

2014 IN REVIEW

REVIEW: *Bike rally closes; Wallowas promoted*

Continued from Page A1

When the emergency call went out to other towns' fire departments, responders had to contend with treacherously icy roads, forcing them to reduce their speed. Arrival 10 minutes sooner wouldn't have made a difference on this blaze, however. The Grange Hall and adjoining structure owned by Norton Welding, where the fire started, were fully involved in flames and beyond saving.

Days later the Grange confirmed that the loss was uninsured. Norton Welding alone would rebuild within the coming months.

Winter brought a discouraging piece of news about the approaching summer visitor season: cancellation of the annual Bronze Bike rally in Joseph. Gary Bethscheider, a bar owner in Joseph, quickly stepped into the breach with an announcement of a new bike rally, the Wallowa County Thunder Run. His initial pro-

posal to hold the biker gathering on agricultural ground just south of Enterprise was headed for a brick wall with county land use officials, though, so he eventually changed the venue to the Wallowa County Fairgrounds.

Wolves, never far from the spotlight in Northeast Oregon, were noteworthy in March for the Imnaha pack's loss of its status as a "breeding pair," meaning the pack wasn't currently carrying the required two-pup minimum. It apparently won't matter for purposes of determining when Oregon wolf management can switch to Phase 2 of the state's plan; it seems there were more than enough breeding pairs remaining to justify the switch after new population counts are finalized, expected to occur early in 2015.

Spring was a primary election season, and the 2014 election was unusual for its intensity in a normally little-contested area: that for the GOP nod for state legislative office.



Photo by Chantal Anderson, courtesy TravelOregon.com

Alice Trundle sits on horseback in a photo to help promote "The Wallowas" as one of the "7 Wonders of Oregon" campaign by Oregon Travel Commission/Travel Oregon.

Oregon House candidate John Turner, a Pendleton-based educator who enjoyed the full backing of retiring area representative Bob Jenson as well as support from other influential Republicans, might have been a shoo-in in days gone by, but he was washed away in the grass-roots tidal wave that carried Tea Party-friendly Greg Barreto, a manufacturer from Cove, into office. Wal-

lowa County's Republicans favored Barreto by a wide margin.

Elsewhere on the Wallowa County ballot, incumbent county commissioner Paul Castilleja fended off a challenge from Mark Stauffer in what would be the final run for a Wallowa County office on a partisan basis. In November, the county's voters approved a switch to non-partisanship for

commissioners. The November ballot also saw rejection of two tax measures: a street repair bond in Joseph, and an Enterprise Cemetery District proposal to hike its levy approximately sixfold to pay for irrigation.

Throughout much of the year, Wallowa County officials and local forest users sparred intermittently with the U.S. Forest Service over the federal agency's proposed Blue Mountains Forest Plan revision. Critics feared the roughly 1,400 pages could further establish the framework for reducing motorized access. Wallowa County joined 10 other counties in formally opposing the proposal.

Here are several other news items from 2014 from a much larger number that are all worthy of mention:

- The Wallowas were promoted by Travel Oregon as one of "Seven Wonders of Oregon," a boost to local tourism.
- The Oregon Department

of Employment permanently closed the state employment office in Enterprise.

- A feasibility study for a contemplated project of developing a trail beside the rails of the Wallowa-Union Railroad line began in earnest with a survey of adjacent landowners and others, and a series of public workshop meetings was held in three towns along the line.

- An August fire inside the Enterprise Elks Lodge faced the Elks with some difficult choices about their organization's future. Although rebuilding the damaged interior was a given, an earlier goal of establishing a bowling alley in the basement appeared jeopardized.

- Former Imnaha pack member OR-7, the world's most famous wolf for his highly publicized far wanderings, somehow found a mate in his new Southwest Oregon haunts and the pair was soon confirmed to have already produced offspring.

WALLOWA COUNTY'S FRONT PAGE HEADLINES IN 2014

JANUARY

Jan. 1
Rail-with-trail hearings may begin in March
Stauffer to run for commission
Bus crash victims seek \$700 million
Responses on guns, water rates high-lighted 2013 news

Jan. 8
Schools gain tech ed cash
Larry Davy returns as health district CEO
Round-Up royalty for Kylie Willis
Food benefit cut has ripple effect
New Year's polar ritual

Jan. 15
Forest work countdown begins
Farewell to Jack (McClaran)
City faces expensive street repair
H1N1 fears deplete flu shots
Motorcycle rally canceled for 2014

Jan. 22
Motorcycle event needs county's OK
Crowd turns out for Lostine Tavern's open house, feed
Street repair meeting important for Joseph
Tippett halts council recall campaign
Republican challenger of Walden to speak

Jan. 29
Grant fuels health training
Joseph residents want (street) fixes
Group to talk forest restoration
Wolves traveling closer to residences
Chamber honors citizen leaders

FEBRUARY

Feb. 5
Wolves kill ewe
Crowd scopes forest plan
Local snowpack numbers highest in the state
Turner focuses on jobs, economy
Bike rally organizer looks for new site

Feb. 12
Inferno shocks town
Depredation counts as 'qualifying incident'
Council sets meeting on street repair
Barreto decries costly, intrusive regs

Feb. 19
Grange lacks fire coverage
Ski tour ends in tragedy
Good hay trumps transport cost
Photo contest winners
Weed program too liked
Wallowa school cheers vo-ag grant

Feb. 26
Wallowa grapples with flood response
ESA burden alarms locals
Senior Living shifts controls
Health clinic expands to Wallowa

MARCH

March 5
Pack loses 'breeding pair' status
Court drops suit against former editor
Storms bolster snow packs
Thunder Run looking to move to county fairgrounds
Dickenson scheduled for sentencing March 5

March 12
Dickenson receives 16-month sentence
The Wallowas promoted as one of '7 Wonders of Oregon'
Forest Service seeks input on revised plan
New community health worker role progresses
Snake River pack avoids lethal control

March 19
State investigates fatal fall
Castilleja files for second term
Joseph Hardware moves to new home
Elks seek bowling alley funding
Joseph Charter School to add classrooms, gym

March 20
Blue Forest Plan meeting set
Local aftermath of groceries' merger unknown

March 26
Locals to USFS: We distrust plan
Book sales combat human trafficking
Employment office closed
DA files no charges in fatal fall
Local distillery wins award for best whiskey

APRIL

April 2
College has big role in rail/trail study
Locals want say in ESA roll-out
Future bright for EHS shop program
Novel rail rider trips could begin in May
Circle 100 Club raises \$11,800 for incubator

April 9
Top employer hires new leader
Turner, Barreto agree on big issues
Joseph bans medical marijuana facilities
Water project's completion date passes
Studies expected to give biomass the edge
'We Love Our Kids' dinner this Friday

APRIL 16

Swart wins another round
Suspect from Idaho nabbed
Auction raises \$23K for (school) programs
Railrider enterprise clears insurance hurdle
Seniors' local champ to retire, volunteer

April 23
More moratoria on pot dispensaries
Rinehart reigns as 2014 CJD queen
Wallowa pleased by project progress
\$200,000 budgeted to fight weeds
Joseph shown visions of its future

April 30
Supervised work-crew program coming
Deputy DA slot filled
Forest projects approved
House candidates Barreto, Turner stake out positions
Dinner to benefit programs

MAY

May 7
Motorcycle rally wins city grant
Joseph dubbed culture district
Mule Days names second-generation grand marshal
BOC compromises on tax ordinance test for first time
PGG to get out of retail business

May 14
Voters need to mail ballots earlier
Jean Johnson to celebrate 100th
Old Town Cafe welcomes new owners
Enterprise High School strikes academic silver
Famous wolf OR-7 no longer lonely

May 21
Local employment office shuttered
Joseph council OKs 2 CUPs
Railriders roll out with service between Joseph and Enterprise
Vali's to celebrate 40th year at Wallowa Lake

May 28
Merchants oppose vendors on city lot
Wallowa Valley Festival of Arts marks 32nd year
Local employer council earns award
Memorial fund makes splash for therapy
Castilleja, Barreto win their races
Wallowa County's veterans honored

JUNE

June 4
Guentert takes helm at Community Connection
Dog-heavy lot rankles neighbors
'Taste of Joseph' to spotlight busy town
Asphalt ordered, plant ready for work
Hospital installs new CT scanner

June 11
County OKs moraine development
Drive starts for neutral board
'Remembering WWII' exhibit opens
Bank robbery reprised
Obamacare will bare its teeth next year

June 18
Neutral BOC question advances
Feds delay repair of Wallupa Road
Debbie Hadden retires from EHS 'home ec' classroom after 41 years
Norton Welding begins to rebuild after devastating fire
City raises sewer rate \$1

June 25
Home building surges in county
Parkinson's patients stress positive attitude
Firewood supplier looks to city land-owners
Pam Latta steps down as Joseph

School District's drama director
Chieftain hires sales consultant

JULY

July 2
Peggy Gentle will be parade's royalty
Loggers active on Hancock property
County poised for a jam-packed 4th Board limits locations for moraine builds

July 9
Bowby Bash toasts Enterprise's past
Wounded warrior honored in Fourth of July parade
Mayor answers critics of vendors' use of lot
City of Wallowa, Maxville part ways on empty USFS compound

July 16
Hurricane Creek #2 Fire grows
Trail-with-rails study clock starts
Upper Valley real estate sales up
Drum contest featured at 24th Tam-kaliks
Joseph street project to be on ballot

July 23
Hurricane Creek ablaze
Rancher named grand marshal
Investigators confirm wolf kill in Chesnimus area
69th annual 'rip-roaring' Chief Joseph Days begins

July 30
Fires held in check
Parents save toddler with dispatcher's help
Victims of fatal crash identified
Wallowa County Fair opens Saturday
City steps back from longstanding auditor contract

AUGUST

Aug. 6
Five Mile Fire grows near Imnaha
Court tosses fire lawsuit
Counties pan plan to manage Blue Mountains
Bronze, Blues & Brews comes of age

Aug. 13
Tide turns on Somers Fire
Blaze closes Elks Lodge
Enterprise tunes up for car show, street dance
County digs in against new USFS plan
'If' operative word in Land Trust agreement

Aug. 20
County to 'require' feds' cooperation
McClaran Ranch receives Grassman honor
Innovative IBR continues to grow
Thunder Run expected to draw hundreds of riders

Aug. 27
Work starts at Joseph school
Rail trail ideas probed
Juniper Jam-tastic
Enterprise woman dies in early morning crash

SEPTEMBER

Sept. 3
Castilleja, two mayors face challengers
Airport upgrades wing tip clearance
For the love of mules
Teacher retirements cause classrooms shuffle

Sept. 10
Poll: County tourism on the upswing
New fire breaks out near lake
150 people to improve their health for \$99
Chieftain hires new reporter

Sept. 17
Revitalization grant boosts Joseph

school, community
Trust winds up first land acquisition
Clinic applies to become community health center

Fire crews gain upper hand on West Fork blaze
Vehicle rolls quarter-mile in fatal wreck near Troy
Sept. 24
Unaffiliated DeBoie runs for commission
Repairs begin months after flood
Three earn inclusion as CJD royalty
Alpenfest adds polka lessons
Voters to decide if cemetery gets water

OCTOBER
Oct. 1
Joseph to vote on street-repair bond
Loop Road nears lengthy closure
Dam official says new repair options emerging
Chrisman brothers' prominence grows in low-income housing
Ec-dev's 'Community Capital' makes headway

Oct. 8
Meth comes roaring back, from Mexico
Mysterious ailment causes local actor to lose his voice
Oregon wolf numbers could trigger delisting
Tippett ends run for mayor
Falling snag kills Enterprise woodcutter
Sam Bowman

Oct. 15
Senior Living confronts cost hikes
Voters' forum planned Oct. 20
Feds not interested in Forest Service buildings
Tribe, irrigators celebrate success with restoring Chinook salmon

Oct. 22
Citizens vote on local tax measures
WMH in the black
Woodcutters not meeting demand
County's voters hear from candidates

Oct. 29
County takes far-flung garbage
Private NP psych practice to open
Deputy forest supervisor promoted to top post
Wallowa Memorial Hospital prepares

for Ebola
Barreto opponent warns voters: be wary

NOVEMBER
Nov. 5
Hancock-Boise Cascade future veiled
Quake ripples through county
Public learns options for bike/ped routes around lake
Firemen to stump for food banks
Veterans Day events planned

Nov. 12
Street bond fails; gov't regroup
Rappel crew's exit appears certain
Hwy 3 rollover kills motorist
Wallowa home fire ends in meth arrest
TMP-related comment deadline nears

Nov. 19
Forest starts clock for project comments
\$50K grant helps streets
Elks Lodge weighs tough choices
Doctor guides lifestyle changes to improve health
Judge dismisses couple's suit against sheriff, county

Nov. 26
Avalanche victim's memorial fund boosts information center
Council wants schedule change at public works
Longtime Red Cross volunteer retires
Low number here get food assistance
Stringing the downtown trees

DECEMBER
Dec. 3
Guilty fraud plea linked to copter crash
Wellness Center continues to grow
Giving program hangs on
Moraine buy may need congressional assist; Walden voices support

Dec. 10
County prepared for road funds' loss
Unity hastens forest project
2014 (Winterfest) lineup will include

karaoke
Public educates trail study group

Dec. 17
Santa visits Winterfest
Resident lives a life of music
New K-9 on hold
Creek project won't wait for fuel reduction funds
City waste manager resigns
Roberts signs up for road-use charge

Dec. 24
Circuit Court balks at sale of its desks
Hancock, Boise mum on expiring forest contract
Train operators want to extend runs to Wallowa
County's new work crew program: it's working
Season's best-decorated residence

Dec. 31
Worldwide trek lands doctor at Winding Waters Clinic
Seat belts credited with saving lives in 3 accidents
Officer joins police force
Photo contest begins Jan. 1

Wallowa Mountain Quilters' Guild

New members & visitors welcome - come join us!
We meet the second Thursday of every month.

Next meeting:

Thursday, Jan. 8
6:30 pm. Toma's Conference Room in Enterprise.

Thank You

Thanks to all of my friends and Riverquest family, I am home. Horses, dogs, chickens, goats all cared for by you in my absence. I feel so honored and humbled to be the recipient of this love.

Gail Murphey

Lostine Tavern

WALLOWA COUNTY

QUICK BUSINESS LUNCHES
NEW COCKTAILS
FRIDAY AND SATURDAY STEAKS
OPEN 11AM-10PM, WED-SUN
HIGHWAY 82, LOSTINE
541-569-2246
STAY CONNECTED ON FACEBOOK

Winding Waters Clinic

**OHSU Resident
Kristin Bendert, MD, MPH**

1/12/15 - 1/22/15 and 2/2/15 - 2/27/15

Hours:
Monday - Friday
7:00am to 7:00pm
Saturday
9:00am to 1:00pm

603 Medical Parkway
Enterprise, OR 97828

Winding Waters Clinic
P.C. Physicians & Surgeons
Improving the Health of Our Community

Wallowa County HEALTH LINE

MD TIVATIONS LLC
Fitness Center
Keyless Entry
Free Weights • Women's Center
Tanning
202 W. Main Street • Enterprise
541-426-0313

Wallowa Valley Eye Care
519 W. North Street, Enterprise
541.426.3413
Mon-Thurs 9 to Noon/1-5pm; Fri. 9-1

Wallowa County Health Department
758 NW 1st Street, Enterprise, OR
(541) 426-4848

We offer services to all ages and income levels including: WIC, family planning, immunizations, flu shots, restaurant and hotel licensing, community tobacco prevention and education, chronic disease prevention. We provide equal opportunity programs.