

BAN

Continued from Page A1

Ballard said that 90 percent of the citizens he talked to are in favor of the ban, while Sands said 99 percent of the people he queried favored a ban. He acknowledged the option of putting the issue on the ballot, but said time constraints did not allow for that option this year.

Clark struggled with the issue because of his beliefs in private property rights, although he said he also understands concerns about the practice. He acknowledged that because of changing economic dynamics, many rural towns struggle to bring in revenue for their citizens.

“I think this (allowing vacation rentals) has potential for that, but not without adequate regulation and oversight,” Clark said. “I think a well-regulated proposal would work and not adversely affect the citizens.”

Sturm said her major concern was the city’s ability to enforce a ban or regulate the rentals if they became legal. She also mentioned Kathy Siebe, one of the two public attendees and a short-term rental owner.

“We have one lady (Siebe) who was told from our office that ... she could go ahead and remodel a home and she’s doing a rental. Are we going to tell her that now she can’t do that, or are we going to have to bypass her because she got the wrong information and let her go ahead? There’s a lot of things to look at before we vote.”

Evans said the city should allow regulated rentals because of the time and effort involved in not only identifying illegal rentals and enforcing penalties.

“Creative people will find creative ways to get around it all if we have an ordinance that says ‘Don’t do it,’” Evans said.

Sajonia said her vote against the ban was intended

to protect the city from legal action by present rental owners.

Newell said she previously lived in the resort town of Sun River, Ore., where short-term rentals proved a major headache for law enforcement.

The two camps divided along the line of interpretations of property rights: The right of a property owner to do what they want with their property, and the rights of the property owner who settles in a residentially-zoned area with the expectation their home will not be located near a business.

Ballard eventually motioned to ban all short-term rentals within the city’s residential zones while letting the rental owners fulfill their current contractual obligations with tenants.

Siebe asked Ballard if the motion meant a complete ban.

“Yes, all of them,” Ballard replied.

“Do you guys know how incredibly mad I would be?” Siebe countered.

Joseph resident Tom Clevenger, the only other member of the public who attended, replied: “About as mad as I’d be if you allowed them.”

After Newell seconded the motion, Sands took a roll call vote that saw him, Newell, Sturm and Ballard voting for the ban and Evans, Sajonia and Clark voting against.

Immediately afterward, Sturm said she didn’t realize she had voted to ban Siebe’s

property and wanted another motion and vote. At that point, Sands asked City Attorney Wyatt Baum his opinion, and the attorney advised appointing a committee to examine the Siebe issue as well as suggest a protocol for contacting other short-term rental owners and enforcing the city’s ban. The committee idea satisfied Sturm’s apprehension regarding Siebe’s situation.

Sands appointed Clark, Sajonia and Evans to the committee with a directive to report their recommendations to the council at its March 3 meeting.

Siebe was optimistic that the committee would legitimize her rental.

“It’s pretty devastating when you do everything you know to do and get the rug pulled out from under you,” she said. “I think in this day, vacation rentals are here to stay. I’ll be very disappointed if I’m not grandfathered in.”

Clevenger said he was happy the council voted to prohibit vacation rentals in residential districts. He said he already lives next door to one of the rentals and another was set to start soon.

“I’ve got a vested interest in this. ... I don’t think there’s a place for them in a residential area. If you want to do it in a commercial district, that’s fine, but not next to homes. Even Disneyland gives their workers a place to get away from the tourists.”

TRAIL

Continued from Page A1

Right now, Evaldson said, manpower is what’s most needed.

“We (JBTC) need to expand our membership so we have the people necessary to complete the planning work.” He said that work will involve meeting with adjacent landowners and collection public opinion in developing specific plans for the trail.

“A lot of time goes into dealing with constituents,” he said. “It’s always best to have that communication form the foundation of the project.”

The Concept Plan estimates a \$20 million price tag for the full 63-mile trail. Evaldson said the pilot project estimate is about \$2 million and that JBTC already has developed a fundraising plan.

On Feb. 10, one day after the WURA vote, the Oregon Community Foundation announced the Cycle Oregon Fund has awarded the Joseph Branch Trail Consortium \$7,500 to support the Rail with Trail project development.

JBTC President Penny Arntsen said in a press release: “The Cycle Oregon funds will be used to work closely with the Wallowa Union Railroad Authority (WURA) to develop a trail management plan



Ellen Bishop/For The Chieftain
A young white tail deer makes tracks along the proposed trail south of Steens Road.

and agreements necessary for trail development. The effort of the two organizations will focus on protecting the interests of the railroad, adjacent landowners, the Eagle Cap Excursion Train operators, the Joseph Branch Railriders owners, and the cities of Joseph and Enterprise while raising funds to develop a pilot project trail segment.”

Evaldson said he expects at least a full year of fundraising and design development before actual construction of the pilot segment begins — hopefully by spring 2017, he said.

“It’s a tricky question. It depends on funding availabil-

ity.”

Throughout the process the WURA board set forward three basic tenets: the rails would remain in place, no funding would be provided by WURA, and a decision about whether or not to proceed would be made by WURA at the end of the concept planning process, which wrapped up in December.

The full 63-mile trail, if completed, would connect two state parks — Wallowa Lake State Park and Minam State Recreation Area — and would follow the Joseph Branch rail bed beside the Grande Ronde and Wallowa rivers.

New local flavor ebook:
Rocky Wilson: Why Am I Here?
(an autobiography)

Name Rocky Wilson
Nationality AMERICAN


Player's Signature B. Rocky Wilson

SEASON	CLUB	Signature of M.B.A. Secretary
1980/81	HAWAIIAN LIBERTY	<u>Y</u>
The Why "Lippy" Malta		
The Dark Years "Religion" vs. God		
Covenant Players		
Near-Death Experiences		
Women		
Multiple Sclerosis		
In Summary		

Go to www.RockyWilsonwhyhere.com
Free ebook reader download at www.adobe.com

His 5th book!

Time for a Computer Tuneup?

J's PLICE

Spyware Removal • 541-426-0108
110 W. Main Enterprise

Wallowa BUSINESS

Now Supporting Free and Confidential Business Counseling & Services of
Wallowa County Small Business Development Center

Marc Stauffer, Small Business Advisor

To begin your free and confidential business consultation call Marc at 541-398-2393

Wallowa Business is the new name of Wallowa County Business Facilitation



JB BANE & COMPANY

ELECTRICAL & WATER SYSTEM CONTRACTOR
CCB#187543 EC# 32-14C

**ELECTRICAL & PLUMBING SUPPLIES • PUMPS
IRRIGATION • HARDWARE • APPLIANCE PARTS**

**208 S. RIVER ST. • ENTERPRISE, OR
www.jbbane.com 541-426-3344**

Blue Mountain COMPUTER

114 S River St, Enterprise, OR • 541-426-2020

verizon

**Blue Mountain Computer is your
verizon Authorized Wireless Dealer!**

For a limited time Verizon will buy out your existing contract on another carrier
Until March 10 Verizon customers may add TMP (Total Mobile Protection)
to their accounts which covers theft, loss, or damage to your phone.



hum
by verizon



pinpoint roadside assistance vehicle diagnostics incident alert & emergency assistance