

Enterprise police chief interviews scheduled

By Kathleen Ellyn
Wallowa County Chieftain

The search for a new police chief for the city of Enterprise has narrowed to five applicants.

The city's Police Committee reported Monday at the City Council's regular meeting that the chiefs of police that made up the original Oregon Association Chiefs of Police Agency Review Team returned the applications they

consider best. The chiefs — Stuart Rogers of Pendleton, Brian Harvey of La Grande and Wyn Lohner of Baker — have been assisting in the process.

City Administrator Michele Young has set the date of Feb. 25 for the citizen committee to review the top applicants and hand off their comments to an interview committee. The citizens committee is made up of representatives from the council, the medical community,

law enforcement, community charity organizations and business representatives.

Interviews have been set for March 7.

The city has been without a permanent police chief since former Chief Wes Kilgore resigned last March. Officer George Kohlhepp has assumed many more responsibilities in the interim. The city has also hired former Oregon State Trooper Jed Stone as a full-time officer.

Schools back on track with Wellness Survey

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Letters went out on Feb. 1 letting parents of Enterprise School District students know that 6th-, 8th- and 11th-grade students would be completing the Oregon Student Wellness Survey on Feb. 11.

Wallowa and Joseph school districts are also expecting to complete the surveys this spring, though no date has been set for those districts.

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA), in collaboration with the Oregon Department of Education, sponsors the survey.

OHA introduced the Wellness Survey and Healthy Teen Survey in 2005 and more than 96 percent of all schools have taken part in the surveys in the intervening years. Districts and schools from every county except Josephine, Wallowa and Wheeler counties participated in the 2015 survey.

Statewide, the survey is conducted from Feb. 1 to April 8.

The survey asks students about academic commitment; school environment; positive youth development; behavioral risks such as fighting, depression, substance abuse and gambling; and health practices

or issues. Responses are given anonymously.

OHA gathers the information to help schools develop support programs and track changes over time.

The Oregon Healthy Teen survey will be conducted spring of 2017.

There is an opt-out provision for parents who do not wish their students to take either survey. Copies of the test can be picked up at the school.

"I think over time we will be able to gather data for gaps in service and for ways we can celebrate the great things we do as well," said Board Chair Keli Christman.

Man dies in Imnaha Hwy crash

Wallowa County Chieftain

An elderly Imnaha couple was airlifted away from a one-vehicle crash scene Monday night along the Imnaha Highway. The vehicle occupants were Kenneth Allen, 80, and Carolyn Allen, 76, both of Imnaha.

After a collision with a rock wall near milepost 21, the couple's 1999 Toyota Camry careened into Sheep Creek. Both occupants were transported by Life Flight Network to Providence Saint Mary's Medical Center in to Walla Walla. Once he arrived at the medical center, Kenneth

Allen was pronounced dead of injuries sustained in the crash.

Representatives from Oregon State Police, Joseph Fire Department, Wallowa County Sheriff's Office and at least one ambulance responded to the scene.

Weeks said the cause of the crash is yet to be determined.

WHERE THERE'S SMOKE ...



Ellen Morris Bishop/For The Chieftain

Enterprise firemen Gary Gassett and Trenton Neil tackle a flue fire on Tacoma Street in Enterprise on Friday afternoon. The owner, Betsy Ryneerson, decided to let the fire burn itself out. The Enterprise Fire Department responds to six to 10 flue fires each year, said Chief Paul Karvoski.

Crash sends power line to the highway in Wallowa

Wallowa County Chieftain

A driver slammed a small truck into a power pole along Highway 82 a few blocks from Wallowa High School on Friday night. The collision sent a power line to the ground around 8 p.m.

County staff, including deputies, responded and diverted traffic.

James Robert Matthews, 41, of Wallowa was arrested for driving under the influence of intoxicants and was transported to the Union County jail.

Matthews was traveling south on the highway and didn't make the curve to the east that leads to the main strip in Wallowa. The crash occurred about half a block

north of Goebel's Service Station.

Traffic was temporarily diverted around the scene via N. Douglas and 2nd Streets.

The collision occurred during a high school boys basketball game between Joseph and Wallowa.

The Sheriff's Office said Matthews was not injured in the crash.

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