

Union County dog breeder wins at Westminster

Donna Locke’s Belgian Tervurens earns merit award

By SABRINA THOMSON
EO Media Group

UNION — Donna Locke of Union readied Feb. 9 to watch the 144th Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show, the most prestigious dog show in the nation.

After all, she bred Jack and his litter mate Teller, 5-year-old Belgian Tervurens who took the stage in New York City to compete in the annual event.

“It’s been a dream of mine since I was an 8-year-old showing in 4-H to have my dog able to go and show,” she said.

Since returning to Union County 3½ years ago, Locke has not been able to show dogs as much as she would like. However, a good friend from Colorado, Andrea Wojciechowski, has helped Locke with showcasing her dogs there.

“Jack and Teller had a very successful late summer and fall show season,” Locke said, “and they earned the recognition to compete at the Westminster show.”

Locke was eager to see Jack and Teller in action from her home, and signed up for a free trial to watch the show live. The trial, however, lasted a mere hour.

“About 45 minutes before the dogs were on the show, I ran out of time,” she said.



Jack, a 5-year-old Belgian Tervurens, won an “Award of Merit” at this year’s Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show. Jack lives in Union with his breeder Donna Locke. Jack’s litter mate, Teller, also competed Feb. 9 at the big show in New York City.

And her internet was down due to flooding in early February, so she scrambled to find a way to see the show and her dogs, and found success on her smartphone.

“I saw it in real time,” Locke said. “That was pretty neat.”

Locke grew up in La Grande and has enjoyed working with animals since she was a child in

4-H. That passion developed into a desire to show and breed dogs when she moved to Colorado after graduating from Eastern Oregon University.

“I typically lose money when breeding,” Locke said. “I am not doing it for the love of money, but for the love of dogs.”

Locke said she shows dogs

because she wants to help in the preservation of the Belgian Tervurens, a sheep herding dog that often is adaptable to training for specific tasks. All but one of the five litters Locke has bred have been Belgian Tervurens, and three dogs from these litters have gone on to be service dogs.

“My goal in showing is to get

my dog seen and see other dogs that will help preserve this breed of dog,” Locke said.

Jack, who lives with Locke, won a merit award at Westminster.

“It brought tears to my eyes,” she said. “I was just so proud of him.”

The merit award is the kind of recognition dog breeders dreams of, she said, and puts Locke on a list of trusted breeders with the American Kennel Club.

“It’s just such a great honor,” she said. “It was just as exciting to see him win, even though I couldn’t be there. It is a huge compliment and such an accomplishment that Jack was able to compete with a larger group of top dogs.”

Putting dogs in a show can be beneficial and rewarding to the dog and the breeder, Locke said, because it helps develop a strong bond between the two.

“With a dog you are training and showing, you establish a close relationship with them,” Locke said. “You work so closely with them you form a partnership.”

Having a kennel club in the area would be of benefit according to Locke. Not only would it provide more opportunities for shows, but it can help develop stronger relationships with owners and breeders in the area. And having a kennel club could also mean additional training classes for dogs, which can increase bonding opportunities between owners and their pet.

Observer editor Phil Wright contributed to this article.

Forecast for Pendleton Area

TODAY

Cloudy and chilly with a shower

SUNDAY

Mostly cloudy and chilly

MONDAY

Times of clouds and sun

TUESDAY

Plenty of sunshine

WEDNESDAY

Partly sunny; windy in the p.m.

PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST				
49°	28°	49°	28°	52°
28°	28°	27°	33°	35°

HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST				
55°	29°	54°	27°	55°
29°	27°	25°	32°	33°

OREGON FORECAST

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

ALMANAC

PENDLETON through 3 p.m. yest.

TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	57°	38°
Normals	53°	33°
Records	68° (1979)	18° (2019)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"

Month to date	Trace
Normal month to date	0.21"
Year to date	4.06"
Last year to date	5.15"
Normal year to date	2.76"

HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yest.

TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	61°	43°
Normals	55°	32°
Records	70° (1972)	11° (1943)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"

Month to date	0.00"
Normal month to date	0.20"
Year to date	0.36"
Last year to date	3.43"
Normal year to date	2.47"

WINDS (in mph)

	Today	Sun.
Boardman	WSW 8-16	SSW 4-8
Pendleton	WSW 8-16	NNW 6-12

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	6:22 a.m.
Sunset tonight	5:51 p.m.
Moonrise today	3:25 p.m.
Moonset today	5:36 a.m.

Full

Last

New

First

Mar 9

Mar 16

Mar 24

Apr 1

NATIONAL EXTREMES

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)

High 87° in Thermal, Calif. Low -16° in Embarrass, Minn.

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY

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

-10s

-0s

0s

10s

20s

30s

40s

50s

60s

70s

80s

90s

100s

110s

showers

t-storms

rain

flurries

snow

ice

cold front

warm front

stationary front

high

low

Washington Senate adopts carbon-neutral mandate

By DON JENKINS
Capital Press

OLYMPIA, Wash. — Washington Senate Democrats voted Thursday to make the state carbon-neutral by 2050, following the state House in embracing the aspiration of the Green New Deal.

Washington will cut carbon emissions to 5 million metric tons, or about 5% of the state's output in 1990, according to the measure. Remaining emissions must be offset by projects to store carbon.

The net-zero carbon standard mirrors the goal and timeframe of the federal resolution introduced last year in the U.S. House by New York Democrat Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and in the U.S. Senate by Massachusetts Democrat Edward Markey.

Washington Democrats said the state bill was necessary because of a climate crisis and the need to protect future generations.

“We are the true global leader addressing climate pollution, and we need to adjust our pollution limits to reflect updated science,” said Sen. Mona Das, D-Covington, who introduced the measure in the Senate.

The bill, introduced at the request of Gov. Jay Inslee, a Democrat, passed 28-21 along party lines. The bill sets interim benchmark reductions of 45% by 2030 and 75% by 2040.

The bill does not set carbon-reduction policies. However, other legislation could be based on achieving a carbon-neutral economy.

Sen. Doug Ericksen, R-Ferndale, said the legislation might cut carbon emissions in Washington, but not globally as businesses leave for other states.

“When you can no longer manufacture things here, when electricity is too expensive, when you ban natural gas, you will see a (carbon) reduction in Washington state, and that’s how you will

BRIEFLY

Walla Walla nursing assistant accused of sexual misconduct

WALLA WALLA, Wash. — A Walla Walla nursing assistant is being investigated for misconduct after he allegedly sexually assaulted a patient receiving home care.

Josimar Nateras was charged in February by the state Department of Health with unprofessional and sexual misconduct for the alleged sexual assault on May 12, 2019.

Nateras allegedly was working with disabled people receiving residential services in Walla Walla when he reportedly assaulted a patient at their home. The patient’s identity wasn’t disclosed, per

state law, in the statement of charges from the state secretary of health.

Nateras was issued a nursing assistant license on April 11, 2018, records stated, and it was active while charges were pending.

Law enforcement personnel are investigating the allegations, according to DOH records.

The Walla Walla police have an open investigation for the same date on a person named Josimar Nateras-Mendoza, according to Sgt. Eric Knudson. He said he couldn’t release further information due to the active investigation.

No further information was provided, and the Walla Walla County Prosecuting Attorney’s office did not respond to requests for information.

— Walla Walla Union-Bulletin

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

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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.
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Single copy price:
\$1.50 Tuesday through Saturday

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Business Office Manager:
541-966-0824

COMMERCIAL PRINTING
Production Manager: Mike Jensen
541-215-0824 • mjensen@eastoregonian.com