

Vacation rentals back on Joseph council agenda

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

The long running saga of the future of Joseph vacation rentals continues this week during the council’s Thursday, May 12 meeting. In February the council voted to ban vacation rentals pending a review of the recommendations of a subcommittee appointed by Mayor Dennis Sands to investigate the issue.

Vacation rentals became an issue after an Enterprise couple came into Joseph City Hall saying they had bought a Joseph home for the purpose of converting it into a vacation rental. According to Sands, a city investigation revealed that no ordinance on the books specifically bans vacation rentals.

City Attorney Wyatt Baum was asked to offer his opinion on the rental ordinances, and he indicated that one city ordinance implied that the rentals were illegal. “It was felt that people were beginning to think that it (vacation rentals) was allowed, and we needed to have a specific ordinance that stated it was illegal,” Sands said. “That started the council process.”

Although the rental practice is banned, the city is looking at allowing vacation rentals in two instances in which vacation rental owners thought they may have had permission to proceed because they were never told “absolutely not” by the city, Sands said. Those rental owners were part of the focus of the council’s subcommittee recommendations.

Two zoning ordinances and discussion of improper placement of recreational vehicles in a commercial zone also are on the agenda.

The meeting takes place at 7 p.m. Thursday at the Joseph Community Center.

Wallowa Resources 20 years old

Community celebration this Saturday

By Jennifer Hobbs
For the Chieftain

A steady, growing presence in the county since 1996, Wallowa Resources is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. Festivities kick off with a community party this Saturday, May 14, at the Cloverleaf Hall in Enterprise. The family-friendly event goes from 4-6 p.m. and will feature appetizers, birthday cake, music, displays and a sparkling cider toast at 5 p.m.

“This organization is centered around strong partnerships,” said Executive Director Nils Christoffersen. “We’ve accomplished a lot together, and we’d like to celebrate together.”

Highlights of the nonprofit’s past two decades include a robust youth education program; early innovations in forest collaboration, as well as watershed and river restoration; large-scale noxious weed management; renewable energy system development; internships and applied research partnerships with universities; extensive stewardship contracts on public and private land; early



Courtesy of Kendrick Moholt Photography

Wallowa Resources shepherded this micro-hydro project through the pre-development process (feasibility, permitting, design, fundraising, etc.) on a property in the Lower Valley; work is scheduled to be completed this summer. Wallowa Resources is currently working on a dozen other projects like this one throughout the county.

investments leading to the creation of Integrated Biomass Resources; campsite management; and regional outreach and policy work.

Through its employment, contracting and support to local businesses, Wallowa Resources helps sustain over 54 jobs and its programs put \$1 million back into the local economy every year. Wallowa Resources’ investments help care for more than 11,000 acres annually, reducing the threat of weeds and wildfire while also improving fish and wildlife habitat. More than 500 local students

a way to move forward. During a series of conversations in the back room of Cloud 9 Bakery in Enterprise, concerned residents who brought widely diverse points of view to the table recognized that there were ample shared values and common ground to rally around. They believed if they worked together, they could come up with creative solutions that could strengthen both the land and the economy.

They started small, gradually growing programs by identifying how they could best serve local and regional needs, and that is the way they plan to move forward. The organization’s next goals include: on-the-ground work on 10,000 acres in Joseph Creek; installing several new micro-hydro plants; biochar scoping studies for soil amendment; testing bio-control agents for cheatgrass and medusahead rye; completing the design phase of the upper Wallowa River restoration project; and hosting a research and education symposium on community resource management.

“There is a lot to celebrate, and we should all pat ourselves on the back for the progress we’ve made, but there is a lot of need out there still,” Christoffersen said. “We’re excited about continuing to identify and meet those needs together.”

FOR THE RECORD

Dispatch log:

Monday, May 2

11:29 a.m.: Jacob Dylan Hart, 18, of Enterprise was arrested on a Wallowa County nationwide felony warrant for violation of release agreement original charges of burglary, criminal conspiracy, theft, and criminal mischief. Subject was transported to Umatilla County Jail.

1:10 a.m.: Harassment reported in Enterprise.

2:36 p.m.: Possible wolf depredation. Unfounded.

4:10 p.m.: Report of identity theft in Joseph.

5:46 p.m.: Theft complaint in Enterprise.

5:55 p.m.: Tesla Delury, 25, of Joseph was arrested for probation violation on an original charge of possession of meth. Delury was transported to Umatilla County Jail.

8:59 p.m.: Report of a stolen vehicle in Enterprise.

Tuesday, May 3

8:26 a.m.: Animal neglect reported in Wallowa.

1:00 p.m.: Jeremiah Beau Cruse, 33, of Joseph was arrested for recklessly endangering another, unlawful use of a weapon, burglary, and theft. Cruse was transported to Umatilla County Jail.

6:01 p.m.: Traffic complaint in rural Joseph.

6:31 p.m.: Report of a cow stuck in a fence off highway 82 in rural Enterprise.

7:07 p.m.: Scam complaint from Joseph.

10:22 p.m.: Barking dog complaint in Wallowa.

Wednesday, May 4

9:01 a.m.: Report of theft in Enterprise.

1:52 p.m.: 911 call reporting a domestic incident in rural Enterprise.

5:19 p.m.: 911 report of a dead deer blocking a lane of traffic near Wallowa Lake.

6:38 p.m.: Traffic stop in Lostine.

Thursday, May 5

9:26 a.m.: 911 calls reporting non-injury, non-blocking traffic accident in Enterprise.

10:09 a.m.: Violation of release agreement reported in Enterprise.

12:52 p.m.: Trespass complaint in Joseph.

1:09 p.m.: Complaint of a dog as a public nuisance in Joseph.

1:16 p.m.: Report of a dog running at large in Joseph.

2:44 p.m.: Report of a child left unattended in a vehicle in Joseph.

6:56 p.m.: Hit deer reported on Hurricane Creek Road.

7:18 p.m.: Noise complaint in Enterprise.

Friday, May 6

7:16 a.m.: Report of rocks on Imnaha Highway and Lower Imnaha. Referred to ODOT and County Road Department.

8:01 a.m.: Report of a possible

domestic incident in Joseph.

8:21 a.m.: Report of a scam in Lostine.

11:21 a.m.: 911 reporting a reckless driver on Highway 82 in rural Enterprise.

2:00 p.m.: Violation of stalking order reported in Joseph.

3:01 p.m.: 911 requesting an ambulance in Enterprise.

3:23 p.m.: Civil dispute reported in Wallowa.

6:09 p.m.: Fire reported on Hurricane Creek Road.

6:13 p.m.: 911 reporting a civil dispute in Joseph.

6:30 p.m.: Routine traffic stop in Enterprise.

8:35 p.m.: 911 call reporting a driving complaint in Enterprise.

Saturday, May 7

7:14 a.m.: Report of a tree on a power line in Enterprise.

8:06 a.m.: Traffic complaint in Joseph.

8:15 a.m.: Vehicle stuck in snow on the 39 road. Tow truck responded.

8:19 a.m.: Traffic complaint in Enterprise.

8:22 a.m.: Animal complaint in Joseph.

1:55 p.m.: Possible trespassing reported in Wallowa.

3:50 p.m.: Routine traffic stop in Enterprise.

4:40 p.m.: Routine traffic stop in rural Joseph.

5:19 p.m.: Telephonic harassment reported in Joseph.

7:07 p.m.: Wallowa County Sheriff’s Office arrested Theodore Keith Freels, 66, of Enterprise for unlawful possession of a firearm. Freels was transported to Umatilla County Jail.

Sunday, May 7

7:10 a.m.: Traffic complaint in Enterprise.

8:15 a.m.: 2 horses loose in Lostine. Owner located.

9:59 a.m.: After receiving a report of a possible probation violation, James Randall Hart Jr.,

34, of Enterprise was arrested for probation violation.

12:23 p.m.: Small brown dog found in Enterprise.

12:43 p.m.: Animal complaint in Enterprise.

3:51 p.m.: Theft reported in Enterprise.

6:13 p.m.: Theft complaint in Enterprise.

6:31 p.m.: 2 German shorthairs reported missing from Golf Course Road in Enterprise. White and brown, one male and one female.

6:45 p.m.: Unattended child reported in Enterprise.

Sharon’s

Bouquet of the Week

To Dolores Aguilar, for each and every delicious meal she serves up at Community Connection’s senior meals!

Sharon Sherlock

WHEATLAND

INSURANCE CENTER, INC.

301 W. Main, Enterprise • 541.426.3177

BIRTH

A son,

Laird Stuart Jones,

was born April 26, 2016 in Enterprise to Justin and Lindsey Jones of Imnaha. Grandparents are Denny Wood of West Virginia, and Sally Jones of California.

A son,

Calletano Martin Arenas,

was born April 29, 2016 in Enterprise to Leonardo and Audra Arenas of Enterprise. Grandparents are Christine Hammond & David Miner, and Hilaria Garcia & Bartolo Arenas.

ELECT Stephen Wolfe

County Commissioner

Position 1

Election - May 17

“I am excited to return to where my family has been for nearly 120 years. Being retired, I have not only the time but the passion and desire to be involved in the community I love and respond when needed.”

Experience Matters!

Wallowa County Values Matter!

Thank You

The family of Harold Goebel would like to thank the nurses & staff at Wallowa Memorial Hospital, and everyone who brought food, flowers, sent cards & donated to the Wallowa School Foundation. Thank you for being here during this time of sorrow.

Wallowa County Chess Club

Welcome Tourists and Players of all levels!

Thursdays 4 to 8 PM

FREE!

JOSEPHY CENTER FOR ARTS AND CULTURE

403 Main Street Joseph, Oregon

May 2016 Black to play and win

STILL RUNNING OUT TO FETCH THE PAPER?

6 months \$26.00

1 year* \$40.00

1 year, online \$40.00

Subscribe Today!

541-426-4567 • wallowa.com

The Wallowa County Chieftain

I LOVE IT FLOORING SALE

NATIONAL EVENT

SAVE UP TO \$500

On Select Floors Storewide*

CARPET ONE FLOOR & HOME

800 S River St. Enterprise, OR • 9am-5:30pm Monday - Friday • 9am-12pm Saturdays • 541-426-9228