, contact information, and party affiliation of people registered to vote, as well as

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