

## Horses BLM responsibility

# 3,000 home on the range

Three thousand wild horses are at home on the public rangelands of southeastern Oregon. They and the lands they roam are the responsibility of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), reports William G. Leavell, BLM state director.

"Environmental conditions are in better balance than they have been for several decades," Leavell asserted. "This benefits not only wild horses, wildlife, and livestock, but the basic resources of soil, water, and vegetation as well."

"However, to maintain that balance, excess horses must be removed, and more than 200 are available for adoption right now," he said.

Wild horse herd management plans in BLM's Vale, Burns, and Lakeview districts are developed in conjunction with livestock grazing allotment management plans and wildlife habitat management plans, which are within the framework of comprehensive plans for managing all the resources on 11.5 million acres of BLM lands in those three districts.

A decade ago, Congress declared wild horses to be "living symbols of the historic and pioneer spirit of the West," and regulations require that their habitat will be managed to achieve and maintain a "thriving ecological balance" with a "thriving population of sound, healthy" wild horses.

To prevent overpopulation, the 1971 wild horse law also provided for the removal of excess horses.

"This gave BLM resource managers the means to manage the proper number of wild horses using an area, as was already the case with livestock," Leavell explained.

In 1975 the Bureau of Land Management initiated a program to encourage the "adoption" of excess wild horses to pre-

vent overgrazing. Wild horse herds can increase by more the 20 percent annually, according to Leavell, and excess numbers must be removed to keep them from destroying the range.

"More than 6,000 of Oregon's wild horses have been adopted, a number exceeding the total population in 1975, but 3,000 wild horses still roam the range," Leavell said.

District Managers have tentatively concluded that between 2,000 and 3,600 wild horses can be maintained in balance with other resources in southeastern Oregon under normal climatic conditions.

Enough wild horses should be removed to prevent herd management areas from becoming overpopulated. Since October 1, 1981, BLM wranglers rounded up 732 wild horses to prevent overpopulation and site deterioration.

Costs vary for capturing wild horses, trucking them to corrals, employing veterinarians to examine and treat them, freeze-marking with identification codes, and feeding them prior to adoption or other disposal.

A national average cost has been determined to be about \$325 per horse. A national adoption fee of \$200, plus transportation costs, was implemented on Jan. 2 to partially offset the costs of wild horse management.

Two contract centers are operated in the Northwest, one in Spanaway, Washington (near Tacoma), and one near Eugene.

Transportation charges to those centers are \$30 and \$20, respectively. Consequently, horses can be adopted by qualified applicants for \$230 at Spanaway and \$220 at Eugene.

Also, horses are available for adoption from BLM's wild horse distribution center near Burns for

the basic adoption fee of \$200. When available, horses can also be adopted at BLM's office in Vale, Oregon.

## Vote

Continued from Page 2

parties leave name and address so that they could be notified of the work session.

According to both Baker and Leslie, the work session was held and a vote was taken, but neither one had received notification.

"I felt there was going to be a hearing after the work session before it would go to the planning commission for a final vote," said Baker. "However, I discovered too late that there was no such hearing and a vote had been taken."

Leslie said that none of the citizen planning organizations in the county

had been given notification either of the amendment change to the ordinance or the change in the original amendment. She said that she felt such actions on the part of the county raises some serious legal issues.

"Certainly no notice was given and the amendment should go back to the hearings level so we can see it through in a proper manner with the proper notification," said Baker.

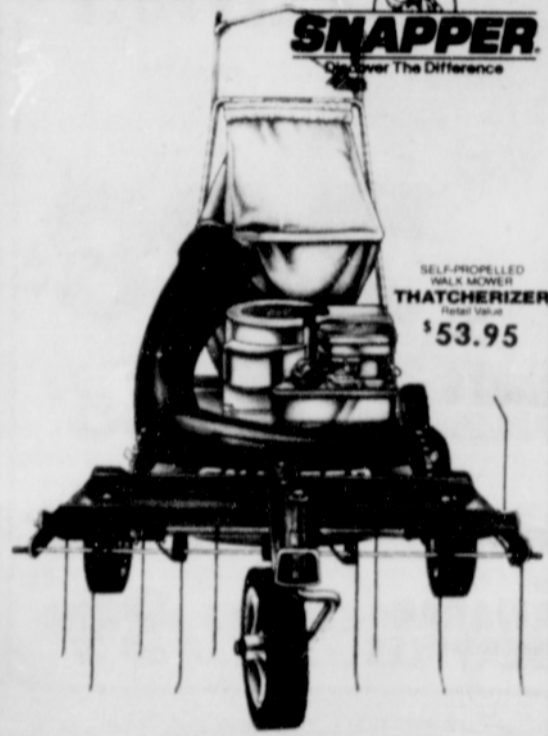
"I think it is obvious what their motives are," said Leslie. "They just don't want citizen input on this amendment. They just want to ram it through."

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## Peace to All this Easter in Church

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Meing and Scans Sits in Sandy, Or  
Church Phone 668-4543  
Minister 668-6100  
John H. Van Lierop, Pastor  
21330 S.E. Firwood Rd.

#### Maundy Thursday

7:30 p.m.  
Sermon title "The Seven Words and the Names of Christ." Communion will be served.

#### Easter Sunday

7:9 a.m. Pancake breakfast served by the high school youth group

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Easter Worship. Combined choir will be participating. Sermon Title "An Angel on a Stone Pulpit."



This Easter, let us renew our faith in Him, and in His message of peace and love.



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### St. Michael's Catholic Church

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#### St. John's in Welches

Holy Thursday Mass 6 p.m.; Good Friday Stations of the Cross 2 p.m.; Holy Saturday Vigil 6 p.m.; Easter Sunday Mass 8 a.m.

### Immanuel Lutheran Congregation

Thursday 7:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday worship with the Lord's Supper.

Friday 7:30 p.m. Good Friday, Tenebrae Worship (Service of Darkness)

Sunday:  
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