

Some horse advocates buck at new plan to save wild mustangs

By SCOTT SONNER
Associated Press

RENO, Nev. — Animal welfare groups have reached a milestone agreement with ranching interests they say would save wild mustangs from slaughter but the compromise has opened a nasty split among horse protection advocates.

The Humane Society of the United States and the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals say their proposal backed by the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association and the American Farm Bureau Federation would eliminate the threat of slaughter for thousands of free-roaming horses primarily by spending millions of dollars on expanding fertility controls on the range.

As part of the deal presented to the Bureau of Land Management, they’re willing to drop long-held opposition to controversial roundups of the horses — fighting words for the largest mustang advocacy groups that have been in court for years defending the animals’ ability to forage with cattle and sheep in 10 western states.



AP Photo/Sue Ogrocki, File

In this Dec. 13, 2017, file photo, wild horses gather in a pasture at sunset at the Mowdy Ranch Ecosanctuary near Coal-gate, Okla.

The unprecedented alliance unveiled this week has ignited fierce opposition from the American Wild Horse Campaign and Friends of Animals, which currently is leading a legal challenge to Forest Service efforts that could for the first time make mustangs recently rounded up along the California-Nevada border available for purchase for slaughter.

“The groups promoting this plan have been co-opted into supporting the livestock industry’s agenda for wild horses by the BLM’s vague promise

to utilize undefined ‘population growth suppression’ methods,” including surgical sterilization, the Campaign said. “By mandating the removal of a startling 15,000 to 20,000 wild horses a year, the plan will result in the reduction of America’s wild herds to extinction levels.”

“It’s a sellout,” added Laura Leigh, who has monitored roundups for nearly 20 years and heads the Nevada-based Wild Horse Education.

Nancy Perry, ASPCA’s senior vice president, acknowledges they’re in

Oregon comedian files complaint against the U.S. Border Patrol

By NICHOLAS K. GERANIOS
Associated Press

SPOKANE, Wash. — A comedian from Portland has filed an administrative complaint against U.S. Customs and Border Protection seeking \$250,000 in damages after he was pulled off a bus in Spokane.

The complaint says Mohanad Elshieky was detained by Border Patrol officers even after producing valid identification documents demonstrating that he was lawfully present in the United States.

His complaint contends Border Patrol officers racially profiled Elshieky and falsely arrested and detained him for about 20 minutes on Jan. 27.

The government has six months to grant, deny, or negotiate the amount of damages. If there is no resolution, Elshiesky could sue in federal court.

Stephanie Malin, a spokeswoman for Customs and Border Protection, said the agency could not comment on matters of pending litigation.

“I would hope that the same immigration officials that expect me to follow the law would do the same and respect my rights,” Elshieky said in a news release. “I hope that by taking action over the

way Border Patrol officers treated me, others will not have to experience the same, degrading mistreatment that I faced.”

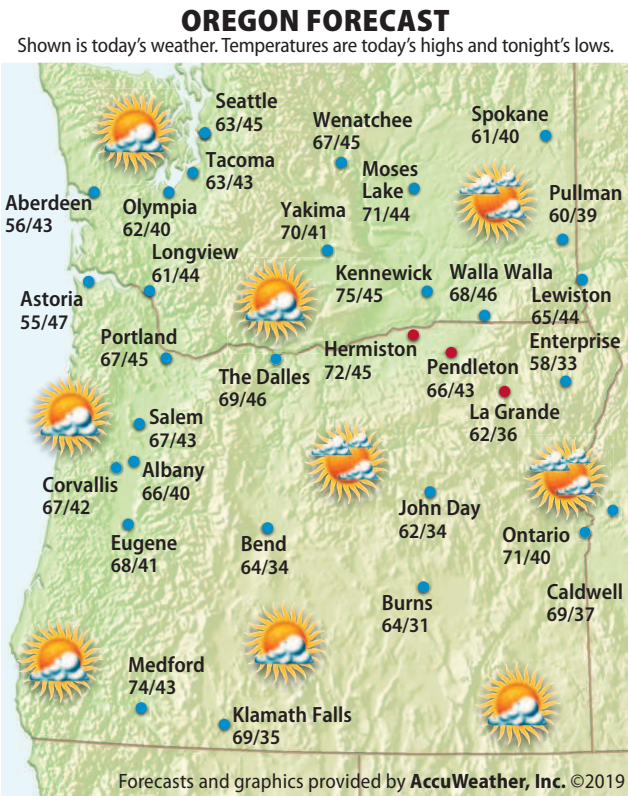
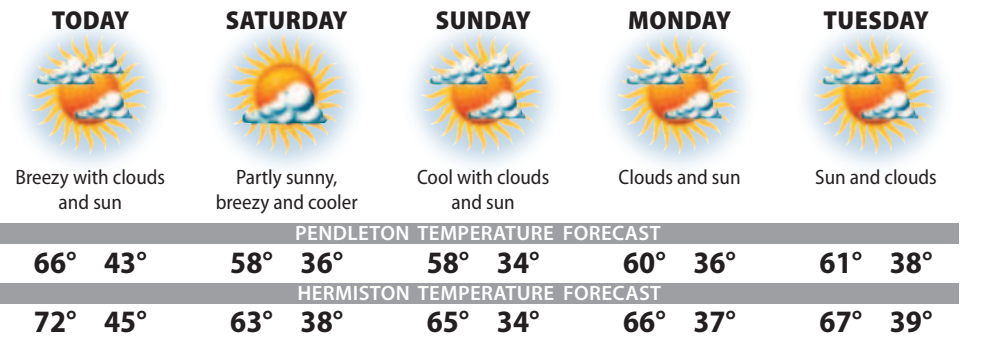
Elshieky, who was granted asylum in the United States in 2018, was detained by the Border Patrol at the Greyhound Bus Station in the Spokane Intermodal Center. Border Patrol agents ordered him to get off the bus as he was preparing to travel back to Portland after a performance in Pullman, Washington.

Elshieky said he was interrogated for 20 minutes by agents who contended his papers were fake and that he was in the country illegally.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection did not immediately reply to a request for comment from The Associated Press. Previously, a spokesman for the agency said Elshieky stated he was from Libya and presented the agents with an Oregon driver’s license and an employment authorization card. The spokesman said that neither is considered a valid document to satisfy a federal law requiring a non-citizen immigrant to carry certain documentation.

Eventually, the agents released Elshieky and told him to carry proper paperwork.

Forecast for Pendleton Area



ALMANAC

PENDLETON through 3 p.m. yest.

TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	67°	36°
Normals	65°	41°
Records	94° (1910)	22° (1924)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	1.68"
Normal month to date	0.97"
Year to date	7.76"
Last year to date	5.08"
Normal year to date	4.93"

HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yest.

TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	72°	37°
Normals	67°	41°
Records	91° (1946)	27° (1929)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	0.29"
Normal month to date	0.71"
Year to date	3.88"
Last year to date	3.93"
Normal year to date	3.82"

WINDS (in mph)

	Today	Sat.
Boardman	WSW 10-20	WSW 10-20
Pendleton	W 10-20	W 12-25

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	5:51 a.m.
Sunset tonight	7:55 p.m.
Moonrise today	2:21 a.m.
Moonset today	11:37 a.m.

Last	New	First	Full
Apr 26	May 4	May 11	May 18

NATIONAL EXTREMES

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)
High 102° in Thermal, Calif. Low 13° in Bodie State Park, Calif.

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



“frightening territory” with a “bold approach that no one has taken so far.”
“Not every advocate wants to engage with or work with those that they have been in battle with over the years,” she told The Associated Press. “But BLM’s current policies are ineffective. If they continue on the road they’re on now, it means disaster.”

In addition to the cattlemen’s powerful lobbying arm, the package has the support of the Society for Range Management, Utah’s governor and rural county commissions in Utah and Nevada.

“After years of all of us being in our bunkers on this issue, this proposal represents some real common ground among stakeholders that have never appeared on the same document before,” said Ethan Lane, senior executive director of federal lands for the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association and its Public Lands Council.

“The Humane Society and ASPCA have a view that what my members do to put food on their tables is inherently bad. For us to be able to come together and find some common ground on this is significant,” he said.

Others who’ve bought in include the American Mustang Foundation and the California-based Return to Freedom Wild Horse Conservation.

Mother, daughter fatally shot; mom’s boyfriend charged

SHADY COVE (AP) — Authorities say a mother and daughter were killed Sunday in southwest Oregon and a man who had been in a relationship with the mother has been arrested.

The Mail Tribune reports 62-year-old Shirley Gann and her daughter, 43-year-old Judy Wilkins, died of multiple gunshot wounds Sunday, according to findings of the Jackson County Medical Examiner’s office released Wednesday.

Jackson County Sheriff’s Sgt. Julie Denney says investigators have not yet released specific information related to the killings, which happened around 10 a.m. Sunday at Gann’s home in Shady Cove.

Kit Wilkins, who was Shirley Gann’s long-term boyfriend, faces aggravated murder and murder charges in the women’s deaths, according to an indictment filed Monday in Jackson County Circuit Court.

Wilkins made a first court appearance Monday, where he was ordered held without bail. It wasn’t known if he had a lawyer.

Therapy worker sentenced to 8 years for raping autistic boy

GRESHAM (AP) — A judge sentenced a 29-year-old therapy worker to more than 8 years of prison for raping a 13-year-old boy during on-the-job visits to his Gresham home.

The Oregonian/OregonLive reports a jury took about an hour to find Abigail Minjung Kim guilty of six counts of first-degree sexual abuse, second-degree sodomy and second-degree rape because the boy was unable to consent to sexual activity with her because of his age.

The jury also found he was a vulnerable victim and Kim had violated her professional responsibility. Kim worked with the boy because he has autism.

Kim had contended during a 10-day trial that the boy victimized her with aggressive sexual advances and she hesitated for months in 2017 to report his behavior because of a Korean-American upbringing that taught her to be non-confrontational.

Kim said in court that she was sincerely sorry.

Fed judge upholds Yakama fireworks sales in Klickitat County

YAKIMA, Wash. (AP) — A federal judge has ruled that members of the Yakama tribe can continue to sell fireworks on tribal lands without interference from Klickitat County officials.

Klickitat County Sheriff Bob Songer issued cease-and-desist orders last summer to five tribal members operating fireworks stands on tribal lands within Klickitat County, saying they were in violation of state fireworks laws.

The stands were in Wishram, a tribal community along the Columbia River. Yakama Tribal Police descended on the area to prevent any forced closure of the firework stands.

The Yakima Herald-Republic reports that the Yakama Nation sued Klickitat County in federal court.

On Wednesday, federal Judge Tom Rice ruled in favor of the tribe, saying the Yakama Nation was already regulating the sale of fireworks on its lands.

Salem Center Street Bridge retrofit may cost \$100 million

SALEM (AP) — Upgrading the Center Street Bridge in Salem to withstand a major earthquake may cost \$100 million, exceeding the \$60 million budgeted by state lawmakers barely two years ago.

The Statesman-Journal reports that retrofitting the span that carries upwards of 47,000 drivers a day from West Salem into downtown includes several steps to safeguard the bridge and ramps from earthquake damage, such as reconstructing in-water piers and strengthening columns and foundations.

Construction for the seismic retrofitting could start as early as 2024, according to records obtained by the newspaper through a public records request.

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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