



**FAIR AWARDS ANNOUNCED.**  
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# WALLOWA COUNTY CHIEFTAIN



Enterprise, Oregon

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## Finding the best chief in the stack

Enterprise council wants help in picking the next police chief

By Kathleen Ellyn  
Wallowa County Chieftain

Enterprise is going to hire a new police chief. The question remains, however, who is going to recruit, examine and hire that person?

Members of the City Council have been open in ad-

mitting they feel unqualified to sift through the expected pool of applicants and make the proper determination.

"We seven people could throw a dart at a dartboard and pick a candidate," Mayor Steve Lear said. "And an applicant will never look better than on the day you interview

him or her. But how do you check their statements?"

The answer, according to Lear, is to assemble a committee made up of council members and representatives from other public safety agencies. That committee has not yet been formed.

But when it is, the com-

mittee can count on the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police Agency Review Program for assistance and advice, according to City Administrator Michele Young. That group conducted a review of the Enterprise Police Department. "They have been assisting us all along," Young said.

### Online

Read the review done by the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police at [www.wallowa.com](http://www.wallowa.com)

Pendleton Police Chief Stuart Roberts, who led the Agency Review team, confirmed that. "I am still being responsive to questions and concerns," he said. "I do not know my role moving for-

ward. I will continue to help when and where I can."

Furthermore, Young said, negotiations are ongoing to hire a qualified investigator who will do the background check.

## ACTION PACKED

### Stockgrowers Rodeo spurs excitement

By Kathleen Ellyn  
Wallowa County Chieftain

Attendance was down but both money and spirits were high at the Stockgrowers Ranch Rodeo Saturday in Enterprise.

A new competition and changes to the rules of an old competition livened the day. The new event was the kid's sheep mugging competition, in which a wild sheep was wrestled to a standstill by one member of the team and then mounted and ridden for five seconds by a second member of the team. Winners were Katie and Isaac Hoffman, ages 10 and 12 respectively, of Enterprise.

Talk about wild and woolly.

Organizers also mixed it up in the World Champion Rock Jack Building Contest, requiring a man-and-woman teams this year. Last year's champion, Tom Birkmaier of Chesnimnus put in a good showing with wife, Kelly, but it was the unlikely duo of Cynthia Warnock of Imnaha and Mark Ramsden of Wallowa that took the prize. Warnock and Ramsden threw their lot together when their respective mates backed out of the event and built a rock jack in less than 15 minutes. The team took home a special trophy designed by Cassie Tippett and split a check for \$500 donated by Thompson Auto Supply of Enterprise.

Tom Birkmaier announced that next year the rock jack teams could be a partnership between an over-50 competitor and a younger guy. Whatever organizers decide, it's going to be a real horse-race.

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Luke Morgan enjoys his job as the brander, as team member Wyatt Warnock keeps the rope taut in the team branding competition.



Marissa Williams/Blue Mountain Eagle  
A view from the Miller Mountain area in Grant County early Friday afternoon, Aug. 14.

## Residents anxiously eye fires

### New fires result in Wallowa County air-quality alert

By Steve Tool  
Wallowa County Chieftain

Wallowa County residents may be gasping from the smoke drifting into the valley, but what is really taking their breath away is the fire danger threatening the homes and lives of friends and relatives in nearby communities.

More than 1,000 firefighters are engaged in a desperate battle against fires consuming more than 150,000 acres in Northeastern Oregon, endangering several towns and resulting in evacuation orders for some residents in Baker and Grant counties.

The U.S. Forest Service estimates 300-500 firefighters are fighting the lightning-caused Canyon Creek Complex fire in Grant County, which has burned more than 40,000 acres, causing Level 2 and 3 evacuations in both Dayville and John Day with the fire ranging to within less than a mile of both locations.

Chieftain publisher Marissa Williams and her family were evacuated from their home in the south end of Canyon City near John Day.

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## Fly-in lands enthusiastic crowd

By Katherine Stickroth  
For the Chieftain

JOSEPH — With over 1,000 people attending and 550 breakfasts served, the Aug. 8 Wallowa County Pancake Breakfast and Fly-in was considered a huge success by members of the Wallowa County Pilots Association and Chief Joseph Flyers.

More than 80 pilots from around the Pacific Northwest parked their aircraft on the grass strip adjacent to the Joseph Airport runway, while historic aircraft dating back to 1928 were displayed on the tarmac. As early breakfast diners enjoyed their meals with friends, an



Madi Williamson, 10, gives a "thumbs-up" after her first airplane ride. The pilot is Karin Rodland.

air show buzzed overhead. Barney Locke performed aerobatics in his RV8, known

as "The Green Lightning." Four aircraft approached the viewing area and performed



Courtesy photo/Janie Tippett  
Richard Thies smiles after a thrilling flight in at AT6 "Texan."

the "Missing Man" formation, where one plane peels off from the formation. This memorial honored recently deceased Nicole Winn, the wife of Joseph Airport Manager Wup Winn. Other planes thrilled the crowds with low-altitude flights over the runway.

**This is more than fun!**

Madi Williamson

A popular attraction was Jim Stockwell offering free flights to WWII and Korean War veterans. Enterprise resident Richard Thies, a 91-year-old veteran of WWII Army infantryman in Europe, enjoyed the adventure of his ride. He exited the AT6 "Texan" with a big smile.

"I told Jim to do whatever he wanted to, and he did. We did rollovers and loops. I was upside down and all around. Lots of fun," Thies said.

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