

Reward offered in poisoning case

The Observer

LA GRANDE — Conservation and animal rights groups are stepping forward to help the Oregon State Police solve a case involving eight gray wolves that were fatally poisoned in Union County during the past year.

The groups are offering a combined reward of \$36,000 for information leading to a conviction in the case, according to a press release.

“Poisoning wildlife is a profoundly dangerous and serious crime, putting imperiled species, companion animals and people all at risk,” said Bethany Cotton, conservation director for Cascadia Wildlands. “We call on those with information about this reckless killing to come forward to protect Oregon’s wildlife and our communities.”

The \$36,000 in combined rewards are being offered by Wolves of the Rockies, Center for Biological Diversity, Cascadia Wildlands, Defenders of Wildlife, Humane Society of the United States, Northeast Oregon Ecosystems, Oregon Wild, Predator Defense and Wild Earth Guardians.

“This is a cowardly and despicable act,” said Brooks Fahy, executive director of Predator Defense, an Oregon-based national wildlife advocacy nonprofit. “It is absolutely critical that the perpetrator of this crime be caught and prosecuted to the full extent of the law. The Oregon State Police should



Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife/ Contributed Photo

The Oregon State Police is seeking the public’s help in an investigation into the poisoning of eight wolves in Eastern Oregon. Six conservation and animal rights are pulling together \$26,000 for a reward for information leading to a conviction in the case.

aggressively pursue all leads that will help bring the individual who carried out this atrocity to justice.”

The poisoning case dates back to February when Oregon State Police reported troopers from its Fish and Wildlife Division division received information from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife about a dead collared wolf. Troopers responded to the area and found five dead wolves — three males and two females. It was later determined the wolves were from the Catherine Pack.

The wolves were southeast of Mount Harris, within Union County. The five wolves were collected and transported to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Forensics Lab in Ashland to determine the cause of death. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Forensics

MORE INFORMATION

Oregon State Police is asking anyone with information about the poisonings to contact the agency at the Turn-In Poachers Hotline at 800-452-7888, or email TIP@state.or.us, referencing case No. SP21-033033.

Lab concluded the wolves had been poisoned.

Fish and Wildlife troopers in March again received information from ODFW personnel of a wolf collar emitting a mortality signal in the same general location. A search of the area located a deceased female wolf, which was sent to the USFWS lab for testing. The female wolf was dispersing from the Keating Pack.

Two more collared wolves were found dead in Union County after the initial incidents. In April, a deceased adult male wolf from the Five Points Pack was located west of Elgin, and in July a young female wolf from the Clark Creek Pack was discovered northeast of La Grande. Toxicology reports from the USFWS lab confirmed the presence of poison in each wolf.

“We are furious and appalled. These poisonings are a significant blow to wolf recovery in Oregon. Such a targeted attack against these incredible creatures is unacceptable and we hope our reward will help bring the criminals who did this to justice,” said Srusti Kamal, senior northwest representative for Defenders of Wildlife.

Jury duty scams targeting residents again in Oregon

East Oregonian

SALEM — The Oregon Judicial Department in a press release Friday, Dec. 3, reported fraudulent phone calls, emails and texts again are targeting Oregonians and threatening them with fines, prosecution or jail time for failing to comply with jury service.

Most of the recent reports are from the Willamette Valley, according to the department, but it is likely that other areas may be targeted as well.

In these calls, emails or texts, recipients are pressured to provide confidential data, such as bank account information, credit card numbers, date of birth or Social Security numbers, potentially leading to identity theft and fraud. These fraudulent calls or messages — which threaten recipients with fines and jail time if they do not comply — are not connected with the state or federal courts.

State and federal courts do not require anyone to provide sensitive information in a telephone call, email or text. Oregon state courts may provide jury notices and reminders by text, but these will not request personal information, make threats or demand money, according to the press release.

The Oregon Judicial Department advised anyone receiving such a jury-related telephone call, email or text demanding information or money should not provide

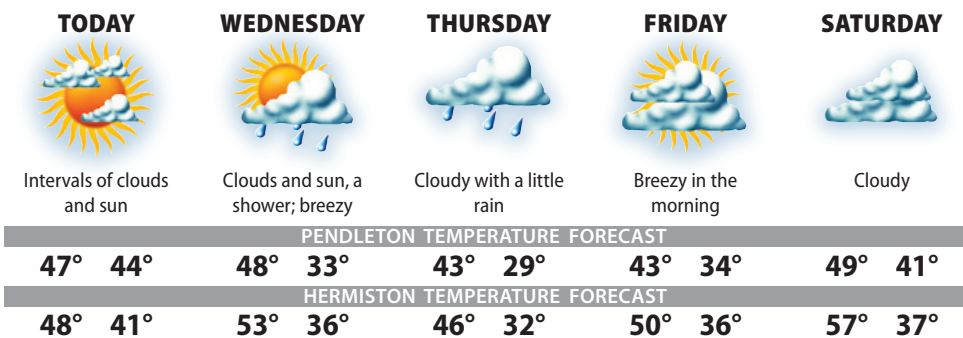
the information or payment, reply directly to the text or email, click on any links or open any attachments — even if it appears the message is coming from the court or a local police agency. Scammers often can create messages that look like they are coming from a legitimate source. If possible, get the caller’s name and number and then hang up. Reach out directly to the local court to verify or report the contact.

For state courts, including the circuit courts in each Oregon county, report the call or contact to the local circuit court jury coordinator immediately. Contact information for Oregon’s state circuit courts is available at courts.oregon.gov/courts. For Oregon’s federal courts, information about jury service and possible scams is available at ord.uscourts.gov/jurors.

The department also stated it is a crime for anyone to falsely claim to be a state or federal court official.

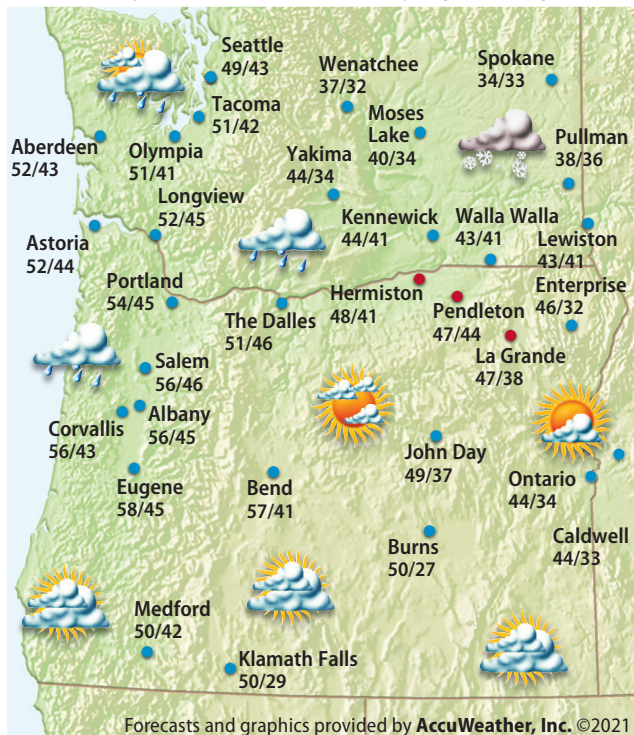
If you have received one of these calls, emails or texts and have given out personal information, monitor your account statements and credit reports carefully. If any unauthorized charges are made, report the theft to local law enforcement and the Federal Trade Commission at 877-438-4338 or www.consumer.gov/idtheft. And contact a credit bureau to request it place a fraud alert on your credit history.

Forecast for Pendleton Area



OREGON FORECAST

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



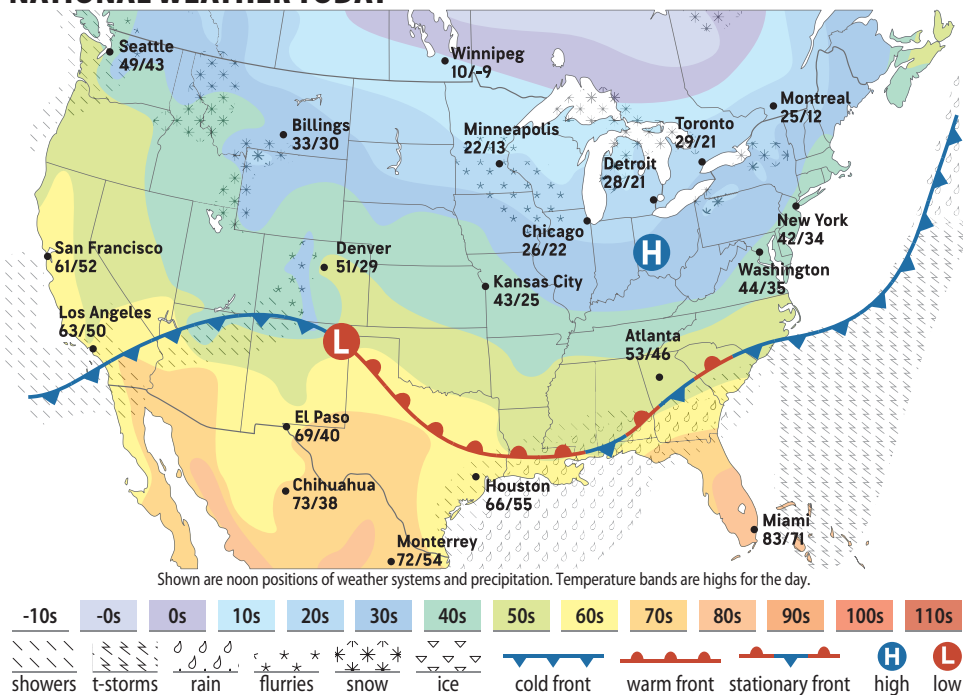
ALMANAC

PENDLETON through 3 p.m. yest.		
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	41°	31°
Normals	42°	29°
Records	65° (1987)	0° (2013)
PRECIPITATION		
24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.07"	
Month to date	0.11"	
Normal month to date	0.27"	
Year to date	7.49"	
Last year to date	12.26"	
Normal year to date	12.00"	
HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yest.		
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	43°	33°
Normals	43°	29°
Records	62° (1945)	1° (2013)
PRECIPITATION		
24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.04"	
Month to date	0.04"	
Normal month to date	0.19"	
Year to date	5.11"	
Last year to date	3.94"	
Normal year to date	7.71"	
WINDS (in mph)		
Today	SE 3-6	Wed. WSW 10-20
Pendleton	WSW 4-8	WSW 10-20
SUN AND MOON		
Sunrise today	7:22 a.m.	
Sunset tonight	4:11 p.m.	
Moonrise today	11:07 a.m.	
Moonset today	7:59 p.m.	

NATIONAL EXTREMES

Yesterday’s National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)
High 88° in Immokalee, Fla. Low -26° in Bottineau, N.D.

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



Man escapes life sentence for rape due to ‘technicality’

By GARRETT ANDREWS
The Bulletin

BEND — A La Pine man got out of a life sentence for rape because of wording chosen by a trial court in the 1980s.

John Clark Craig, 62, appeared Thursday, Dec. 2, for re-sentencing in Deschutes County Circuit Court, having successfully appealed a life sentence handed down in 2019 after raping a woman while she was too intoxicated to consent.

Craig, who has prior convictions for sex crimes in 1981 and 1995, had received the sentence under Oregon’s “three strikes” law for sex crimes.

Now, he’ll now return to prison to finish a term of eight years, four months.

“Mr. Craig is getting off from a life sentence due to a technicality,” prosecutor Matthew Nelson told

the judge.

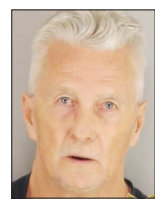
“His 1981 sex crime happened. His 1995 sex crime happened. And his 2018 rape happened. But for a technicality, he should be serving life in prison. Instead, he will serve 100 months.”

In March 1981, Craig was convicted in Washington County of attempted first-degree rape. He was given probation with a 10-year prison term hanging over his head if he violated his probation.

In April 1995, Craig was convicted in Washington County of first-degree sexual abuse and attempted first-degree rape. He again received only probation.

Then, a little over two years ago, Craig was again arrested for rape.

The state recommended a life sentence due to the



Craig

fact Craig had two prior sex convictions. Judge Bethany Flint went along with the recommendation.

On appeal, Craig argued his 1981 sex crime should not have counted toward his eligibility for life without parole under Oregon’s three strikes law for sex crimes because in that case he served only probation, which was not considered a “sentence” in 1981. It was considered an alternative to a sentence.

In September, the Oregon Court of Appeals issued its ruling agreeing with Craig, holding that convictions for felony sex crimes must result in a sentence to count toward a defendant’s three-strikes status.

At Craig’s latest sentencing Dec. 2, the state requested his new sentence align with Oregon’s Measure 11 mandatory minimum sentencing law. The judge agreed.

IN BRIEF

Enterprise man dies in single-vehicle crash

WALLOWA COUNTY — An Enterprise man died in a traffic crash at around 5 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 5, according to Oregon State Police.

OSP and emergency personnel responded to a single-vehicle crash on Highway 3 near milepost 13 at about 4:51 a.m.

The response team found Christopher Thacker, 36, of Enterprise, was driving a Ford F250 pickup northbound and drifted across the highway and eventually crashed into a tree about 200 feet from the road. Thacker died at the scene.

OSP, Enterprise Fire, Wallowa County Emergency Medical Services and Oregon Department of Transportation responded to the crash.

In remembrance of Pearl Harbor Day

Tuesday, Dec. 7, is National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, or, more simply, Pearl Harbor Day, when the U.S. honors and remembers the 2,403 service members and civilians who were killed during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941.

Dick Higgins served in the Navy and survived the Pearl Harbor attack. Now 100 and living in Bend, Higgins recounted that day and more in a feature story for The Bulletin in Bend, related paper to the East Oregonian. You can find the story at www.eastoregonian.com.

—EO Media Group

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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