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Wolves – and worries – in Methow Valley

DEAD COW, GRAZING TROUBLES MARK RANCHERS' STRUGGLE TO COEXIST



U.S. FOREST SERVICE, 2008

This remote-camera picture from last summer shows an uncollared adult gray wolf within the Twisp River drainage area. Gray wolves were mostly exterminated from the state in the 1940s. Okanogan wolves appear to have worked their way south from British Columbia.

WEB EXTRA

Ceremonies marking the 65th anniversary of D-Day will be held early today, Seattle time. For coverage of the event and Obama's speech, go to seattletimes.com

Inside Friday's D-Day events > A4

Obama itinerary: darkness, heroism

BUCHENWALD VISIT AFFIRMS SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL

President marking D-Day anniversary today

BY MARGARET TALEV
McClatchy Newspapers

PARIS – President Obama will visit the American cemetery and memorial in the French region of Normandy today to commemorate the 65th anniversary of D-Day and the U.S. role in ending the Nazi occupation of Europe.

His D-Day observation follows an emotional tour Friday of the Buchenwald concentration camp in Germany that his great-uncle helped liberate. The president also spent two hours Friday with U.S. troops at the Army's Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany, where soldiers wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan are treated.

The Allies' invasion of Normandy marked "the beginning of the end of World War II, and many of the veterans of World War II are in the sunset of their years," Obama said Friday in Dresden, where he and German Chancellor Angela Merkel met before touring Buchenwald. "And so having an opportunity to acknowledge them once again and the sacrifices they made was very important to me."

Obama will meet with French President Nicolas Sarkozy before
See > OBAMA, A4

CUBA-ADMIRING EX-STATE DEPT. WORKER, WIFE JAILED AS SPIES

BY NEDRA PICKLER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON – A retired State Department worker and his wife have been arrested on charges of spying for Cuba for three decades, using grocery carts among their array of tools to pass U.S. secrets to the communist government in a security breach one official described as "incredibly serious."

An indictment unsealed Friday said Walter K. Myers worked his way into higher and higher U.S. security clearances while secretly partnering with his wife, Gwendolyn S. Myers, as agents so valued by the Cuban government that they once had a private four-hour meeting with Fidel Castro.

State Department spokesman Philip Crowley said the arrest came after a three-year investigation. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton has ordered a "comprehensive damage assessment."

The Myerses' arrest could affect congressional support for easing tensions with Cuba. Two months ago, the Obama administration
See > SPIES, A3

BY CRAIG WELCH / Seattle Times environment reporter

First a ranch hand in early May found a dead cow in the sun-baked bunchgrass within earshot of the Methow Valley's newest predators: a howling pack of wolves.

Then, in midmonth, another cattleman had to quickly — if temporarily — find a new place to run his cattle because wolves were living among the sage and pines where they usually graze.

Word of both incidents spread rapidly through the Okanogan County hills, becoming just the kind of lore that has followed wolves across the West.

Less than a year after the state's first gray-wolf pack in 70 years took up residence east of the North Cascades near Twisp, ranchers, some environmentalists and government agencies are struggling to tamp down rumors and make sure livestock producers and this mysterious predator coexist in relative peace.

But anxiety among some is already mounting. "We don't see them as the warm and fuzzy creatures others do," said

WEB EXTRA

Read more Previous stories about the return of wolves: seattletimes.com

Twisp-area rancher Vic Stokes. "Wolves are a force to be reckoned with for us."

Biologists last summer confirmed that a wolf pack had settled southwest of Twisp, but they aren't sure how many now reside in or around the Methow Valley.

Two adults and a pup have been seen in recent weeks, but tracks
See > WOLVES, A4

"We don't see them as the warm and fuzzy creatures others do. Wolves are a force to be reckoned with for us."

VIC STOKES
Twisp-area rancher

Washington's wolves

Washington's first wolf pack in 70 years has taken up residence in the Methow Valley southwest of Twisp, Okanogan County, near Lookout Mountain.



Source: ESRI, TeleAtlas, USGS
A. RAYMOND/THE SEATTLE TIMES

UW program gets pricier; one student's cost up tenfold

NURSE-PRACTITIONER PROGRAM | Tuition increase prompts protests as the school looks for ways to save \$73 million.

BY NICK PERRY
Seattle Times higher education reporter

Because she works 20 hours a week at Harborview Medical Center, graduate nursing student Gillian Ehrlich had been paying just \$2,600 a year in tuition at the University of Washington.

Her tuition next year? \$26,532.

Ehrlich is one of three dozen or so students in the doctoral family-nurse-practitioner program facing a 43 percent tuition

increase after budget cuts led the UW to switch how it bills the program. Because of that change, Ehrlich also loses a UW employee subsidy — the UW runs Harborview — resulting in the tenfold cost increase.

Ehrlich and other students, who staged protests Friday, feel betrayed by what they say amounts to a bait-and-switch by the UW.

"It's a cost I had not planned for or anticipated. If I'd known about it, I probably would have gone somewhere else or not gone at all," said another student, Meredith Kriebel, who is facing a similar cost increase.

"Now, I don't have the choice of going to another school or doing another program. I
See > NURSING, A4



Gillian Ehrlich, a student in the UW doctoral family-nurse-practitioner program, will see her tuition rise from \$2,600 a year to \$26,532.

ERIKA SCHULTZ / THE SEATTLE TIMES

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Broke rancher claims \$232M jackpot, takes \$88M lump sum > A2

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Jobless rate slows > A6



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GM is selling Saturn to former race driver Roger Penske > A6

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< Wolves

FROM A1

RANCHERS TRYING TO COEXIST

Officials blocked grazing near a wolf den

through snow last winter suggest up to five animals were traveling together. The adult female wolf is now likely denning with new pups.

Genetically, these new arrivals appear to have worked their way south from British Columbia, where wolves have been less likely to key in on livestock as prey, focusing instead on small black-tailed deer, even salmon, and other marine species. Rocky Mountain wolves tend to feed on much larger deer and elk — or sheep and cattle.

Yet the transition to living with these new predators has been rocky for some.

In February, after a bloody wolf pelt was found stuffed inside a FedEx box bound for Canada, state and federal wildlife agents began investigating Okanogan County rancher Bill White and his son. The son admitted kill-

ing the federally protected animal though the circumstances are in dispute, according to a search-warrant affidavit. No charges have been filed.

"There were a lot of people pretty upset by that incident, but reaction runs the gamut," said John Rohrer, a Forest Service biologist based in the Methow Valley. "Most people support having wolves here, but there's a pretty big minority who really fear the unknown."

For several weeks in May, news that a wolf may have killed a cow rattled the region's cattlemen — even though an environmental group, Defenders of Wildlife, has promised to reimburse ranchers for livestock proved to have been killed by wolves.

When experts examined the decomposing cow May 22, it had been so worked over by scavengers that there was little left but hide

and hip bones.

Even so, "there was nothing about the carcass to indicate that wolves had anything to do with it," said Doug Zimmer, a spokesman for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. "The unfortunate reality is that cows die all the time from a lot of things."

But by then ranchers were abuzz about another conflict. The Forest Service had informed Twisp rancher Gary Maxwell that he could not turn his cattle out on Liberty Creek, where he'd held a permit to graze on public land for a decade.

An Idaho-based environmental group, the Western Watersheds Project, said the federal agency had not properly evaluated the risk Maxwell's grazing operation posed to wolves denning nearby. The group said it feared wolves that made easy prey of cattle could, themselves, wind up dead.

"It's much better to prevent and avoid that situation," said the group's director, Jon Marvel, known for his sometimes-caustic interactions with ranchers.

Maxwell, who said he had an unpleasant telephone ex-

Wolves in the West: a timeline

1940s: Gray wolves mostly exterminated in state.

1974: Gray wolves protected nationally under the Endangered Species Act.

1975: Last confirmed sighting in Washington for decades; wolf shot after killing calves in Douglas County.

1995: Gray wolves released in Idaho, Yellowstone.

1999: Female adult, B-45, works way into Eastern Oregon.

2002: Wolf passes through Northeast Washington from Montana into Canada.

2006: More than 1,200 wolves living in Wyoming, Montana, Idaho.

2007: A wolf wandering into Northeastern Washington from Montana is photographed by remote camera.

2008: Biologists confirm a breeding pair has taken up residence near Twisp, Okanogan County.

2009: Gray wolves from the northern Rocky Mountains are removed from the Endangered Species List; wolves in Washington remain protected.

Source: Seattle Times research

change with Marvel, said he paid \$240 a day to find temporary last-minute grazing lands while the Forest Service quickly assessed his operation.

Last week, the agency appeared to have reached an arrangement: Maxwell could again let his cattle

roam, provided he made a few relatively simple changes — such as not disturbing wolf sites, quickly removing sick or injured cattle and shifting his grazing season by a few weeks.

By then his situation had become a flash point with other ranchers.

"It's got us all concerned," said Craig Vejraska, an Okanogan County commissioner who lives a 35-mile drive away. "Wolves have a big range and it's just a hop, skip and a jump until they're causing trouble in our valley."

The Forest Service acknowledges that wolves appear to be here to stay and that sooner or later other conflicts could surface. But many remain confident that the valley's ranchers and *Canis lupus* can live together.

"Ranchers have been part of this community for generations, and a lot of them have been really great stewards," said Jay Kehne, with the environmental group Conservation Northwest. "When a wolf moves in, of course there's more concern. But just because there's a wolf pack in an area doesn't mean you can't ranch."

Said Mitch Friedman, with the same organization, "There are probably 100 ways we can resolve these conflicts. It's just going to take some time and patience."

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< Nursing

FROM A1

UW CUTS SEND TUITION SOARING

Students hope to find financial aid

have to finish, I can't go anywhere else. I have to do it here."

The three-year nurse-practitioner program allows its graduates to prescribe medicine, order tests and, in many cases, become primary-care providers — in short, to perform many of the tasks traditionally associated with doctors. The program is the top-ranked of its type in the country, and it is praised for the way it fills a need in family medicine and rural health care.

Beginning in the summer, tuition will be paid through UW Educational Outreach rather than the UW School of Nursing. Although the academics and oversight will remain the same, the billing change amounts to a quasi-privatization of the program. The result is that students must pay a larger share of the program's cost and no longer can claim a UW employee subsidy.

One big upside for the nursing school is that it will be able to keep the tuition money rather than putting it into a larger UW pot.

Marla Salmon, dean of the nursing school, said she sympathizes with the students and wishes there had been another way to cut costs. She said the alternatives — to lay off staff or cut programs entirely — were even less desirable.

"If anything, the entire school has been the victim of a state funding bait-and-switch," Salmon said. "It has hit us very hard, and hit us in a way that has made it very, very difficult to get things lined up the way we wanted to."

State budget cuts due to the recession are forcing the UW to reduce spending by \$73 million over the next fiscal year.

Salmon said staff are working round the clock to try to secure scholarships and financial aid to reduce the burden on affected doctoral nursing students. She said the program costs the nursing school more than any other to offer. She also said the changes bring the doctoral degree in line with many other UW graduate programs already billed through Educational Outreach.

But Ehrlich says the school's actions have made the students feel expendable.

"I understand there's a budget crunch, and we don't deserve to get off scot-free," she said. "But it seems like they came up with a quick fix — to lop off a whole branch in order to save a bunch of time and money."

In the end, Ehrlich said, it will be underserved people who will suffer if students lose interest in the program.

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Fallen of D-Day are remembered

POIGNANT CEREMONY

World leaders to mark Allied invasion in 1944 at event today

BY ANGELA CHARLTON
The Associated Press

LA CAMBE, France — Americans and Germans who were bitter enemies during the D-Day invasion of France shared stories and moments of silence at a Normandy ceremony Friday, joining to honor those who died in the World War II beach landings.

They held their poignant, low-key ceremony at the German cemetery at La Cambe a day before an international commemoration nearby, led by President Obama, to mark 65 years since Allied forces landed on Normandy's shores.

Military bands played anthems of the United States, Germany, Britain and France, and visitors piled wreaths at the foot of a mound at the center of the cemetery. Some 22,000 Ger-

man soldiers are buried beneath clusters of rounded brown crosses in a grassy meadow not far from Omaha Beach.

Flags from nations that fought each other in World War II flew in the spring breeze.

Generations have passed, but remnants of the war continue to surface.

After the ceremony, most visitors headed out, but a few dozen stayed on in a corner of the cemetery, where a German pastor and a few soldiers buried the remains of a German soldier discovered last year.



Actor Tom Hanks will attend a veterans event.

"It's a great feeling ... to come here," said Austin Cox, of Crisfield, Md., a sergeant with the 29th Division of the U.S. 115th Infantry Regiment who landed on Omaha Beach at 9 a.m. on the epic day

that turned the tide of World War II.

"My comrades, though, are buried over at Omaha," said Cox, 90, recalling the high tide that carried him onto the expanse of beach.

The main American cem-

etry at Colleville-sur-Mer has the graves of 9,387 U.S. soldiers. Most U.S. war dead were repatriated.

Some 215,000 Allied soldiers, and roughly as many Germans, were killed or wounded during D-Day and the ensuing nearly three months it took to secure the Allied capture of Normandy.

Karl-Heinz Mayer, of Oldenburg, Germany, has comrades at La Cambe, where a low granite entrance leads into the cemetery containing the graves of the German soldiers, each marked with a small, flat stone. Unidentified bodies are marked simply, "ein Deutscher soldat," a German soldier.

At Friday's ceremony, Mayer recalled lying wounded on the fields of Normandy 65 years ago. A U.S. soldier roused him with his boot, Mayer said. He said he was eventually sent to the United States to be treated for his wounds.

"Today I am here for the last time, because I'm 83 and I'm not that well," he said. "We shake hands, we are all normal people. And I hope there will never be a war again because this slaughter was horrible."

D-Day facts

The Operation Overlord landing at Normandy was the largest sea invasion in the history of warfare. Some numbers:

The target: Six beaches, 50 miles of heavily fortified coastline.

The ships: 5,000 vessels of every type, from battleships to landing craft, the largest armada ever assembled.

The troops: 160,000 American, British, Canadian, Free French and more than 100,000 men went ashore on D-Day. By the end of June, 850,000 were ashore.

The air assault: 13,000 paratroopers jumped behind German lines, from 800 airplanes. More than 13,000 bombs were dropped in 11,000 air sorties on the first day.

The casualties: More than 9,000 dead or wounded on D-Day. Sources: www.army.mil/d-day, www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/dday

U.S. veteran Bill Ryan, of the 16th Infantry Regiment, also at Friday's ceremony, said some of his war experiences resembled that of his namesake in Steven Spielberg's film "Saving Private Ryan." Spielberg and actor Tom Hanks are expected to join some U.S. veterans on a special train from Paris to Normandy today.

As the quiet commemoration unfolded in Normandy, honors were bestowed on 45 American, Canadian and British veterans in an elaborate ceremony in Paris that Hanks attended.

"France is paying tribute to

those who re-established our liberty," said Defense Minister Hervé Morin at the Hôtel des Invalides, where Napoleon's tomb is housed. "France remembers who they were and what France owes them," he said.

The 45 were given the Legion of Honor award. Most of those present were Americans, many of whom had taken part in the storming of the beaches of Normandy.

Most struggled to their feet and saluted or placed hand on heart as a brass military band played the American, Canadian, British and French national anthems.

< Obama

FROM A1

PRESIDENT MARKING D-DAY ANNIVERSARY

He recalls relative's shock at Buchenwald

the D-Day event, which British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, Prince Charles and Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper also will attend.

In the largest invasion in the history of warfare, American, British, Canadian and Free French forces landed on four beaches on the French coast on June 6, 1944, to begin the liberation of Europe.

The Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial, on a cliff overlooking Omaha Beach and the English Channel, includes the graves of 9,387 U.S. soldiers who died in connection with the invasion, according to the American Battle Monuments Commission.

Merkel noted the symbolism of Obama's visit to Dresden, a city that was destroyed by Allied bombing and rebuilt after German reunification, and to Buchenwald, a forced-labor camp where Nazis held an estimated quarter-million people, about one in five of whom died there.

Obama's stops in Europe follow his speech Thursday in Cairo, Egypt, on improving U.S.-Muslim relations and seeking peace in the Middle East, and the trip to Buchenwald allowed him to expand on the theme.

In Cairo, he spoke of an imperative for Israelis to cease settlements in the West Bank and to treat Palestinians humanely. At the same time, he called on all critics, Muslim or otherwise, to recognize Israel's legitimacy and to accept as indisputable the his-



MARKUS SCHREIBER / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Obama and Buchenwald survivor Elie Wiesel pause Friday at the memorial site for the "Kleines Lager" (Little Camp) inside Buchenwald concentration camp.

tory of the Holocaust, a retort to Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in particular.

"To this day, there are those who insist that the Holocaust never happened," he repeated at Buchenwald, calling that stance "baseless and ignorant and hateful" and saying that "this place is the ultimate rebuke to such thoughts, a reminder of our duty to confront those who would tell lies about our history."

Obama added, "These sights have not lost their horror with the passage of time."

Some Jews bristled at Obama's sympathetic posture toward Palestinians in the Cairo speech. However, his gesture Friday as the first U.S. president to tour the Buchenwald camp and the imagery of his walking the grounds with Nobel Peace Prize laureate Elie Wiesel, who was imprisoned at Buchenwald as a teenager, could ease their resentment.

Wiesel on Friday painfully recalled lying in a triple-decker bunk at the camp one night as his father died of starvation and disease a few feet away.

"He called my name, and I was too afraid to move. All of us were," said Wiesel, now 80. "And when he died, I was there, but I was not there."

After laying white roses along with the president at two different memorials, Wiesel questioned how a world that has borne witness to such destruction can continue to perpetuate it.

"Had the world learned, there would have been no Cambodia and no Rwanda and no Darfur and no Bosnia," Wiesel said. "Enough going to cemeteries, enough

weeping for orphans. It's enough. There must come a moment — a moment of bringing people together."

Obama recalled how his great-uncle Charles Payne, a young soldier in the 89th Infantry Division, was among the first Americans to reach a concentration camp, and he helped liberate a Buchenwald subcamp called Ohrdruf.

Obama said his uncle came home in shock. "It's understandable that someone who witnessed what had taken place here would be in a state of shock," the president said.

His uncle will be at Normandy today, and Obama will speak to assembled World War II veterans there this afternoon, local time.

Eiffel Tower surprise

Michelle Obama and her daughters, Malia, 10, and Sasha, 7, paid a surprise visit to the Eiffel Tower on Friday night, delighting tourists. At their exit, Michelle Obama smiled broadly and waved to tourists, who squealed and greeted her back. It was not clear whether the Obamas went to the top of the Eiffel Tower. The Times of London, meanwhile, hinted at a minor tiff brewing in Paris: The Obamas apparently declined a dinner invitation from President Nicholas Sarkozy and his wife, former model Carla Bruni.

The Associated Press

At Buchenwald, where 56,000 died, the watchtower clock is permanently set at 3:15, the time the camp was liberated on April 11, 1945. A memorial plaque at the site is kept heated to the temperature of the human body.

Obama greeted survivors of the camp and the German volunteers who maintain it as a memorial site, saw the ovens of the crematorium and examined the foundation stones of the barracks where tens of thousands were held in what Obama described as "the most unimaginable conditions."

"More than half a century later, our grief and our outrage about what happened have not diminished," Obama said. "This place teaches us that we must be ever-vigilant about the spread of evil in our own times."

Material from The Washington Post is included in this report.

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