



# WALLOWA COUNTY CHIEFTAIN



Enterprise, Oregon

Issue No. 26

www.wallowa.com

October 14, 2015 \$1

# UP IN SMOKE

Enterprise field house catches fire, destroys football equipment



Firefighters from Enterprise and Joseph Fire Departments work in concert to contain the fire.

Kathleen Ellyn/Chieftain

## Nike donates replacement gear for team

By Kathleen Ellyn  
Wallowa County Chieftain

The day before homecoming, Thursday, Oct. 8, the Enterprise High School (EHS) football field house was destroyed by fire, taking all of the football equipment and uniforms with it.

By noon local businessman Greg Bales, a parent of one of the football players, had called a friend who knew a friend and new uniforms were on the way.

"Bill Hall, a landowner in Joseph used to work for Nike," Bales said. "I called him and he called Nike and Nike has stepped up. They say they can have new uniforms to us by (Friday)."

By Friday Football Booster Club President and Wrestling Coach Troy Farwell reported uniform and shoe sizes were sent to Nike and jerseys and shoes had been shipped. The school also ordered new pads and helmets. Some items had already come in by Friday afternoon.

"The team is hoping to get all the gear by next Wednesday, Oct. 14, so that a contact practice can take place before the home game against Burns Oct. 16," Farwell said.

A gofundme account was also set up to replace the field house.

"Any donations to that, or directly to the Enterprise Educational Foundation

See FIRE, Page A8



Kathleen Ellyn/Chieftain

Principal Blake Carlsen and EHS Superintendent Brad Royse watch grimly as their football season goes up in smoke.

## Musician changing present by mining past

Local country musician Budwig releasing LP

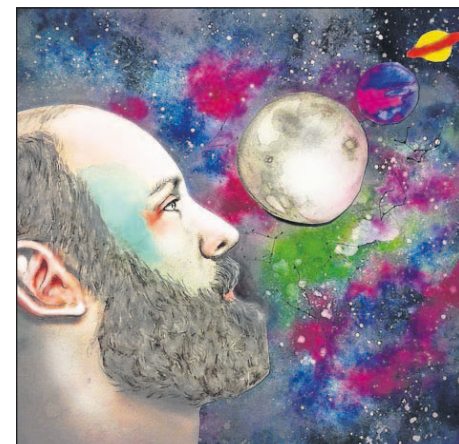
By Steve Tool  
Wallowa County Chieftain

Anyone who's serious about their country music has to be shaking their heads watching today's country music videos. Guys populate the screen who look more comfortable in designer shirts and jeans than in Levi's and cowboy boots. Other guys wear shorts and drink girly cocktails as they warble away about Caribbean beaches and look like they spend more time in the gym than indulging in the wild side of life.

Where are the Merle Haggards, the George Jones, the Waylons and Willies? Where can you find real country?

Bart Budwig is a musician changing the present by mining the past. His new album, "The Moon and other Things" is getting its initial release on an LP or vinyl, just one of Budwig's nods to yesterday. Budwig sings real country about real people and doesn't apologize for it.

See BUDWIG, Page A9



Courtesy photo/Bart Budwig

"The Moon and other Things," coming soon to a turntable near you.

## EPD prepares for new Chief

By Kathleen Ellyn  
Wallowa County Chieftain

Enterprise Police Officer George Kohlhepp has been doing vigorous house cleaning in preparation for his new Chief.

That man, James Episcopo, has accepted the city's conditional offer for the Police Chief position and is expected to be back in the county in November to spend time with Kohlhepp, complete the medical and psych evaluations and be fitted for his bullet-proof vest.

Episcopo, a police lieutenant and 27-year law enforcement veteran from Brookfield, Ill., visited the county and, along with two other finalists, met with the public the first of this month. The interview committee met shortly afterward and was unanimous in selecting Episcopo as the best fit for the city.

See CHIEF, Page A9

# Oregon lawmakers to meet in Joseph

Sen. Hansell organized another trip to observe potential issues for 2016 bills

By Hillary Borrud  
Capital Bureau

A group of state lawmakers from the Willamette Valley will fly out to Eastern Oregon later this month with a stop in Joseph and Hermiston. The plan is to showcase natural resources and other issues of local importance.

Some of those issues could be the subject of legislation in 2016 and beyond.

Sen. Bill Hansell, R-Athena, said the idea for the trip arose when Sen. Edwards, D-Eugene, was in town for the Pendleton Round-Up.

"Chris Edwards came out for the

roundup, and we had just a great time together at the roundup," Hansell said. "As part of our conversation, I said, 'We've love to invite you out here.'"

Sen. Betsy Johnson, D-Scappoose, told Hansell she wanted to participate and would provide her airplane to transport lawmakers. Edwards, Sen. Ginny Burdick, D-Portland; Sen. Lee Beyer, D-Springfield; and possibly state Sen. Mark Hass, D-Beaverton, will travel to northeastern Oregon Oct. 26 through 27. Rep. Greg Barreto, R-Cove, will also join the group.

Brett Brownscombe, a natural resources adviser to Gov. Kate Brown, will

attend, as will representatives from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Forestry and Department of Agriculture, according to Preston Mann, a spokesman for the Oregon House Republican Caucus.

It's not the first time Hansell facilitated a visit by lawmakers from west of the Cascades. In 2014, Hansell invited state Sen. Michael Dembrow, D-Portland, to visit the area in 2014 to learn about the economic importance of agriculture.

The lawmakers might spend the first day in the Hermiston area, learning about the transfer of family farms from one generation to another and a project to store water from the Columbia River to use for irrigation.

On the second day of the trip, lawmakers will fly to Joseph and meet with people in the area about forest, wildfire

and wolf issues, Hansell said.

Hansell is exploring legislation to address three wolf-related issues in 2016: a possible removal of wolves in northeastern Oregon from the state endangered species list, the renewal of a tax credit for people who lost livestock to wolves and a bill to allow people to kill wolves that threaten people. Although the federal government has delisted Oregon wolves in the area, they are still protected under Oregon's endangered species law.

"If they sue over particular wording in the wolf plan, we may be able to do a wording fix to shore that up," Hansell said. "If there's no suit, then there's no need for legislation."

As for the livestock loss income tax credit, Hansell said it was "lost in the shuffle" at the end of the legislative session, and lawmakers allowed it to expire.

