

MULES: Parade a first for grand marshals

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They'd heard there were good local people involved in the Mule Days celebration, including Max Walker and Bob Casey, and they decided to be part of the organization. Since then the couple has

done pretty much anything and everything for the organization — including compete in events at Mule Days. They've won numerous awards for their parade presentations, in competitions, and Dennis was the last person to win the Journeyman Ferrier competition at Mule Days; he

had about 15 seconds to look at a hoof and then built a shoe to fit. The Brennans know a good relationship when they experience it and that's why they wouldn't think of selling their mules, Ben and Moses. "Don't ask," said Dennis, "they're not for sale." Those two mules and

their Quarterhorse cross buddy get a lot of exercise, packing and riding and competing. Peggy rides for five different ranchers in the area, fixing fence, hauling salt, at calving and roundup and rotates between the equines. Dennis doesn't have a lot of time to ride because he is always

under someone's horse or mule working on their feet, but he'll be riding as Grand Marshal. Both were humbled by their election as Grand Marshals. "It's a big honor to follow in the footsteps of the Grand Marshals we have had," said Dennis. "I just think it's real special

to be asked and to try and fill the shoes of the past Marshals who were such good animal handlers," agreed Peggy. Hells Canyon Mule Days will be celebrating Mules and Mule Skinners on the weekend after Labor Day, Sept. 11-13 in Enterprise.

FUGITIVE: Community on alert for suspect

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From there he could communicate with backup and use the SAT phone supplied by Wallowa EMS to communicate with his on-site supervisor, Deputy Fred Steen, who is a former Wallowa County Sheriff. Steen had approached the crime scene via a different route and set up his team on the Upper Imnaha River Road

near the junction of the Wallowa Mountain Loop Road and about 4 miles from Imnaha River Woods. Law enforcement closed Upper Imnaha River Road from Freezeout Bridge to the Wallowa Mountain Loop Road and sandwiched the crime scene between two groups of officers. "That was the hardest command I've ever done," Rogers

said. "When your guys are 50 miles away in the dark with that kind of danger (my position) is not a comfortable spot. Any time your team is in danger, and you sent them there, it's not a good spot." The team remained in contact with Shirley Scott, who was reluctant to leave her home. As Rogers waited for the armored vehicle to arrive and provide suitable cover

for an extraction, the incident "blew back up," according to Rogers. At approximately midnight, the suspect returned with a firearm, threatening to shoot Scott and law enforcement officers. At that point Deputy Steen ordered officers under his command to converge on the home and rescue the victim and her son. Up on Sheep Creek Hill, Rogers supported the decision and in-

formed officers who could not hear Steen's radio to move in concert with the rescue mission. "In that kind of a situation you have no choice. You have to protect the victims," Rogers said. When officers arrived at Scott's home they found the suspect had again taken to the

woods. Scott and her son were removed to safety, the SWAT armored vehicle was canceled and the SWAT team returned to Bend. Shirley Scott chose to return to her home Tuesday morning, despite the fact that Foust was still at large. A warrant for Foust's arrest is being drawn up.

REVIEW: Process started in Enterprise

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"We have the personnel and the brick and mortar, we just need an orderly disciplined police department."

Although several options are being discussed, including hiring an interim chief, promoting from within, or looking at a contract with the sheriff's office, the council was not leaning toward eliminating their police force, according to Lear.

"It's not like we have a disaster on our hands — because we don't," said Lear. "We just want to make an informed decision."

The OACP assessment is designed to provide city council with the information necessary to make that decision.

Although OACP generally charges a nominal fee for the review, they waived that fee for the city and the chiefs will be submitting only a bill for their expenses, according to City Administrator Michele Young.

The Enterprise City Police review is not the sort of review the Agency Review Team generally does.

"Typically the OACP has an agency review program where agencies make the request while the standing chief is in place and provide feedback to the standing chief. In rare instances do we end up with a situation like Enterprise where lay persons are trying to figure out, what do we do now?" said Roberts.

One of the challenges the review board faced was making sure everyone on the team understood the unique culture

of Wallowa County, where vast distances, bad weather or roads, and other obstacles can leave law enforcement in tight spots if backup is required. Some cities also have troubled histories with their law enforcement agency.

"Understanding the culture is critical," said Chief Wyn Lohner of Baker City. "We've had conversations up to the Senate level to explain to lawmakers that a rural law enforcement, especially Eastern Oregon law enforcement, has different concerns than those on the west side."

And that is why Roberts took rural Oregon culture into consideration up front, he said. "I needed (my team) to have chiefs with the experience and perspective with law enforcement in a rural Oregon community."

Lining up the right chiefs is why the scheduling of the review took a little longer than

anticipated, Roberts said. In the end, he was able to get what he considered "the right team." Chiefs Wyn Lohner of Baker City and Brian Harvey of La Grande have faced many of the same issues in policing rural cities that Enterprise police face.

Now that the books have been examined, members of the community interviewed, and issues discussed, the chiefs will create a "white paper" outlining their findings and recommendations.

"I think from our talks with the city, they have ownership in their police department. So, our focus was seeing what needs to be done to make Enterprise PD sustainable. I think this (current situation) is just a bump in the road," Roberts said. "(Our recommendations) really depend on what we can find and what we can do to help the agency over the hump. The road map

we generate will serve as a document the city can refer to to design the PD they want and need."

Even after the community meeting, OACP involvement will not end, Roberts said.

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Board Chairman Dan Cornett will give a financial update and Greg Sturtevant will provide a course maintenance/equipment status report.

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