

# ODFW kills two more Pine Creek wolves

By **GEORGE PLAVEN**  
EO Media Group

HALFWAY — The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife shot two more wolves from the Pine Creek pack Wednesday morning in Baker County, following the latest in a string of attacks on livestock.

The most recent depredations were confirmed Sunday, April 15 and Monday, April 16 at Pine Creek Ranch in Halfway, Ore. The pack has now preyed on livestock five times in April, killing four calves and injuring another six at two different ranches roughly 5-6 miles apart.

The spate of incidents prompted the Oregon Cattle-

men's Association to ask ODFW to kill more wolves from the Pine Creek pack to prevent further livestock losses.

"The wolves are being seen on the valley floor, and that's what's really disconcerting folks," said George Rollins, a Baker County rancher and co-chairman of the OCA wolf committee for Eastern Oregon. "So many people have seen them now, it's like daily sightings."

ODFW quickly followed through with the request, shooting an uncollared yearling female and adult male from a helicopter as the wolves were spotted on private land where the latest depredations occurred. Wild-

life officials previously shot one yearling female from the Pine Creek pack on April 10 as part of a separate lethal take permit.

OCA had asked to kill all wolves in the Pine Creek pack, with Rollins stating that incremental take has not proven effective in changing the animals' behavior.

"They just keep coming back," he said. "They are not following the herds of elk that are on the low hills area."

Earlier this year, University of Wisconsin researchers released a study suggesting that government killing of wolves may benefit one farmer or rancher, but by fracturing the pack it could actually increase the risk

of predation at neighboring farms up to three miles away.

In this case, ODFW authorized killing two wolves from the Pine Creek pack after back-to-back attacks on private land leased by rancher Chad DelCurto. Nine days later, the pack began preying on livestock again at Pine Creek Ranch, about 5-6 miles away.

Environmental groups are staunchly opposed to killing any wolves in Oregon, arguing the population is still too small and fragile. ODFW recently reported there were at least 124 wolves statewide at the end of 2017, an 11 percent increase over 2016.

Conservationists also point to four cases of wolves that

were illegally killed in 2017. Out of 13 total wolf deaths throughout the year, 12 were human-caused.

Under Phase III of the Wolf Conservation and Management Plan, ODFW can authorize killing wolves that make a habit of preying on livestock in Eastern Oregon. The species remains federally protected west of highways 395, 78 and 95.

Local ranchers had been using non-lethal deterrents, according to ODFW, including burying bone piles, removing dead cows, patrolling cattle from daylight to darkness and moving the animals off of pastures where the latest wolf attacks occurred.

"It's really disrupting

(ranchers') schedules, both for turning cattle out and getting spring work done," Rollins said.

Jerome Rosa, executive director for the OCA, said incremental take of wolves will not solve the problems ranchers face, and actually leads to packs becoming more aggressive.

"It's a no-win situation," Rosa said.

The Pine Creek pack now includes five known wolves — after the three that were shot — occupying territory mostly south of the Innaha River and east of Halfway to the Idaho state line. In 2017, the pack produced at least five pups that survived to the end of the year.

## Beaverton school official resigns after immigration retweet

PORTLAND (AP) — A Beaverton School District deputy superintendent who retweeted a claim that immigrants in the country without legal permission "were more dangerous than assault rifles" and should be banned from the U.S. has resigned.

The Oregonian/OregonLive reports Steve Phillips' resignation came on Tuesday, a day after the school district apologized for his sharing the post and denounced the tweet. A petition was also started calling for Phillips to be fired.

Phillips was one of two district deputy superintendents. He was hired in 2016 after serving as the superintendent of the Malheur Education Services District. His annual salary is \$171,148. He has issued no public statement on the matter.

A message left at number listed under Phillips' name was not immediately returned Tuesday.

In a statement Tuesday, Superintendent Don Grotting said the district is "committed to restoring trust in our community."

## Small cities' building permit programs face uncertainty

By **PARIS ACHEN**  
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Amid a statewide housing shortage, the building permit programs of 25 small municipalities could be in jeopardy following a recent state Department of Justice opinion that using private-sector consultants to oversee plan reviews and building inspections may violate state law.

The opinion included in a February DOJ memorandum could result in new restrictions on small jurisdictions and require them to have building officials on staff, city officials said.

Small counties and cities, such as the rural city of Aurora, with a population of less than 1,000, don't have the resources to hire a building official. Instead, those local governments rely on third-party contractors to provide building review services for them.

"This is going to raise costs in a huge way because we can't cover these costs with our current funding," said Aurora Mayor Bill Graupp. "It will raise costs in housing especially in



**Dan Lewis, an electrical inspector with Crook County. Opinions by the Oregon Department of Justice and Legislative Counsel indicate many small cities may have to either shut down building programs or hire building officials with three-digit salaries.**

rural Oregon. Low-cost, low-income housing is hit the worst, which is what we are trying to work on in rural Oregon, and this is a huge spike in the heart for us."

### Third-party services

Relying entirely on third parties to conduct a city's building program violates several state laws, according to the memo by Katherine Lozano, assistant attorney general in the Department of Justice's Business Activities Section. The state Building

Codes Division within the Department of Consumer and Business Services is the agency responsible for delegating the state's authority to approve building plans to cities and counties. Approving local building programs that rely entirely on third party consultants would be unconstitutional. It is legal for cities and counties to use such third-party services when the contractors are under the supervision of a building official, Lozano wrote.

Some city officials said they have heard that the Building Codes Division in the Department of Consumer and Business Services plans to make rules to clarify restrictions on the use of third-party building plan reviewers and inspectors.

"We were told that we will need to modify our building codes inspection program sometime by end of the year," Graupp said. "We were told that notices would be going out soon."

Mark Peterson, a DCBS spokesman, said Tuesday, April 17, he could "not speak" to whether the agency plans to issue rules or notices to cities about their building programs.

Officials with DCBS have taken the legal opinion "under advisement," Peterson said in an email to the Pamplin/EO Media Group.

"We would have to contract with the county or state, and that is increase in cost, and the state and county programs are

not prepared to handle all of the cities that would need to come in," Graupp said. "The other alternative is to hire a permitting inspector to do not that much work."

### 'Fix what works'

Legislation earlier this year, House Bill 4086, sought to address the dilemma by allowing a regional council of governments to hire a building official, which cities could share to supervise their building programs and third-party reviewers and inspectors. The bill passed the House 33-23 Feb. 23 but came to naught in the Senate.

Even that solution presented problems for small jurisdictions, according to Michael Weston II, city manager of King City, who wrote a letter to lawmakers in opposition to the bill. King City in Washington County has a population of about 3,000 and relies entirely on contractors to administer its building program.

## 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.

# EAST OREGONIAN

— Founded Oct. 16, 1875 —

211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton 541-276-2211  
333 E. Main St., Hermiston 541-567-6211  
Office hours: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Closed major holidays

www.eastoregonian.com

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East Oregonian (USPS 164-980) is published daily except Sunday, Monday and postal holidays, by the EO Media Group, 211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton, OR 97801. Periodicals postage paid at Pendleton, OR. Postmaster: send address changes to East Oregonian, 211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton, OR 97801. Copyright © 2018, EO Media Group

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Single copy price:  
\$1 Tuesday through Friday, \$1.50 Saturday

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### COMMERCIAL PRINTING

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TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
64° 40°	67° 45°	59° 37°	59° 37°	65° 42°

Download the App

## AccuWeather

## ALMANAC

### PENDLETON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	60°	33°
Normals	63°	39°
Records	88° (1910)	23° (1909)

### PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	1.37"
Normal month to date	0.73"
Year to date	5.08"
Last year to date	7.37"
Normal year to date	4.69"

### HERMISTON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	64°	35°
Normals	65°	40°
Records	87° (1939)	21° (1964)

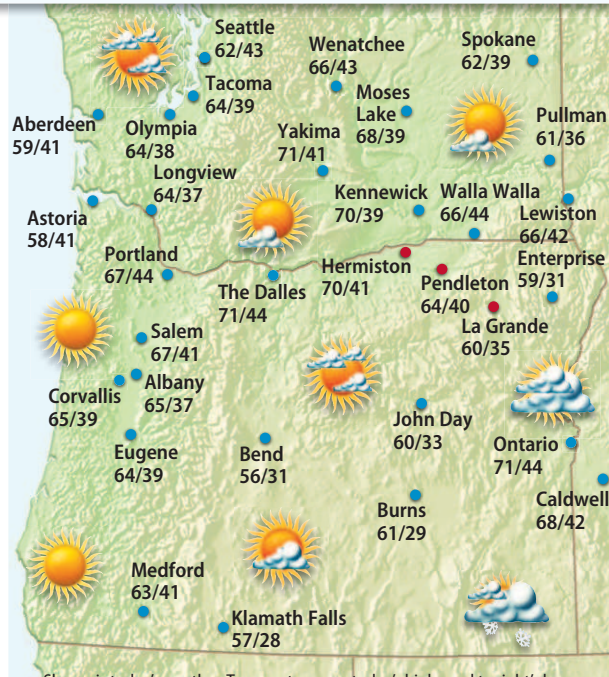
### PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	1.55"
Normal month to date	0.47"
Year to date	3.93"
Last year to date	5.43"
Normal year to date	3.58"

### SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	6:03 a.m.
Sunset tonight	7:47 p.m.
Moonrise today	8:49 a.m.
Moonset today	none

	First	Full	Last	New
	Apr 22	Apr 29	May 7	May 15



## REGIONAL FORECAST

**Coastal Oregon:** Sunny today, but some clouds across the north. Mainly clear tonight.

**Eastern and Central Oregon:** Decreasing clouds today, except mostly cloudy in the south and near the Cascades.

**Western Washington:** Partly sunny today; some sun, then turning cloudy at the coast.

**Eastern Washington:** Mostly sunny today. Clear tonight.

**Cascades:** Partly sunny today. Clear tonight. Partly sunny tomorrow.

**Northwest California:** Mostly sunny today; a snow shower in the interior mountains during the morning.

## REGIONAL CITIES

	Today			Fri.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	58	41	pc	55	44	c
Baker City	63	32	pc	66	37	pc
Bend	56	31	pc	65	35	pc
Brookings	60	44	s	58	43	s
Burns	61	29	pc	66	37	c
Enterprise	59	31	pc	62	39	s
Eugene	64	39	pc	65	44	pc
Heppner	62	38	pc	67	42	pc
Hermiston	70	41	pc	72	48	pc
John Day	60	33	pc	66	38	pc
Klamath Falls	57	28	pc	66	33	pc
La Grande	60	35	pc	65	41	pc
Meacham	58	31	pc	62	39	c
Medford	63	41	pc	72	43	s
Newport	56	41	s	54	45	pc
North Bend	57	41	s	57	45	pc
Ontario	71	44	pc	73	43	s
Pasco	70	41	s	72	50	pc
Pendleton	64	40	pc	67	45	c
Portland	67	44	s	65	48	pc
Redmond	60	32	pc	68	37	pc
Salem	67	41	pc	65	47	pc
Spokane	62	39	s	62	44	pc
Ukiah	56	29	pc	63	36	c
Vancouver	66	41	s	63	45	pc
Walla Walla	66	44	s	68	49	c
Yakima	71	41	s	72	46	pc

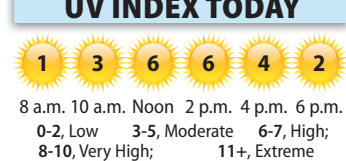
## WORLD CITIES

	Today			Fri.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	84	56	pc	86	66	s
Hong Kong	79	73	pc	80	75	c
Jerusalem	77	54	s	74	56	pc
London	80	54	pc	76	54	pc
Mexico City	81	51	pc	81	55	pc
Moscow	59	39	r	55	44	pc
Paris	81	56	s	81	56	pc
Rome	74	55	pc	75	55	s
Seoul	68	45	s	76	49	pc
Sydney	79	64	pc	77	66	pc
Tokyo	69	59	s	75	60	pc

## WINDS

(in mph)	Today	Friday
<b>Boardman</b>	NNW 4-8	WSW 6-12
<b>Pendleton</b>	NW 6-12	WSW 6-12

## UV INDEX TODAY

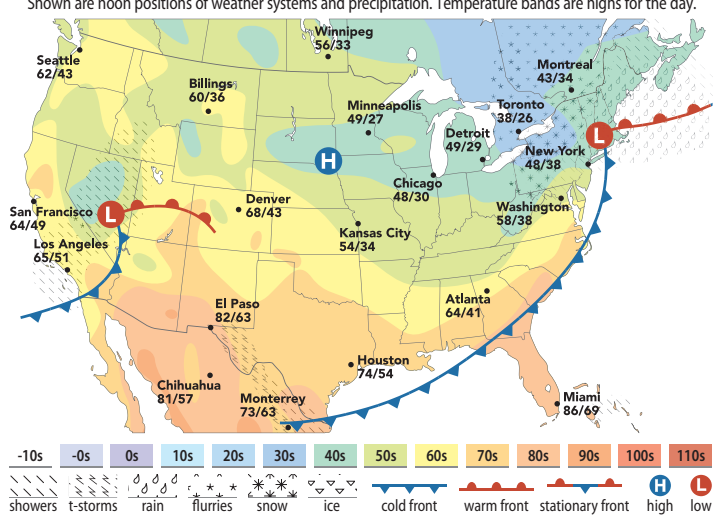


8 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m.  
0-2, Low 3-5, Moderate 6-7, High; 8-10, Very High; 11+, Extreme  
The higher the AccuWeather.com UV Index™ number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

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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:** A storm will bring rain to the Northeast coast and snow to the interior today. Rain, mountain snow and gusty winds are forecast to push eastward across the Southwest as storms gather in West Texas.

**Yesterday's National Extremes:** (for the 48 contiguous states)  
High 94° in Zapata, Texas Low 0° in Climax, Colo.

## NATIONAL CITIES

	Today			Fri.				Today			Fri.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W		Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Albuquerque	74	48	s	60	39	t	Louisville	57	34	pc	63	38	s
Atlanta	64	41	s	68	46	s	Memphis	58	40	s	66	44	pc
Atlanta City	59	37	sh	54	36	pc	Miami	58	69	pc	87	73	pc
Baltimore	57	34	pc	57	36	s	Millwaukee	44	28	s	48	33	s
Billings	60	36	pc	60	37	c	Minneapolis	49	27	pc	48	32	pc
Birmingham	64	39	s	71	44	pc	Nashville	57	36	pc	66	39	s
Boise	66	41	c	69	45	s	New Orleans	74	53	pc	69	56	pc
Boston	41	37	r	52	36	c	New York City	48	38	sh	53	38	c
Charleston, SC	83	44	s	69	45	s	Oklahoma City	66	40	s	64	44	c
Charleston, WV	49	32	c	57	32	s	Omaha	52	31	pc	58	41	c
Chicago	48	30	s	55	33	s	Philadelphia	56	35	c	54	36	pc
Cleveland	42	33	sn	47	32	c	Phoenix	82	54	s	80	61	s
Dallas	72	48	s	71									