



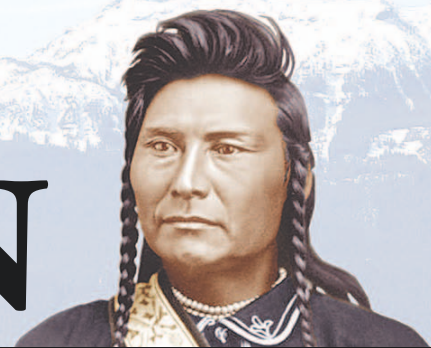
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WALLOWA COUNTY CHIEFTAIN



Grazing permittees to FS: Plan needs work

By Kathleen Ellyn
Wallowa County Chieftain

The truth is on the ground. That was a phrase that was repeated several times during the Monday night gathering of grazing permittees and Forest Service officials last week.

The statement referred to the disconnect ranchers saw between what was really happening in the forests on grazing allotments and the findings and tone of the Proposed Revised Land Management Plan for the Blue Mountains National Forests.

The message apparently got through with Forestry officials promising to address a



Kathleen Ellyn/Chieftain
A cow and calf on the Scott McClaran grazing allotment.

number of issues raised in the discussion and to change the anti-grazing bias in the language of the plan to better reflect the role of well-managed

grazing plans.

Oregon House Dist. 58 Rep. Greg Barreto, county commissioners Susan Roberts and Mike Hayward, members

of the county's National Resource Advisory Committee (NRAC), forest and rangeland rangers and officials, and more than two dozen permittees attended the meeting. The discussion was open, frank and well-ordered.

The July 20 meeting was called to give permittees the chance to respond to the nearly eight pounds of documents that constitute the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Proposed Revised Land



Montoya

Management Plan for the Blue Mountains National Forests. The county commissioners and their NRAC advisors had already submitted a county plan and numerous letters during the comment period on the plan.

Many permittees read that compendium closely, and resented the tone of the tome and the sheer volume of what they say is bad science and bad data.

"(As permittees) you're overwhelmed with data," said third-generation rancher Mack Birkmaier. "If it wasn't for our good county court and National Resource Advisory Committee who will, thank

God, pursue these (issues) with intelligence and science and defend us, we'd be in a lot of trouble."

At issue for the permittees is what they say is the document's unscientific generalization of grazing as "bad," the apparent reliance on studies that are decades out of date, and a focus on all the wrong issues.

Addressing the double issue of tone and bad science, rancher and NRAC member Cynthia Warnock blasted the documents. "It was like you were looking at data from 20 years ago," Warnock said.

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City moves forward on hiring chief

By Kathleen Ellyn
Wallowa County Chieftain

The City of Enterprise is moving forward to hire a new Chief of Police.

That was the decision made at the special meeting Tuesday night in a vote of four to two.

Councilor Jenni Word was out of town, but was able to participate in the discussion over the phone before the connection was lost. She was not able to re-establish connection in time to vote.

The councilors who opposed the move, Dave Elliott and Bill Coffin, wanted more time to investigate alternative contracts to make sure they were spending tax money on the best deal.

"I'm not in favor of moving forward without getting everything on the table," Elliott said.

"I think we're putting the cart before the horse," said Coffin. "We haven't even begun to negotiate with the county on what they can do for us."

Other councilors, however, had done some private investigation of how the process worked in other small towns and felt sure there would be no savings.

"It is my understanding that we will not remotely get the service we want (from the county)," said Councilor Laura Miller.

Word, participating by phone, said that she had personally talked to Wallowa County Sheriff Steve Rogers and "he is not excited about taking on the contract."

Mayor Steve Lear advised that the county would simply look at the money available and make a bid in line with that. "Whatever our budget is, is what it will cost," Lear said.

Furthermore, said Councilor Stacey Karvoski, by moving to the county as a police force, the city would lose control of their police force and be unable to fire or otherwise discipline leadership.

Councilors in favor of moving forward at once also argued that the two officers left on patrol deserved good leadership immediately.

"Our two officers have done a commendable job without adequate support," Word said.

Lear called a city police force "a foundation" of a good city, "like a good school system," he said.

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'RABBITS, RIBBONS & ROSES'



Courtesy photo

Members of the 2015 Wallowa County 4-H Court — from left, Georgia Falk, Deidre Schreiber, and Teagan Miller — will be at the Wallowa County Fair each day of the fair, from beginning to end.

Events start this Saturday

By Rob Ruth
Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — What may be Wallowa County's oldest community tradition, the Wallowa County Fair, opens for its annual week-plus stretch of activities on Saturday, Aug. 1. This year's theme is "Rabbits, Ribbons & Roses."

Showcasing everything from 4-H kids' animal projects to the best of the

home arts from people of all ages, the fair is a fun and rewarding way to experience the products of rural folks' labors.

All activities take place at the Wallowa County Fairgrounds. The first competition on the fair calendar is Saturday's 4-H Dog Show, which starts at 9 a.m. The fair wraps up eight days later, with the 4-H/FFA Livestock Sale beginning at 6 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 8.

Sandwiched between the Dog Show

and Livestock Sale are numerous other highlights, including:

- 4-H Horse Show, starting Sunday at 8 a.m. Grand champion showman class is at 6 p.m. The Horse Show continues Monday and Tuesday at those same times.
- 4-H/FFA Livestock entries weigh-in Wednesday from 2 to 6 p.m.

See FAIR, Page A5

NYT columnist looks at present, past Joseph

Residents have mixed feelings about article

By Chieftain Staff

As Wallowa County was preparing to enjoy the annual Tamkaliks Celebration and the 70th annual Chief Joseph Days that would follow a week later, a New York Times column by Seattle-based writer Timothy Egan was capturing widespread attention.

The column, published in the Times July 17 and republished July 20 by the East Oregonian (read it online at

tinyurl.com/q3yf3uj), extols Joseph, Oregon, for being decidedly unlike a large number of U.S. small towns, which are "unhappy." Joseph, Egan writes, represents "a laboratory of hope for small-town America."

He makes that observation, he says, after recently visiting Joseph and comparing the way it is now to how the town seemed to him when he visited 17 years ago.

See COLUMN, Page A7

True-crime writer Ann Rule dies

By the Associated Press and the Wallowa County Chieftain

SEATTLE (AP) — True-crime writer Ann Rule, who wrote more than 30 books, including a profile of her former co-worker, serial killer Ted Bundy, has died at age 83.

Rule died at Highline Medical Center at 10:30 p.m. Sunday, said Scott Thompson, a spokesman for CHI Franciscan Health. Rule's daughter, Leslie Rule, said on Facebook that her mother had many health issues, including congestive heart failure.

"My mom died peacefully last night," Leslie Rule wrote. "She got to see all of her children, grandchildren and great

grandchildren."

Ann Rule's first book, "The Stranger Beside Me," profiled Bundy, whom she got to know while sharing the late shift at a Seattle suicide hotline. She has said she had a contract to write about an unknown serial killer before her co-worker was charged with the crimes.

Rule, who went to work briefly at the Seattle Police Department when she was 21, began writing for magazines like "True Detective" in 1969. A biography on her author website says she has published more than 1,400 articles, mostly on criminal cases.

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Chieftain archives

Liza Jane McAlister of 6 Ranch, Enterprise.

