

# Wallowa FD wins \$100,000 grant

By Kathleen Ellyn  
Wallowa County Chieftain

Firefighters in Wallowa will not only be safer this year, their breathing gear will be interchangeable with other departments in the county. This is a great benefit if fire-

fighters are called to multiple-agency fire events.

The complete upgrade of turnout gear (coats, helmets, pants, boots and gloves and breathing apparatus) is thanks to a FEMA Assistance to Firefighters grant of \$104,610.

The new gear is required by the National Fire Protection Association.

"They're requiring us to change the turnouts every 10 years and tanks every 15," said Wallowa Fire Chief Gary Hulse. "It's been 15 to 20 years since those tanks

were exchanged."

Additionally, said Hulse, there was a need for all departments in the county to have the same equipment so that it was interchangeable. "Upgrading that breathing equipment will take about \$75,000 of the grant," Hulse

said. "There's no way in heck we could have done this without the grant."

Hulse's department is run on a yearly budget of \$24,000. The chief got permission from city council to hire a grant writer and go for the big grant. "I'd never writ-

ten a grant," he said. "I feel very lucky we've gotten the money."

The grant money has already arrived and a call for bids is going out soon.

"We expect to be purchasing by the end of the year," Hulse said.



Kathleen Ellyn/Chieftain

Chief Wecks demonstrates the Joseph Fire Department's new tool. Three hand prints on the countertop are clearly visible on the thermal imaging camera.

## Joseph FD gets lifesaving tool

Thermal imaging camera can be used for 'multiple things,' chief says

By Kathleen Ellyn  
Wallowa County Chieftain

Joseph Fire Department has received a new tool designed to help save lives: a thermal imaging camera. The hand-held device will record heat signatures, even many minutes after the source of the heat has passed.

When Fire Chief Jeffery Wecks demonstrated the device Thursday night he made a series of hand prints on a counter and then looked at the area with the camera. Even many minutes later, the hand prints were still clearly visible on the camera.

The benefit of that, Wecks explained, is that rescuers at a car crash can use the device to see heat signatures on the seats of a car and determine if one or more of the occupants have been ejected from the car.

"We use it for multiple things," Wecks said. "We recently used it on the Ski Run Road fire to find hot spots in the timber."

Another use is to see where the hot spots are in a burning structure or locate a heat source in a very smoky house.

"It's way easier to find people in a smoky house as well," Wecks said, "because you can see the heat signature

in the shape of a person."

The device was purchased thanks to a \$5,000 grant from Wildhorse Foundation, matched by \$2,500 from the fire department.

"This is the first thermal camera in the county," said

Wecks. "We'll share it if other departments need it."

## Officials: Elk, not wolf, likely caused horse death

By Steve Tool  
Wallowa County Chieftain

Wallowa County and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife authorities were called out to a ranch on the upper Imnaha River to investigate a possible depredation on a horse. The incident occurred Sept. 18.

ODFW wildlife biologist Mike Hansen said his investigation indicated wolves were not responsible for the killing. He cited a number of reasons for his conclusion.

Hansen said his investigation showed the horse suffered a single puncture wound to the left groin, which he theorized had nicked a femoral artery, causing the horse to bleed to death. The biologist said the other horse in the pasture was unharmed. No predator tracks of any kind were found near the body or in the pasture. A subsequent search into the surrounding area didn't

turn up any predator sign.

Hansen also reported that other than an eye puncture, probably caused by a bird, the horse suffered no other injuries except a couple of scrape marks near the puncture site.

"I think it was probably an elk. We found numerous elk tracks in the area, and the puncture is consistent with an elk horn wound. This is unusual, but not unheard of," Hansen said.

Hansen related how in the past, a Rogue Valley rancher watched as a spike bull elk killed one of his heifers during feeding time, goring the heifer through the lungs and liver. ODFW Rogue Watershed biologist Mark Vargas confirmed the incident.

### Many Thanks to our community!

The family of Hal Long wishes to thank our Wallowa County friends for the cards, calls, care, concern, prayers, visits and helping hands during his illness and passing. We invite you to celebrate Hal's spirit at a gathering **Sunday October 4, 3 - 6 pm** at the **Joseph Center, 403 N Main St in Joseph.** Please join us for appetizers and dessert, shared stories, and photos. **If you cannot attend, email stories to lakesidelynn@eoni.com.**

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**BIRTH**

A daughter, Elba Peytyn Bender-Baird, was born August 31, 2015, in Beaverton to Scott and Ashlie Bender-Baird of Beaverton. Grandparents are Jeff & Paula Bender-Baird of Lake Oswego, and Jesus & Edis Mejia of Thousand Oaks, Calif.

A daughter, Bryer Ruth Ross, was born September 11, 2015, in Enterprise to Cody and Josey Ross of Enterprise. Grandparents are Amy & Dan Courtney, George & Morningstar Kohlhepp, and Theresa & Dennis Ross.

A daughter, Isabel Grace Naughton, was born September 13, 2015, in Enterprise to Heath and Jennifer Naughton of Enterprise. Grandparents are Tammy & Rodney Odegaard, and Yvonne & Bill Naughton.

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