

# West Nile virus detected near Umatilla, Stanfield

East Oregonian

West Nile virus has been detected in two mosquito samples in Umatilla County, one east of Umatilla and one on the southern edge of Stanfield.

The samples were collected June 28, and testing was done at the Oregon State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory on July 6. It's the first detection of West Nile in Oregon so far this year.

Residents can expect an increase in mosquito control operations, including Ultra-Low

Volume applications of insecticide from truck-mounted sprayers. Spraying will typically be done after sunset, when mosquitoes are most active. All applicators are licensed by the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

West Nile is primarily a bird disease, with magpies, blue jays and crows especially susceptible. Mosquitoes feed on infected birds and can pass the virus to humans or other animals when they bite. Most people infected with West Nile do not become sick, but some

may develop mild flu-like symptoms and, in rare cases, the virus may cause encephalitis, or inflammation of the brain.

The risk of West Nile is low, but the public is encouraged to take precautions against mosquito bites. People can reduce their exposure to mosquitoes by avoiding outdoor activities at dawn or dusk, when mosquitoes are active, using mosquito repellent or wearing long-sleeved shirts and pants when working in mosquito-infested areas.

Other tips include screening doors and windows, and getting rid of old tires or other containers where water can accumulate and serve as a breeding ground for mosquitoes. Those with horses should check with their veterinarians for vaccinations, and be sure to flush or replace the water in their troughs weekly.

For more information and updates on West Nile, visit [www.public.health.oregon.gov](http://www.public.health.oregon.gov) or call the Umatilla County Health Department at 541-278-5432.

## GUEST

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- 57 percent of adjacent landowners support development of the entire 63-mile trail, and 21 percent support development of specific trail segments. 23 percent of the general public oppose development of trail.

- Overall, 85 percent of the general public respondents support development of the entire trail and 7 percent support development of specific trail segments. Only 7 percent of the general public oppose the entire trail.

Adjacent landowners who have been attending meetings and corresponding with members of the consortium and WURA have voiced legitimate concerns that will be addressed through the planning process. Thus far, 10 of the 72 individual adjacent landowners between Joseph and Enterprise have requested interview sessions, in addition to their submission of

information for consideration in the planning.

Everyone can keep abreast of planning efforts by attending the consortium's and WURA's monthly board meetings.

The consortium's July meeting takes place at 6 p.m. Wednesday, July 13 at the Toma Conference Room, 309 S River St. in Enterprise. WURA's next board meeting is scheduled for 5 p.m. Aug. ?? at the Elgin Depot.

Information about meetings with regular updates about the Joseph Branch Trail project activities can be found on the web at [www.josephbranchtrail.org/pilot-project](http://www.josephbranchtrail.org/pilot-project).

If you'd like to offer comments or become involved in trail planning activities, contact Terry Edvalson at [tedvalson@eoni.com](mailto:tedvalson@eoni.com) or 541-377-6355.

*La Grande resident Terry Edvalson is a retired Eastern Oregon University faculty member and Joseph Branch Trail Consortium project coordinator*

From left: Summer intern Mariah Bruns and HAWK interns Sebastian Hobbs, Casey Kiser and Kai Oliver.



Courtesy photo

# Wallowa Resources interns prepare for professional world

By Jeniffer Hobbs  
For the Chieftain

Three local high school students are getting experience and first-hand knowledge in the natural resources field through a paid Wallowa Resources internship this summer.

The six-week HAWK program covers a broad swath of the county, both geographically and professionally, allowing interns to get to know the region better as they learn about science, work on a variety of projects and develop new skills.

"I don't think you can have enough hands-on experience when it comes to science education and professional skills," said Lindsay Miller, program coordinator and education specialist.

Students Kai Oliver (senior, Joseph Charter School), Casey Kiser (senior, Enterprise High School) and Sebastian Hobbs (junior, Enterprise High School) are spending about half their time in the field and half doing classroom lessons and in-house activities.

Work in the field includes restoration, monitoring and research, while work in the office involves reading academic papers, assembling written reports and preparing a professional-level presentation for the community.

The students are in their fourth week of the program.

"It's already been a lot of fun," said Oliver, 17. "Younger people like us don't generally get to work at a place like this. It's a great experience to be in a professional environment that is also friendly and supportive."

Originally set up like a job shadow, HAWK is now in its third year under Miller and has evolved to more closely resemble a college field course. Students get to work with a range of agencies and individuals, build occupational skills and take on responsibilities such as handling all aspects of their final presentation.

"We're helping them transition from high school to

the professional world," said Miller. "We offer a safe proving ground for a first job experience before going out on their own. It also looks great on a college resume."

Miller says partnerships and broad-based support are crucial to the program's ongoing success. Largely funded by Cycle Oregon, Youth Development Council, Oregon Community Foundation and Building Healthy Families, HAWK also relies on organizations like The Nature Conservancy and the Forest Service to offer opportunities for students to work with natural resource professionals on active projects.

Summer intern Mariah Bruns, a senior at Whitman College, also is a dedicated

resource for the program.

Up to four students are accepted into the program annually; they must have completed their sophomore year of high school (home-school students are welcome). For more information, visit [www.wallowaresources.org](http://www.wallowaresources.org) or contact Miller at 541-426-8053.

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**ATHLETE OF THE WEEK**

**ISABELLA BRANN**

This week's athlete of the week is Isabella Brann of Enterprise. Brann, 10, earned third place in the 8-12 year-old class of the soapbox derby car races during the July 9 Bowlby Bash.

Brann had always wanted to take part in the race as she watched older siblings participate, got to take the wheel this year. Her father Darrell Brann built the derby car.

Brann placed first during her first heat and was barely beaten by the first place car in the second. The total of her times earned her the third place slot.

Brann, who is home-schooled through the Classical Conversations program, is entering the fourth grade this fall. She is the daughter of Darrell and Christie Brann of Enterprise.

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