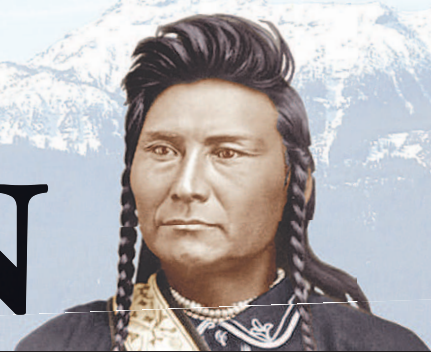




# WALLOWA COUNTY CHIEFTAIN



Enterprise, Oregon

Issue No. 6

Wallowa.com

May 25, 2016 \$1

## New police chief on the job in Enterprise

Joel Fish begins work more than a year after initial search began



Fish

By Kathleen Ellyn  
Wallowa County Chieftain

Newly hired Enterprise Police Chief Joel Fish hit the streets for his first official day on duty Monday.

He begins his stint as chief with just two officers — George Kohlhepp and Jed Stone. High

on his to-do list is the hiring of a third.

His swearing in was brightened by a welcoming touch: Stone loaned Fish his father's badge, which the elder Stone, Bob, wore many years ago as Enterprise Police Chief.

The welcome didn't stop there. According to Fish, "a

bunch of people showed up (at his new house) and introduced themselves on Saturday and started grabbing boxes to help us unload the truck. It's just been fantastic. We were made to feel very welcome."

Fish comes to Enterprise from Hickory, N.C., where he served as captain in variety of

positions in the Catawba County Sheriff's Office — captain of investigations, patrol captain and captain of communications, in addition to overseeing school resources officers for 26 schools and overseeing the crime-prevention program. The department had 192 employees, with about 72 working the jail, and

fielded 11,680 calls for service in 2015.

Of all his positions, Fish said he liked patrol the best, though he was often recognized for his excellent "people skills."

"I like interpersonal relationships," he said.

See CHIEF, Page A11



# STATE CHAMPS

## Joseph girls win title by one point

Joseph's state champion girls track and field team got a celebratory ride around town from the Joseph Fire Department on Monday. The girls won the last relay and edged Griswold by a single point in the team standings at the OSAA state championships in Eugene held Thursday and Friday.

Courtesy photo

FOR MORE, SEE SPORTS, PAGE B1.

## Nash wins commission post in landslide

By Steve Tool  
Wallowa County Chieftain

Rancher Todd Nash received more than 60 percent of the vote for Wallowa County commissioner during the May 17 primary election, according to the county's unofficial final results. Such a strong showing in the primary, once finalized, would give Nash the necessary votes to win the race against fellow rancher Stephen Wolfe and businessman Dan DeBoie

See ELECTION, Page A11

## Local veterans get a warm reception from Quilts of Valor

29 quilters helped create quilts in appreciation of vets' service

By Stephen Tool  
Wallowa County Chieftain

Never say that Wallowa County or the Northwest as whole doesn't care about veterans or appreciate their service. Five of the county's veterans will stay warmer at night after receiving hand-sewn quilts from the international organization Quilts of Valor during a May 10 ceremony at the Eagle Cap VFW hall in Enterprise. Wallowa County veterans George Hill, Gene Bieraugel, Bert McCormack, Don Stein and Jim Elliott each received a quilt.

The organization distributed the quilts in conjunction with Honor Quilt, a similar local organization headed by Linda Koloski and a part of the Wallowa Mountain Quilters Guild.

The Quilts of Valor chapter — with members from Utah, Idaho and Washington — sewed the quilts while on a retreat at the United Methodist Church camp



Steve Tool/Chieftain

Five local veterans with their finely crafted quilts from Quilts of Valor, a national organization dedicated to providing quilts to our nation's heroes and recognizing their service. From left: George Hill, Eugene Bieraugel, Bert McCormack, Don Stein and Jim Elliott.

at Wallowa Lake. The busy ladies completed 12 quilt tops in one 24-hour stretch during the retreat, according to member Lori Kutch. The organization's director Sharon Ledbetter said that 29 quilters came down for the retreat and ceremony.

After a brief invocation, the five appreciative veterans received their quilts along with

thanks for their service, a "Welcome Home" and a hug from the various quilters. Afterward, many people stayed to give their thanks to the veterans personally as well as examine the quilts and note their fine workmanship.

Next to the veterans, the quilts were the hit of the gathering.

See QUILTS, Page A11



## Schedule of Memorial Day events

Wallowa County Chieftain

Members of the local Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall in Enterprise and the American Legion in Joseph will be conducting a series of Memorial Day ceremonies at Wallowa County cemeteries on Monday. Each ceremony will last about 30 minutes and will include a raising of the flag and a 21-gun salute (provided enough members participate) at all sites except the Wallowa County Courthouse.

- Here is the schedule of ceremonies:
- 9 a.m.: Bramlet Cemetery
  - 10 a.m.: Wallowa Cemetery
  - 10:30 a.m.: Alder Slope Cemetery
  - 11 a.m.: Lostine Cemetery and Hurricane Creek Cemetery
  - Noon: Enterprise Cemetery and Joseph Cemetery
  - 1 p.m.: Reading of the Fallen, Wallowa County Courthouse



**KEEP OREGON GREEN**

**WILDFIRE KNOWS NO SEASON**

KeepOregonGreen.org

**WALLOWA COUNTY**

Structural Fire Prevention Cooperative

**SEE A12**

Enterprise FD • Wallowa FD • Wallowa Rural FD • Wallowa Lake Rural FD  
Lostine FD • Joseph FD • Oregon Dept. of Forestry • US Forest Service