

Alder Slope fire contained

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

A quick response from Enterprise Fire Department, Oregon Department of Forestry and passers-by kept a potentially dangerous Alder Slope blaze to a half-acre Wednesday afternoon. The fire occurred inside a rail fence enclosure about a half-mile up Spring Creek Road.

Fire crews with hoses, chainsaws and shovels worked furiously to contain the blaze as a Sled Springs Rappel chopper circled overhead monitoring the situation.

Wallowa County Emergency Manager Paul Karvoski said the initial response included four ODF engines, a bulldozer, two engines and one tender (water tanker) from EFD. The chopper was sent back to its home base shortly after its arrival.

“We knew this could be a bad one,” Karvoski said. “That’s why we ordered our first response so large.”

Passers-by Patrick Dough-



Fire crews work along the perimeter of a fire at Spring Creek Road on Alder Slope on Wednesday afternoon.

erty and Jeff Nehls were among the first on the scene. Dougherty was traveling along Reavis Lane when he saw Nehls chopping wood nearby. Both men had notified ODF after spotting the smoke. The two drove to the blaze and immediately started building a line above the fire where it had escaped the enclosure and was ascending up the slope.

EFD and ODF arrived a

few minutes later.

Nehls, who has experience fighting fires, directed the digging.

“I didn’t know what I was doing, so I took a few directions,” Dougherty said.

“Now you do,” Nehls responded.

An ambulance was dispatched to the scene to treat a neighboring volunteer firefighter who was suffering from

smoke inhalation. The ambulance crew treated and released the man on site.

The fire crews had the fire well under control less than 45 minutes after the initial call came in at about 12:58 p.m.

“We were lucky and got a good jump on this one,” Karvoski said. “This easily could have turned into a major fire.”

The cause of the fire is under investigation by the ODF.



A fire scorches an oat field about a mile east of Joseph along the Imnaha Highway on Saturday.

Crews douse grass fire east of Joseph

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

A fire broke out in an oat field on private land about a mile east of Joseph along the Imnaha Highway on Saturday afternoon.

A call for responders went out around 2:30 p.m. and crews quickly contained the blaze.

Units from Enterprise Fire, Joseph Fire, the Wallowa County Sheriff’s Office and Oregon State Police responded. A few neighbors also helped contain the fire.

“We had one wildland engine, two tenders and a structure engine from Joseph and a wildland truck and tender from Enterprise,” said Joseph Fire Chief Jeff Weeks. He said nine fire personnel fought the fire as well as several neighbors and the landowners.

Weeks said a quick response time saved what could have been a catastrophe and held it to just under three acres.

“It didn’t take long; we were on it pretty fast,” he said. “For some reason, (the wind) was calm that day when it’s usually starting to pick up. We were very, very lucky on that one.”

Although some rain and thunderstorms are expected later in the week Weeks said a burn ban will remain in effect even if some rain does fall.

“We need a considerable amount of precipitation before we ease that burn ban, which covers inside and outside the city limits,” he said.

Weeks believes the probable cause of the fire was a overheated bearing going out on a combine.

County readies for new state mental health requirements

New rules established after Dept. of Justice investigation

By Kathleen Ellyn
Wallowa County Chieftain

A performance plan to address needs of the severely or persistently mentally ill in Oregon has been finalized.

The plan was announced by the Oregon Health Authority in late July and was instituted after lengthy discussions between OHA and the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice.

Wallowa Valley Center for Wellness, the county’s only mental health care organization, already has met many of the new requirements of the performance plan.

“We are proud to have one of the most diversified county mental health programs in the state, and the programs we offer boast some of the highest fidelity scores in the state as

well,” said Center for Wellness Executive Director Chantay Jett.

Those programs include the Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) program, which provides team-based 24/7 treatment, rehabilitation and support services for severely mentally ill, and the Supported Employment program.

According to the National Alliance on Mentally Illness, studies have shown that ACT is more effective than traditional treatment for people experiencing mental illnesses such as schizophrenia and schizoaffective disorder and can reduce hospitalizations by 20 percent.

“We feel that we will be able to meet all requirements (of the new plan) fairly easily,” Jett said.

The three-year plan announced by OHA seeks to expand community-based mental health services, better integrate behavioral and physical health across the state and reduce commitments to the state hospital, according to OHA Director Lynne Saxton.

The Legislature has invested

millions in recent years to transform community mental health services and is expected to make additional changes in the future.

Under the new plan, the state will be required to make significant changes in how it delivers and invests in behavioral health services. These steps include:

- Improving the way adults with severe and persistent mental illness transition to integrated community-based treatment.
- Increasing access to crisis services and community-based support to avoid incarceration or unnecessary hospitalization.
- Expanding services and support that enable adults with severe and persistent mental illness to successfully live in the community including strengthening house and peer support services.

Following the decommissioning of the Oregon State Hospital, the construction of a new facility and the creation of

a Behavior Health Collaborative, the Justice Department has suspended its investigation into the Oregon community mental health system for the next three years.

The Behavioral Health Collaborative set up by OHA will develop additional recommendations for consideration by the 2017 Oregon Legislature. The collaborative is made up of consumers, clinicians, hospital representatives, county officials, community mental health providers, judges, public safety officials and others with expertise and experience in addressing mental health issues in Oregon.

Wallowa
BUSINESS

Serving 918 entrepreneurs
creating new jobs since 2001



Supports Free and Confidential Business Counseling
and Services through Blue Mountain Community College
Wallowa County Small Business Development Center
Rick Bombaci, Small Business Advisor
To begin your free and confidential
business consultation contact Rick at
541-426-9095
Wallowa Business is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit public benefit corporation

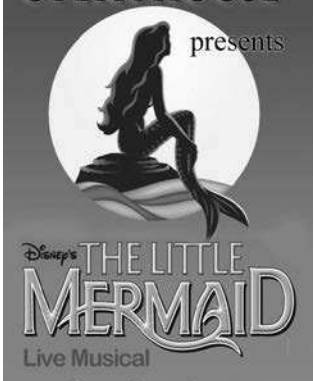


CONFUSED
ABOUT MEDICARE
SUPPLEMENT
COVERAGE?
**YOU HAVE
CHOICES!**

Call Kathleen or Jennifer
today to discuss your
options and see if you
qualify for a lower premium.
541-426-4208

BENNETT
INSURANCE AGENCY
Locally owned & operated
616 W. North Street
Enterprise

FRIENDS of the
OPERA HOUSE
presents



Disney's THE LITTLE
MERMAID
Live Musical

September
2nd - 24th, 2016
Tickets on sale now!
541-663-6324
ElginOperaHouse.com

ENTERPRISE
OREGON
36th Annual

Like Us On Facebook

HELLS CANYON MULE DAYS EVENT SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER 9-10-11, 2016
Wallowa County Fairgrounds
Enterprise, Oregon
Three Days of Family Fun!

FEATURING TENNESSEE MULE ARTIST BONNIE SHIELDS

Friday - September 9th

9:00 am – Gates Open
9:00 am - Driving Events: Singles, Teams & Youth Classes
9:00 am - Exhibitors, Vendors & Western Gear
The Green, Quonset Building & Exhibitors Barn
Noon - (To follow Driving events) Log Pull, Mule Races & More!
11:00 - 1:00 pm - Trail Class – Track in front of grandstands
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm - Timed Trail Class – Main Arena
6:00 pm - **Max Walker Memorial Scholarship Cowboy Poetry Gathering**
Indoor Arena • Admission is free, but \$5.00 donation suggested

Saturday - September 10th

8:00 am Gates Open
8:00 am - Halter and Showmanship
8:00 am - Exhibitors, Vendors & Western Gear
The Green, Quonset Building & Exhibitors Barn
9:00 am - Matt Fournier Mule Clinic – Warm-up Arena
11:00 am - Non-Motorized Parade – Downtown Enterprise
12:45 pm - Spectator Kids Events • Stick Mule Race & Boot Scramble • 4-9 years
1:00 pm - Grand Entry & Mule Show – Main Arena
Fun and Entertaining Events
4:00 pm - Private Treaty Mule Sale – Warm-up arena
5:30 pm - Pit B-B-Q Dinner \$10.00 (Scholarship Fundraiser) – On The Green
7:00 pm - Joni Harms Concert – “Let’s Put The Western Back In The Country.”
Cloverleaf Hall - Showtime: 7:00 pm • Doors Open at 6:30 pm
Tickets: \$10.00 Advance - \$15.00 Door - Children (12 & Younger) \$5.00
Ticket Locations: Favorite Finds on Main, Thompson Auto Supply, and The Bookloft

Sunday, September 11th

8:00 am - Gates Open
8:00 am - Cowboy Church Exhibitors Barn
8:30 am - 3:30 pm - English & Western Pleasure, Jump-Off Challenge, Ranch & Western Riding, Barrel Racing, Pole Bending, Team Branding & more.
9:00 am - Exhibitors, Vendors & Western Gear
The Green, Quonset Building & Exhibitors Barn
9:00 am - Noon - Dutch Oven Cook-Off,
Two member teams, *One pot cook-off* – Main Dish and/or Dessert
Buy your People’s Choice Packet and be part of the tasting and judging.
10:00 am - Levi King Mule Clinic - Warm-up Arena
4:00 pm - Show Awards Presentation





SONDRA LOZIER 541-426-3271 / 541-263-0104 • Visit our website - HELLSCANYONMULEDAYS.COM
Souvenir Admission Button - Return Privileges All 3 Days
Children 6 & Under - FREE • Youth 7-12 - \$3.00 • Seniors - \$8.00 • Adults - \$10.00
Daily Admission - Children 6 & Under - FREE • Youth 7-12 - \$2.00 • Adults & Seniors - \$5.00
Free parking • Covered seating

Huge Sale

Home . Garden . Antiques



Sept. 5-10
***20% off**

Sept. 12-17
***30% off**

September 19-24
***40% off**

September 26-30
***50% off**

305 N. Main St
Joseph, OR • 541-432-3211

Come early for best selection!
(Do your Christmas shopping!)
Open Mon-Sat 10am to 5:30pm

Shop our Website
www.simplysandys.com