

Battered bald eagle recovers at Klamath Falls wildlife rescue after flying into a moving truck

By JANET EASTMAN
The Oregonian

KLAMATH FALLS — A bald eagle hit by a truck on Friday, Dec. 4, is recovering at the Badger Run Wildlife Rehab in Klamath Falls and getting tons of attention from Facebook followers.

“What a beautiful creature! Her feet are as big as my hands,” posted one fan.

The bird, the largest eagle the nonprofit facility has treated in 15 years, has a 6.5-foot wingspan.

She was too full from gorging on roadkill, however, to fly high enough to avoid a passing truck when she suddenly flew out of a ditch, says Liz Burton, Badger Run’s founder and wildlife care coordinator who captured the feisty, battered bird with the help of the driver.

The unnamed man, a contractor, called Badger Run, which cares for injured and orphaned wildlife, and stayed until the bird was safe in a carrier and on its way to be treated by a veterinarian.

“This is the fiercest bird (Liz Burton) has ever dealt with,” Badger Run posted on its Facebook page. “She’s the first eagle that has ever actively charged Liz and tried to talon her.”

“It’s a good sign she’s fighting back,” a commenter posted on Facebook. “Not a good sign when they have no fight in them. I think maybe she has a nest that she’s working on she does not want to leave her nest or her mate. Nesting season is just getting underway.”

The 11-pound bird was taken to East Ridge Animal Hospital in Klamath Falls where she was anesthetized in the carrier then given X-rays and examined by Dr. Marcie Keener.

The bird does not have fractures or internal injuries, but she does have low



Badger Run Wildlife Rehab/Contributed Photo
A bald eagle hit by a truck on Friday, Dec. 4, 2020, is recovering at the Badger Run Wildlife Rehab in Klamath Falls and getting tons of attention from Facebook followers.

level-lead poisoning, possibly from lead from ammunition or fishing tackle that seeped into the food chain, says Burton.

The bird, which has not been given a name, is receiving twice daily injections of EDTA for the lead and meloxicam for pain. “Dosing her is definitely a two-man job,” jokes Burton.

If the bird’s lead level is clear when retested on Dec. 12, she will be transferred to a 120-foot flight pen to make sure she can fly before being released, says Burton.

If the bird still has a measurable lead level, she will stay in a smaller enclosure and start a second round of chelation treatment.

“I’m sure getting sick & tired of hearing about lead poisoned eagles though. When will people learn the ramifications & dangers of lead ammo?” asks another

Facebook fan.

Burton started Badger Run Wildlife Rehab in March 2005, and the group treats up to 300 birds and animals a year.

Most are returned to the wild. Those that can’t be released due to their injuries or another situation receive lifelong care at the facility. Some become “animal ambassadors” to educate the public about nature.

The facility is licensed to rehabilitate animals native to Oregon, except aquatic mammals and pelagic birds.

Most patients are raptors, vultures and corvids hit by vehicles while scavenging roadkill.

“They see (roadkill) as free food with no work required, so they will eat as much as 10% to 15% of their body weight in one meal,” says Burton. “That’s roughly equivalent to me eating 20 pounds of ham-

burgers in one meal.”

The bald eagle was feeding on a deer carcass in a ditch alongside the road, below the driver’s visibility. When she heard his truck coming, she only flew up to the truck’s license plate and was hit on her left side, stunning her, says Burton.

The driver stopped and used a shovel to gently lift and move the big bird off to the side of the road. He then called the Oregon State Police, who gave him the 24-hour hotline for Badger Run Wildlife Rehab, 541-891-2052.

“Thank ... the driver for making sure she got help. That must have been a scary experience,” posted another Facebook fan.

Before the coronavirus pandemic, the facility was open to the public for educational tours and to let visitors meet the animal ambassadors.

Walden reported to be one of few GOP in Congress to accept Biden victory

By GARY A. WARNER
Oregon Capital Bureau

WASHINGTON — Rep. Greg Walden, R-Hood River, is among just 27 Republican members of Congress who will say Democrat Joe Biden has been elected president, according to a survey by *The Washington Post* published Saturday, Dec. 5.



Walden

Walden, who did not run for reelection and will leave Congress after 20 years in office, represents all of Oregon east of the Cascades and a portion in the southwest, including Ashland, Medford and Grants Pass.

The newspaper asked all 249 Republicans in the U.S. Senate and U.S. House “Who won the election?”

Walden was among the 70% of those polled who did not respond directly to the newspaper’s query. But the *Post* reviewed recent public statements and put Walden on the list of 27 accepting Biden as the next president based on a Dec. 1 interview for a National Journal podcast.

“I think in the end we’ll have a transition here, and you’ll have a new president come January 20,” Walden said in the interview. “I don’t see the math where this gets overturned and so far I’ve not seen the evidence of the amount of fraud it would take, or mistakes — and those occur in every election — to overturn the results in any state.”

Walden added, “So, I think the die is pretty well cast” on who would be president.

Walden could not be reached for comment by EO Media Group on Dec. 5. Former state senator Cliff Bentz, a Republican from Ontario, was elected in November to succeed Walden. Bentz also could not be reached for comment on Dec. 5.

Walden is the only Republican in Oregon’s delegation of two U.S. senators and five members of the U.S. House.

Biden beat President Donald Trump by 7 million votes and an Electoral College win of 306-232.

Trump has made an unprecedented attempt to overturn the election result, making unsubstantiated claims of massive voter fraud. He’s lost numerous court decisions trying to stop ballots from being certified, lobbying election officials to set aside results, then attacking them when they declined his demands.

The Electoral College votes on Dec. 14, then the ballots are sent to Congress for review. Trump is challenging these usually pro forma steps in the election process.

The election ended with Republicans holding a 50-48 majority in the U.S. Senate. Two seats from Georgia will be decided in a run-off on Jan. 5, 2021. If Republicans win one or both of the seats, they will retain control of the chamber. If Democrats win both seats, the Senate would be tied 50-50, with Vice President-elect Kamala Harris, a Democrat, breaking any ties as President of the Senate.

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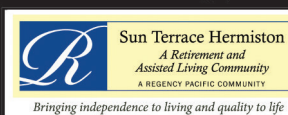
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