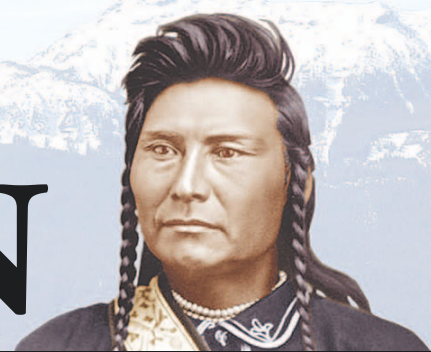




WHAT'S THE LINK BETWEEN THIS **JOHN WAYNE** PRINT AND **ENTERPRISE POLICE DOGS**?

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# WALLOWA COUNTY CHIEFTAIN



Enterprise, Oregon

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## NRAC chair gets tough on forest plan

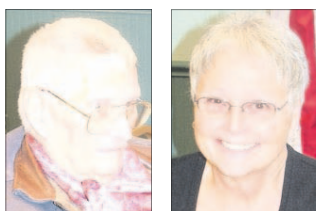
Dunn refuses to mince words when it comes to defending county assets

By Rocky Wilson  
Wallowa County Chieftain

A longtime opponent of U.S. Forest Service practices in Wallowa County is livid about the approximate-

ly 1,400-page document the Forest Service is pushing as the new forest plan for the Wallowa-Whitman, Malheur, and Umatilla National Forests.

And Bruce Dunn, the



Dunn

Roberts

only chairman the Wallowa County Natural Resource-

es Advisory Committee (NRAC) has had since its inception nearly 25 years ago, has made a New Year's resolution to abandon what he terms "political correctness" and now is speaking from the gut in defense of assets located within the county.

His words sound harsh,

and he doesn't care.

While apprising the Wallowa County Board of Commissioners about a significant "invitation only" meeting to be held Thursday, Jan. 8, in Pendleton regarding the Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision that's been 14 years in the making, Dunn said, "I'm

concerned about the agenda." In the body of that two-page, one-day agenda described as a "Blue Mountains Forest Supervisors and Partners Meeting," the words "engagement" and "engage" are repeated a total of 19 times.

See DUNN, Page A7

## Locals keep basket custom alive

By Rocky Wilson  
Wallowa County Chieftain

The retirement of the Harvey Elves, fire at the Enterprise Elks Lodge, and a late start might have slowed the 2014 Elks Christmas Basket program, but overshadowing the fact that a few less Christmas baskets of food and presents were delivered this Christmas season was the boundless support from the community to keep the valued tradition alive.

Donnie Rynearson, Elks Lodge treasurer, said sizable donations came from a multitude of sources. The Elks did not have to pull from cash reserves to cover any expenses, he added, and the future of what some think could be a 60-year-old program no longer is in jeopardy.

"The large donations were overwhelming" and "we'll definitely do it next year" were among statements made this week by the treasurer who not long earlier had guaranteed a Christmas Basket program in 2014, but did not know if the program would last another year.

In addition to receiving a \$2,000 gift from Wallowa County's video lottery fund, three locals handed over checks of \$1,000, and other gifts in the \$500 and \$250 range.

See BASKETS, Page A7



Rich Rautenstrauch/Chieftain

Although winter dramatically slows overnight stays at the Flying Arrow Resort, located at Wallowa Lake, owner Ron Woodin, pictured here, says nine of the 37 cabins he either owns or manages remain open year-around.

## THE BUSINESS OF WINTER

Sales drop during season for most, but some thrive

By Rocky Wilson  
Wallowa County Chieftain

It's an indisputable fact that business lags in Wallowa County during the winter months, yet that seasonal slowdown is not all-inclusive.

At Enterprise Flower

Shop, the only local exclusively floral outlet, the winter months bring higher-than-average sales, and a Mexican restaurant in Enterprise reports no fluctuations in business, January through December.

Darlene Johnson, owner of the floral business, points out that both

Valentine's Day and Christmas, her biggest and third-biggest sales times of the year (Mother's Day in the spring being No. 2), arrive in the winter months and her highest annual sales come during that cold season.

See WINTER, Page A7



Rocky Wilson/Chieftain

When Kathy and Dave Nelson opened Pit Stop BBQ in Wallowa during Memorial Day weekend 2014 their plan was to keep the drive-thru business open year around. A lack of business forced them to post this sign in early December.

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### 2014 IN REVIEW

## Year brought changes, challenges

Fires, elections, wolves just some of the county's top concerns

By Rob Ruth  
Wallowa County Chieftain

More sparring with the Forest Service, a turning-point election for state legislature, and a small town's massive fire downtown are only three among numerous events that stand out in a quick review of the news stories reported in Wallowa County during 2014.

The year here got off to an auspicious start as the New Year's morning Polar Plunge at Wallowa Lake drew a record turnout for the annual event. An estimated 60 peo-



Chieftain file photo

Flames leap high into the sky Saturday, Feb. 8, in downtown Lostine.

ple actually took the deep-chilled dip while dozens of others looked on. Thankfully, although the Jan. 1 air tem-

perature was relatively mild, winter wasn't short-changing the local area as evidenced by near-normal numbers for the



Chieftain file photo

Bronze sculptor Dick Cross, who unveiled his life-sized statue of a motorcycle and rider during the 2014 Thunder Run.

local snowpack in 2014, a story in itself as nearly the rest of the Northwest suffered badly for lack of snow.

Winter conditions could have been an issue on Feb.

8, the day a fire in Lostine's South Fork Grange Hall building got completely out of control.

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