

# Child transported to Boise hospital after water accident

By Kathleen Ellyn  
Wallowa County Chieftain

The Joseph Fire Department received an alert Saturday morning regarding a boy who had been in the river near Wallowa Lake Marina and "possibly wasn't doing good," according to Fire Chief Jeffery Weeks.

Emergency vehicles responded to assist the boy, who is believed to be about age 7.

Weeks said the department was not involved in life-saving procedures but was asked to set up a landing site for the Life Flight helicopter that transported the child to Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center in Boise.

Weeks said it was his understanding that the child was "alert and crying" in the helicopter.

Officials at Wallowa Memorial Hospital were unable to provide any information on the situation.



A child is transported by a Life Flight helicopter Saturday morning near Wallowa Lake Marina. Courtesy of Doug Dutton

# Sen. Ron Wyden receives award at Wallowa town hall

Wallowa County Chieftain

local NEOEDD include the Individual Development Account, a savings account matched 3 to 1 by the federal government; Community Development Block Grants, one of which pays for the "Business Foundations Workshops," held twice a year in Wallowa County and which has aided dozens of entrepreneurs to open new businesses; Economic Development Administration, which gave NEOEDD \$2.6 million over the years to loan to community businesses through the Revolving Loan fund; U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development, which has allowed NEOEDD to loan \$6.03 million to community businesses in IRP funds; and Environmental Protection Agency Brownfields, which has allowed NEOEDD to assist in assessments of properties that must be cleaned up for new uses.

U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden was honored with a 2016 Congressional Partnership Award during a town hall meeting in Wallowa on Tuesday. The award is from the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) for outstanding leadership in promoting federal support of community, economic and infrastructure development programs. The Northeast Oregon Economic Development District (NEOEDD) in Enterprise nominated Sen. Wyden for the award.

The biennial award recognizes members of Congress who have displayed strong support of regional development policies. Recipients were selected based on their support of NADO's national legislative priorities, which include funding for community and economic development as well as support for the work of regional development organizations at the local level.

Some of the programs supported at the federal level that are managed by the



Wyden

# 14 stock dogs poisoned with strychnine

Gopher pellets mixed with raw ground meat

By Sean Ellis  
EO Media Group

CANYON COUNTY, Idaho — Fourteen stock and guard dogs have been poisoned with strychnine in this part of southwestern Idaho since early April and 12 have died.

The poisoning of the dogs, which are used to guard and shepherd sheep and goats, has occurred over several weeks.

"We lost another dog today. The poisoning is still going on," the dogs' owner, Casey Echevarria, told Capital Press May 30.

The dogs were intentionally poisoned with strychnine, said Dr. Brent Varriale, a Fruitland veterinarian who examined three of them. He said they had large amounts of green dyed grain in their stomachs, which is consistent with gopher bait that contains strychnine.

The gopher bait was mixed with a significant amount of raw ground meat and the amount of bait found in each dog would have required mixing it with food to encourage the dogs to eat as much of it as they did, he said.

Varriale said he examines dogs that have consumed gopher bait and suffered strychnine poisoning about once every few years and they never have that much of the bait in their stomachs.

The large number of Echevarria's dogs that have suffered strychnine poisoning this spring, coupled with the large



Coyote, an Anatolian shepherding dog, guard goats in southwestern Idaho May 16. Someone has poisoned 14 stock and guard dogs with strychnine in this area since early April. Sean Ellis/Capital Press

amount of bait found in their stomachs, "tells me it was done intentionally," Varriale said.

Varriale saved and froze stomach content samples from each dog and contacted the Canyon County Sheriff's Department, which investigated the incidents but has not identified any suspects.

Varriale said strychnine poisoning is a bad way to die because it causes paralysis so the dogs can't breathe and they suffocate to death.

"They may not catch the person that did it but I hope it at least ... prevents it from continuing," he said of the reason he contacted law enforcement. "It's a terrible way to die."

Echevarria said the dogs cost him between \$1,500 to \$2,500 each and although the poisonings have cost his operation a lot of money, he's more concerned about the dogs' suffering.

"This does piss me off," he said. "The way they've done it is more cruel than shooting

them with a gun. I don't want publicity for me. It's more about getting the word out there so it doesn't happen to (any more) dogs."

The poisonings have drawn the attention of Idaho's Humane Society of the United States branch.

"This should be publicized," said HSUS Idaho Director Lisa Kauffman. "Strychnine poisoning is a really horrible way to go. That is an excruciating death for those dogs."

Idaho's animal abuse felony law, which was strengthened this year, does not apply to these incidents, Kauffman said, because production agriculture animals, which include stock and working dogs, are specifically exempt.

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