

CREEK

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Road densities will remain about the same at about 200 miles, although 17 miles of additional roads will open with 14 miles of roads slated for closure due to resource concerns.

Wallowa-Whitman Forest Supervisor Tom Montoya released the documents for administrative review last week. According to USFS public affairs officer Darcy Weseman, the review is the objection process and 45 days must pass before Montoya can sign the final decision.

The project is a collaborative effort between the Wallowa-Whitman Collaborative and the USFS. The Wallowa County Natural Resources Advisory Committee conducted a watershed assessment of the area with the help of other stakeholders.

The original draft environmental impact statement was unveiled in November 2014, followed by a USFS open house about three weeks later. The draft statement examined three alternatives for managing the area with the USFS favoring the second alternative. The final draft kept largely to the favored alternative, although 260 acres of forest-

TO LEARN MORE

Visit the USFS project page at <http://tinyurl.com/hbfa7z5>

land is off the table for treatment because of its status as moist forest or its inclusion in Inventoried Roadless Areas.

Along with the restoration project, the USFS plans to create two Research Natural Areas in the northeast corner of the county: The 418-acre Haystack Rock RNA and the 334-acre Horse Pasture Ridge RNA. The USFS designates RNAs for permanent protection and they are maintained in natural condition. The areas can include unique ecosystems or areas with singular ecological features. The comment period for the RNAs is 60 days.

The Lower Joseph Creek project is expected to last five to 10 years and possibly provide 30-50 jobs for the area during the period.

Eagle Cap District Ranger Kris Stein said none of that is set in stone, though.

"If the stars don't line up it may take longer," Stein said. "But if everything lines up perfectly, it could be a little bit shorter. There's still quite a bit of work to do. This is just the planning part."

Work is not expected to start on the project until next year.

Nurse Practitioner wins award for excellence

By Kathleen Ellyn
Wallowa County Chieftain



Russell

For the last 37 years, Family Nurse Practitioner Theresa Russell has lived and worked in rural northeastern Oregon. Her dedication to her profession and her community has drawn accolades from her congressional delegation and the business community, but she was still surprised when the American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) contacted her to announce she won its 2016 State Award for Excellence.

"It's something I'm very proud of to be recognized in this corner of the state by my state governing body Oregon Nurses Association and then to be recognized nationally. ... it just awed me," she said. "I was pleased but I wanted to know what I did."

What Russell has done is build a unique rural practice in Wallowa County that addresses her patients' and the communities' needs.

After working at a clinic in Washington for many years, Russell began searching for a position in her hometown six years ago.

"I wasn't happy where I was," said Russell. "I had fantastic job offers, but I didn't want to commute. So I had an idea to start a small clinic."

After discussing her plan with friend Polly Devore, the idea grew from dreams of a small home practice to constructing a new clinic with an integrated pharmacy, drive-through, ambulance access, life support and specialized equipment. In 2010, Olive Branch Family Health clinic in Enterprise was born.

"It came together like it was meant to be," Russell said.

Today, Russell and clinic director Devore work with a team of registered nurses and receptionists and an independent pharmacy. Employing RNs in their clinic allows nurses to do jobs other staff can't, including health assess-

ments and blood draws and offering health care advice over the phone. This team-based approach helps patients get the information they need quickly and saves Russell time.

While Olive Branch has embraced a modern team-based primary care home model, it continues to offer traditional rural provider services, including home visits. "I've done home visits as a part of my practice since 1988. When you see patients in their home environment you see a part of them that you wouldn't see otherwise," Russell said.

Russell's focus on increasing access and reducing barriers for patients has allowed her to build a special bond with her community. "I realized I'm not the sort of person who goes home at

the end of the day and just forgets everything," she said. "Nursing is my passion." That passion is noticeable. "Theresa is always available. She's amazing with patients," Devore said. "Today for example, a male patient we see weekly came in for his appointment. We knew we were going to spend extra time with him because he sees us as friends and extended family. Theresa takes those relationships seriously and plans her schedule accordingly."

Russell also finds time to precept Nurse Practitioner students at Olive Branch. If visiting students need a place to stay, she evens offers them an apartment on her property.

Family Nurse Practitioner Lacey Wilson is a former student of Theresa's.

"Theresa has been a tremendous preceptor," Wilson said. "I'm working my first year as a nurse practitioner at Olive Branch while I complete my doctor of nursing practice clinicals (on the job work under supervision required as part of a nurse's study) with Theresa," Wilson said. "It is a gift to be able to work in the clinic and not a hospital. Regardless of how busy she is, Theresa always takes time to

answer my questions. Theresa combines patient needs with current clinical practices to achieve optimum patient outcomes."

Russell's passion for nursing and learning doesn't stop with students. She also hosts students in Rotary-sponsored job-shadowing programs.

"I believe in the importance of education. When a 12-year-old tells me they want to become a nurse, I get excited and invite them to the clinic," Russell said.

Russell's success engaging her community shows.

In a town with a population of 1,900, she serves 1,700 active patients from Enterprise and the surrounding communities, including a one-day-a-week satellite clinic in Wallowa, which lost its permanent health care clinic a few years ago.

"When health care goes away, people don't feel validated and they don't feel they are a part of a community. Re-opening a clinic revitalizes the community," Russell said.

PLAN

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Brown said she plans to propose legislation in 2017 to close the so-called "Charleston" loophole, which allows a gun purchase to move forward if law enforcement hasn't determined the buyer's eligibility within three days.

She said she also intends seek to close the "Boyfriend Loophole," which expands the types of relationships that qualify for gun dispossession when convicted of domestic violence charges. Her third proposal would outlaw future purchases of extended-capacity gun magazines. These magazines enable firing repeatedly without having to reload.

Brown also plans to issue an executive order to require Oregon State Police to retain firearms transactions for five years and to require the Oregon Health Authority to report annually on gun deaths and their effect on public health and to recommend policy changes.

She also is establishing a work group to review counties' gun relinquishment protocols and recommended a statewide policy to enhance the safety of domestic violence survivors.

Brown made the announcement Friday at the Veterans Memorial Coliseum here flanked by U.S. Rep. Suzanne Bonamici, other elected officials and gun safety advocates.

After her announcement, Pastor Mark Knuston of the Augustana Lutheran Church announced that he and other faith leaders plan to circulate an initiative petition to ban assault weapons and high-cap-

acity magazines in Oregon. House Minority Leader Mike McLane, R-Powell Butte quickly issued a statement calling for bipartisan dialogue on any gun control measures.

"Oregon House Republicans welcome a conversation about how to address violence in our communities, but it is absolutely critical that those conversations maintain the appropriate level of respect for Oregonians' constitutional rights and the thousands upon thousands of gun owners in this state who responsibly exercise their Second Amendment rights and Article I, Section 27 rights every day," McLane said. "Sadly, this element of the conversation is all too often an afterthought for politicians in Salem."

Sunday Service

July 31, 2016, 9:00AM - Joseph Arena

Music by SOUL RENOVATION
Message by ARCHIE HOOK

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BULL AND BUCK TAGS

To be donated to local charities by the Nature Conservancy

Each year The Nature Conservancy donates LOP tags to qualified local organizations. The LOP tags for the 2016 season were donated to **Community Connections, Friends of the Wallowa School Foundation, Rotary Club of Wallowa County, and Wallowa County Search and Rescue**. Since 2002, this program has raised over \$375,000 to support charitable organizations in Wallowa County.

The Nature Conservancy is currently seeking applications from Wallowa County charitable organizations interested in receiving a Landowner Preference Tag (LOP) for Bull Elk or Buck Deer on the Zumwalt Prairie Preserve property for the 2017 season. Applications will be reviewed by a committee of community members and ranked based on the following considerations: the benefit to the community; the marketing plan for raising funds with the LOP tags; and the ability to use the tags to leverage additional funds or support.

Interested organizations should request an application from Justin Jones at 850-982-9224 or e-mail jjones@tnc.org. The application deadline is August 14th, 2016.

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WALLOWA COUNTY FAIR

Country Pride Shared County Wide

Schedule of Selected Events

SAT. AUGUST 6
▶ 9am 4-H Dog Show

SUN-TUES AUGUST 7-9
▶ 8am Sun-Tues 4-H Horse Show

MON. AUGUST 8
▶ 4-H Exhibits to Cloverleaf
▶ Open Class Non-Perishable to Cloverleaf

TUES. AUGUST 9
▶ Open Class Perishable to Cloverleaf

WED.-SAT. AUGUST 10-13
▶ 10 am Cloverleaf Hall Opens

WED. AUGUST 10
▶ 2-6 pm 4-H/FFA Livestock Entries

THURS.-FRI. AUGUST 11-12
▶ 8:30 am 4-H/FFA Livestock Show
▶ 7 pm Grand Champion Classes

SAT. AUGUST 13
▶ 8 am Small Animal Show

WED. AUGUST 10
▶ 9am Planter Contest Entries

THURS. AUG 9
▶ 1 pm Grange Pie, Ice Cream

FRI. AUG 12
▶ 5-7 pm K.C. Kunkle LIVE
▶ 8-10 pm Teen Dance

SAT. AUG 13
▶ Benny Beaver Day at the fair
▶ 10 am Pee Wee Showmanship
▶ 11 am Games on the grass

4-H/FFA LIVESTOCK SALE 6PM

Live Music By
K.C. KUNKLE
Fri. Aug. 12 at 5pm

Live Music By
Briana Renea
Sat. Aug. 6 at 6pm

Special Events

For a full schedule call 541-426-4097 or go to extension.oregonstate.edu/wallowa