



Photo contributed by Katherine Stickroth

Pilot Lucas Stangel will display his grandfather's Bird at the 2019 Wallowa County Fly-In.

## Fly-in slated this weekend in Wallowa County

By **SABRINA THOMPSON**  
EO Media Group

JOSEPH — The tarmac at the Joseph State Airport will be unusually busy July 12-13 for the 2019 Wallowa County Fly-In. What started as an unofficial gathering of pilots is now a weekend that raises money for the Joseph Charter School's aviation programs.

This year there will be a special display and demonstration of Wallowa County's Bud Stengel's restored 1931 Bird CK model bi-plane that has been restored since its purchase in the 1970s. Bud's grandson, Lucas Stengel, will provide flight demonstrations at the event. Lucas began flying because it was in his family, taking after his father, Dick Stengel, and his grandfather Bud Stengel.

"You can go wherever you want," Stengel said when asked about his interest in flying. "You can get to places you can't necessarily get to with other methods of transportation in a shorter amount of time. You get to see stuff from a different perspective."

The event is hosted by

### MORE INFORMATION

The 2019 Wallowa County Fly-In kicks off Friday at the airport. The gates open at 5 p.m. and a banquet open to the public is served at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$25 online at [www.neoafoundation.org/events/wallowa-county-fly-in](http://www.neoafoundation.org/events/wallowa-county-fly-in), and at the gate if not sold out. The meal of tri-tip, bacon-wrapped shrimp or chicken is sponsored by the Enterprise and Joseph Lions Club, and the evening also includes live music, short take off and landing demonstrations and a silent auction.

On Saturday, the gates open at 7 a.m. Admission is \$5, and children age 10 and younger are free. A \$10 pancake breakfast is served from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. The day's activities include additional STOL demonstrations and unmovable displays of planes for people to see up close, the conclusion of the silent auction from Friday night and educational activities that if completed will qualify children 18 and younger for a free airplane flight Sunday. The event concludes at 2 p.m.

North East Oregon Aviation Federation, a nonprofit that was established to support aeronautical and aviation sciences at the high school level in Northeast Oregon.

"Aviation education and the aviation industry is being depleted by retiring employees, so they are looking for younger pilots to get involved," Wallowa County Fly-In's public relations director, Katherine Stickroth, said.

A program at the Joseph Charter School, led by Toby

Koehn, has become the primary source of aviation education in Wallowa County. The funding for this program comes from grants and funds raised from the fly-in. Money also goes toward funding scholarships for graduating seniors who are looking for a career in aviation.

"It is just always fun to get together with people interested in aviation and get to know what they're flying and what they do," Lucas Stengel said.

### BRIEFLY

#### Two resident wolves confirmed near Long Creek

LONG CREEK — A new area of wolf activity has been designated for the Northside group of wolves in Grant County.

Two wolves were confirmed to be using the area in the Northside Wildlife Management Unit near Long Creek in June, according to Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Monitoring is ongoing to learn more about these wolves.

ODFW designates these areas when it has evidence of resident wolves, not just dispersing wolves.

Livestock producers in the area are encouraged to be aware of this wolf activity and take certain preventative measures. Though not required, nonlethal measures are important to reduce depredation. If depredation becomes chronic and lethal control becomes necessary, ODFW's ability to lethally remove depredating wolves will be dependent on the extent that nonlethal measures have been used and documented.

Wolves are on the federal Endangered Species List west of highways 395, 78 and 95 with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as the lead management agency. While the newly designated area includes areas west of this boundary, so far all of the documented locations for these wolves are east of Highway 395 in state-managed areas.

#### Umatilla County among the six under disaster declaration

PENDLETON — Umatilla County is among the six Oregon counties to qualify for federal disaster aid in recovering from the April flooding. Federal officials also determined Curry, Douglas, Grant, Linn and Wheeler counties qualified as major disasters.

The Office of the Governor reported local,

state and federal agencies documented more than \$8 million in damages from the severe storms, flooding, landslides and mudslides April 6-21. A contingent of Oregon's federal lawmakers reported the public damage in Wheeler County alone comes to more than \$700 per person.

According to the governor's office, the disaster declaration makes federal funding available to the state and eligible local and tribal governments and certain private nonprofit organizations on a cost-sharing basis for emergency work and the repair or replacement of facilities that sustained damage during the storms and floods.

#### Last original Oregon Air National Guardsman dies

PORTLAND — The last remaining original member of the Oregon Air National Guard has passed away.

Fred Parish, who would have celebrated his 99th birthday in September, died Sunday in La Grande.

Parish enlisted into the newly formed 123rd Observation Squadron in April 1941, along with 117 other Oregonians, to form Oregon's first military aviation unit. The 123rd Observation Squadron later became the 123rd Fighter Squadron, which now operates Portland's F-15 Eagle fighter jets.

"The Oregon Air National Guard has been an integral part of the nation's air defense since 1941, and Fred was at the cutting edge of that success," said Brig. Gen. Donna Prigmore, commander, Oregon Air National Guard. "He was a brave and motivated man who helped pave the way for our future, and for that, we will always be grateful."

During World War II, Parish served in Oregon and Washington before deploying to the China-Burma-India (CBI) Theater as a medic. He was in the military until 1945 when he separated at the rank of technical sergeant after the war had ended.

## IMESD receives grant for Outdoor School improvements

### Grant from Gray Family Foundation to help with improvements

East Oregonian

PENDLETON — The InterMountain Education Service District will make improvements valued at \$30,000 at its Outdoor School location, Buck Creek, this summer.

The agency received a \$20,000 grant from the Gray Family Foundation. The IMESD will contribute \$10,000 worth of labor to accomplish several projects.

The biggest project is abatement of asbestos-containing materials in the cookhouse, including flooring and countertops. The cookhouse will also be painted, and new appliances will be installed. Other summer improvement projects are construction of new campfire benches and picnic tables, a new water heater in the shower house, grounds/brush cleanup and new signage.

"Everybody loves the historic Outdoor School buildings, but there comes a time when deferred maintenance really needs to be



IMESD Photo, File

Students from the Milton-Freewater Unified School District explore river habitat at Outdoor School in May 2019.

addressed," said Larry Glaze, IMESD's director of operations and facilities.

"Accomplishing these projects will really update and improve the facility."

School districts throughout the region have been taking part in Outdoor School at Buck Creek since the early 1970s. The IMESD has leased the 654-acre Outdoor School property from the U.S. Forest Service since 2001.

Pendleton's Kiwanis Club held the property

lease for the first few decades. The location can accommodate up to 120 students at a time and is used by several Eastern Oregon school districts. In spring 2019, almost 500 students participated in Outdoor School there.

The Gray Family Foundation is located in Portland and "is founded on the belief that fostering an understanding and appreciation of our natural world is a crucial part of Atchild's education."

## Council talks more ambitious housing anti-blight program

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**  
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Some skepticism over the Pendleton Development Commission's advisory committee blighted housing loan proposal will send the idea back to the drawing board.

At a commission workshop Tuesday, Charles Denight, the commission's associate director, explained the proposal.

A homeowner in the urban renewal district could be given a no-interest loan of up to \$16,000 to fix up the exterior of their blighted house.

To incentivize house maintenance after the repairs are finished, the city would forgive 20% of the loan each year the homeowner successfully passes an annual inspection, up to 100%.

The loan program would also be available to rental housing owners, but they could only get up to 50% of their loans forgiven.

Assuming the commission issued 30 loans, Denight estimated it would cost the urban renewal district \$353,850 to do the loan program over two years.

The committee's proposal comes in the wake of a downtown blight study that showed 25 residential properties in the downtown area demonstrated symptoms of blight like peeling paint or a lack of yard maintenance.

But some city council members, who comprise the membership of the commission, argued that the loan program wouldn't address the base issue of blighted homes: owners who were either unable or unwilling to fix their properties.

Mayor John Turner suggested the city take it a step further, buying blighted houses at low prices and then teaming up with one of the "half-dozen" or more

locals who make money flipping houses, and then putting the renewed house back on the market.

"This would be a perfect thing for us to buy, for probably peanuts," he said. "(We) go into cahoots with one of these guys that's a professional at fixing these things up. They make money. We get an attractive piece of property and we get our money back."

City Attorney Nancy Kerns suggested many blighted houses need much more than a coat of paint.

"I've been in a number of the houses that were on (the presentation's) slideshow, and lipstick on a pig doesn't even quite go far enough," she said. "They are not ever going to be fixable — I think some of them need to go."

Kerns said the commission already had a demolition grant program that contributes toward the cost of a demolition if a property owner is willing to replace it with something three times the value.

She said that can be a tough standard to meet, and the commission should consider relaxing its standards.

Houses in disrepair aren't just restricted to downtown Pendleton, and although the urban renewal

district extends past the area, it covers little south of the train tracks or north of the Umatilla River.

City Manager Robb Corbett said the city could tap into revenue generated by liens to possible expand an anti-blight housing program outside of the urban renewal district.

In the meantime, the council instructed Denight and the committee to consider its suggestions and come back with a revised proposal.

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