

RAPTORS AT THE JOSEPHY CENTER



Steve Tool/The Chieftain

Sage the Great Horned Owl was among the birds from the Blue Mountain Wildlife rehabilitation center in Pendleton that visited the Josephy Center on April 19 for several presentations to adults and students. The Josephy Center's art theme this month is Wings: Flight in Fine Art. View a gallery of photos from the event at wallowa.com.

Suit over Oregon wolf delisting ruled 'moot'

Environmentalists' challenge nullified by lawmakers

By Mateusz Perkowski
Capital Bureau

SALEM — An environmentalist legal challenge against Oregon's decision to remove wolves from the state's endangered species list has been dismissed due to legislation passed earlier this year. Wolves were delisted by state

wildlife regulators last year, but three environmental groups — Cascadia Wildlands, Center for Biological Diversity and Oregon Wild — asked the Oregon Court of Appeals to reverse that decision, claiming it wasn't based on sound science.

Earlier this year, lawmakers passed House Bill 4040, which held that the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife had followed the law in delisting wolves.

Opponents of the bill claimed it would deny the environmentalists their day in court. Supporters, on

the other hand, argued the lawsuit was filed to pressure wildlife regulators while Oregon's wolf recovery plan is updated.

Gov. Kate Brown signed the bill despite environmentalists' calls for a veto in March, stating in a signing letter that the "trajectory of wolf populations in Oregon remains strong."

The legislation was expected to nullify the legal challenge, which proved correct — on April 22, the Oregon Court of Appeals held that HB 4040 rendered the environmentalist petition moot.

Proposed Wallowa Lake bike path hits setback

New route likely to delay project for another year

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

A proposed \$1.6 million bike path from College Street in Joseph to the county park at the foot of Wallowa Lake will be delayed for a year after Native American tribes with cultural resources in the area expressed concerns. The National Park Service and Oregon State Parks, which hold jurisdiction over the Old Chief Joseph grave site and

Iwetemlaykin State Heritage Site, respectively, also expressed reservations about the path route.

Construction of the 0.75-mile path was slated to begin this spring, with completion expected in August or September.

Ken Patterson, Region 5 project manager for Oregon Department of Transportation, broke the news to the Joseph City Council during its April 7 meeting.

The tribes involved include the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla as well as the Joseph band Nez Perce, located at the reservation in Colville, Wash. ODOT already had put to-

gether a preliminary design, but as they started working with the tribes that had an interest in the area, the state realized the plan needed changes.

"We had to step back and change a few things to reduce impact to the area," Patterson said.

Patterson said one benefit of the delay is that it gives ODOT more time to put the project together. The project is fully funded and the state already has purchased property and easements that helped seal the deal for the future completion of the path.

Coordinating the project with the tribes and govern-

ment entities to minimize the impact on cultural resources was a positive experience, Patterson said.

"We've met with (National Park Service) a couple of times, and we've got a revised project design they're more in favor of," Patterson said. He noted some positive changes to the original plans that would have less visual affect on the area than before. For example, a proposed retaining wall across the Oregon Route 351 from the grave site was scrapped, meaning the state no longer plans to dig out the hillside.

Part of the project also called for a cut into the Iwe-

temlaykin property, but as that idea was shot down two separate retaining walls on the other side of the highway are now in the plans and it is still within the state's right-of-way.

"We put walls in to reduce impact and removed walls to reduce impact," Patterson said.

Although the tribes and Park Service have yet to sign off on the project, Patterson is optimistic about the bike path's future.

"I wouldn't say things are resolved, but we've addressed their concerns and gotten back to them. We've done the ground work, it's now a matter of getting the agreements

signed."

ODOT plans another public meeting in Joseph shortly before the project begins in the spring of 2017. The contract for the project will go up for bid in November to give the contractor time to plan for the project.

Joseph Mayor Dennis Sands said the delay wasn't surprising given the amount of entities involved.

"My initial reaction was disappointment," Sands said. "It takes time when you have to get a sign-off from everyone. The money is already there for the project, and I'm pretty hopeful that the project will proceed next summer."

CJD seeks matching fund donations for new arbor roof

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

Showing that Chief Joseph Days is more than a rodeo, the CJD directors are trying to raise matching funds for a generous donor grant for the installation of a roofed arbor at the Indian Encampment next to the rodeo grounds. During the annual event, the encampment is home to several tribes, including the Nez Perce, members of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla and some from as far away as Yakima, Wash.

In conjunction with the rodeo, the encampment includes teepees, vendors, dancing and an all-inclusive Friendship Feast featuring Native American dishes. The arbor, which covered the feast and dancing areas, formerly was covered with a blue tarp, but new plans call for a structure with a cedar shake roof to give it a more traditional appearance as well as a permanent cover.

The board is doing the project through private grants and donations. The rodeo board recently received an offer from a donor to match dollar-to-dollar up to \$10,000 in donations, which the project sorely needs.

"We can use that \$10,000 and the matching funds for sure," CJD board member John

Hillock said.

Hillock said the project has been in the works for several years with the board buying up materials for the structure during that time.

"Ralph Swinehart and I have designed a building that looks like it has teepee poles on one end," Hillock said. "I drove up to northern Idaho the other day and bought some cedar shakes so it will have a nice roof. The blueprint is pretty impressive. It's going to be a gorgeous building."

Hillock has the project up for bid with local contractors.

"The biggest problem I'm having now is that everyone is

busy. I don't know if we can get it done before (this year's) Chief Joseph Days."

He added that two local contractors have expressed interest in the project.

"The whole community thinks it's a good idea to have something more permanent than a tarp. Plus, we're extending the hand of friendship to the Nez Perce as well.

Their part in Chief Joseph Days is important."

Wallowa Co. Humane Soc. is raffling a Mary Edwards framed print, "From The Air" Tickets \$1.00 ea. or 6 tickets for \$5.00 For information, 541-263-0336

wallowacountyhumaneociety.org



Eds Ed Staub & Sons 201 East Hwy 82 Enterprise, OR 97828 541.426.0320
Energy, Community, Service.

Eds Propane

One-stop shopping for MOTHERS DAY!

Big Selection of Electric & Gas

Ranges • Washers • Dryers
Refrigerators • Freezers

MEDICARE BIRTHDAY RULE

If you have a Medicare Supplement Plan you have 30 days after your birthday to compare & apply for a new Supplement Plan.

Call Kathleen or Katie TODAY to discuss your options for a lower Medigap premium.

541-426-4208
Locally owned & operated
616 W. North Street, Enterprise

BENNETT
INSURANCE AGENCY

Wallowa County **HEALTH LINE**

Wallowa Valley Eye Care
519 W. North Street, Enterprise 541.426.3413
Mon-Thurs 9 to Noon/1-5pm; Fri. 9-1

Marcys SKIN CARE
Specializing in Anti-Aging Skin Therapy
Customized Facials
Waxing Services, Brow Sculpting
Body Polish-Back Facials
High-Performance Products
541-398-0759 | Located @ beecrowbee 01 Main Joseph

MOTIVATIONS Fitness Center LLC
Keycode Entry
Weight Room • Cardio
Women's Circuit • Tanning
202 W. Main, Enterprise 541-426-0313

Wallowa County Health Department
758 NW 1st Street, Enterprise, OR (541) 426-4848
We offer services to all ages and income levels including: WIC, family planning, immunizations, flu shots, restaurant and hotel licensing, community tobacco prevention and education, chronic disease prevention. We provide equal opportunity programs.

BENNETT
INSURANCE AGENCY

Join us for our BBQ!

FRIDAY MAY 6 • 11:30-1:30
BURGERS, DOGS, FIXIN'S & CAKE!
WIN RAFFLE PRIZES!

Celebrating the partnership of Bennett Insurance Agency and Simmons Insurance Group, thanking our loyal customers, and welcoming prospective new clients!

616 W. North St. Enterprise • 541.426.4208

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

JOSEPHY CENTER for Arts and Culture

Visual Art Classes & Workshops
Wine & Painting with Jennifer
Saturdays, May 7 and June 18 • 4-6:30 • \$50

Workshop at Crow's Shadow
Monotype Printmaking • Sat., May 28 • \$100

The Art of Letting go with Rachel Brodkey
Abstract Painting • June 4-5 • \$150

Oil Painting the Figure with Sam Collett
June 11-12 • \$175

Photography Workshops with Ellen Bishop
Cell Phones Beyond Selfies • Friday, June 17
Intermediate with DSLR • Saturday, June 18
Three-day Workshop • July 22-24

For more details & registering online:
www.josephy.org/classes
541.432.0505