



EAST OREGONIAN

THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 2017

141st Year, No. 108

WINNER OF THE 2016 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar



From upper left: the tartan, rescue dogs, ospreys, marionberry pie, Border collie and Kiger mustangs are being discussed as possible state symbols this Legislative session.

EO Media Group and Lee Williams photos

Federal judge puts travel ban on hold

By JENNIFER SINCO KELLEHER and GENE JOHNSON
Associated Press

HONOLULU — For the second time, a federal court on Wednesday blocked President Donald Trump's efforts to freeze immigration by refugees and citizens of some predominantly Muslim nations, putting the president's revised travel ban on hold just hours before it was to take effect.

This time, the ruling came from a judge in Hawaii who rejected the government's claims that the travel ban is about national security, not discrimination. U.S. District Judge Derrick Watson also said Hawaii would suffer financially if the executive order constricted the flow of students and tourists to the state, and that Hawaii was likely to succeed on a claim that the ban violates First Amendment protections against religious discrimination.

See TRAVEL/10A

UMATILLA

Solar array gets OK for farmland

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

The Umatilla County Board of Commissioners granted an exemption to allow a solar farm on 80 acres of high-value farmland.

Commissioners and county staff noted the area does not have a water right and has never produced crops, and its high-value designation has to do with state rules and the site residing within the Columbia Valley American Viticulture Area, which applies to much of the county.

The Umatilla Electric Cooperative sought the exemption to expand its Moyer-Tolles Solar Station on the south side of Highway 730 near McNary on the exclusive farm use land. The

See SOLAR/10A

The Symbol State

Oregon considers adding border collie, Kiger mustang, marionberry pie to 29 other official symbols

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian



"Is it the most important thing we do? No, not even close. But it is something people are interested in."

— Sen. Bill Hansell, R-Athens

Oregon may be known as the Beaver State, but the state animal is only one of 29 different symbols adopted by the state legislature.

The state also has a state beverage (milk), a state dance (the square dance) and a state outdoor pageant (Pendleton's own Happy Canyon), to name a few. This legislative session six more state symbols are up for a vote.

Sen. Bill Hansell, R-Athens, said he lends his name to bills proposing state symbols sometimes because he tries to be responsive, where possible, to constituents who come to him

with requests.

"Is it the most important thing we do? No, not even close," he said. "But it is something people are interested in."

Hansell's name is on two state symbol bills this year — one he sponsored at the request of a constituent to make the border collie the state dog, and one that Sen. Richard Devlin, D-Tualatin

asked him to join in proposing the Kiger Mustang become Oregon's state horse.

State symbols and commemorative days (of which there are seven proposed this session) can draw constituent complaints that the legislature is wasting time on unimportant issues. But Hansell said a state symbol can create awareness for something that is

important to Oregon. Naming the Dungeness crab as the state crustacean, for example, draws attention to something that brings a lot of income and tourism to the state.

"It can highlight a particular aspect of the culture or environment or what makes the state unique," he said.

The Kiger Mustang, for example, is native to southeastern Oregon and named after the Kiger Gorge there. According to the Bureau of Land Management website, the horses are "one of the best remaining examples of the Spanish Mustang" and highly sought after in BLM auctions. A Kiger Mustang with the breed's

See SYMBOLS/10A

Wildlife Services says it's working to avoid future wolf harm

By ERIC MORTENSON
EO Media Group

The state director for USDA Wildlife Services in Oregon said the agency has removed M-44 cyanide traps from "areas of immediate concern" following the unintended poisoning of a wolf in Wallowa County in February.

Director Dave Williams said Wildlife Services has reviewed what happened and shared that information with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, which manages wolves in the state. The two agencies are in ongoing discussions about how to prevent another wolf death, Williams said.

More inside

For an info-graphic on how M-44 cyanide traps work see Page 10A

"We don't feel good about that," he said.

Williams said Wildlife Services has removed M-44s from areas identified by ODFW as places wolves are present. ODFW officials confirmed that took place.

"We appreciate that Wildlife Services has voluntarily removed M-44s," ODFW Wildlife Division Administrator Doug Cottam said in a prepared statement.

"We also recognize

See WOLVES/10A



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Water rising in the Umatilla

The Umatilla River gushes around tree trunks Wednesday. The National Weather Service predicted minor flooding for Northeast Oregon, particularly the Umatilla River near Gibbon. The warning is in effect until 3 p.m. Thursday.

