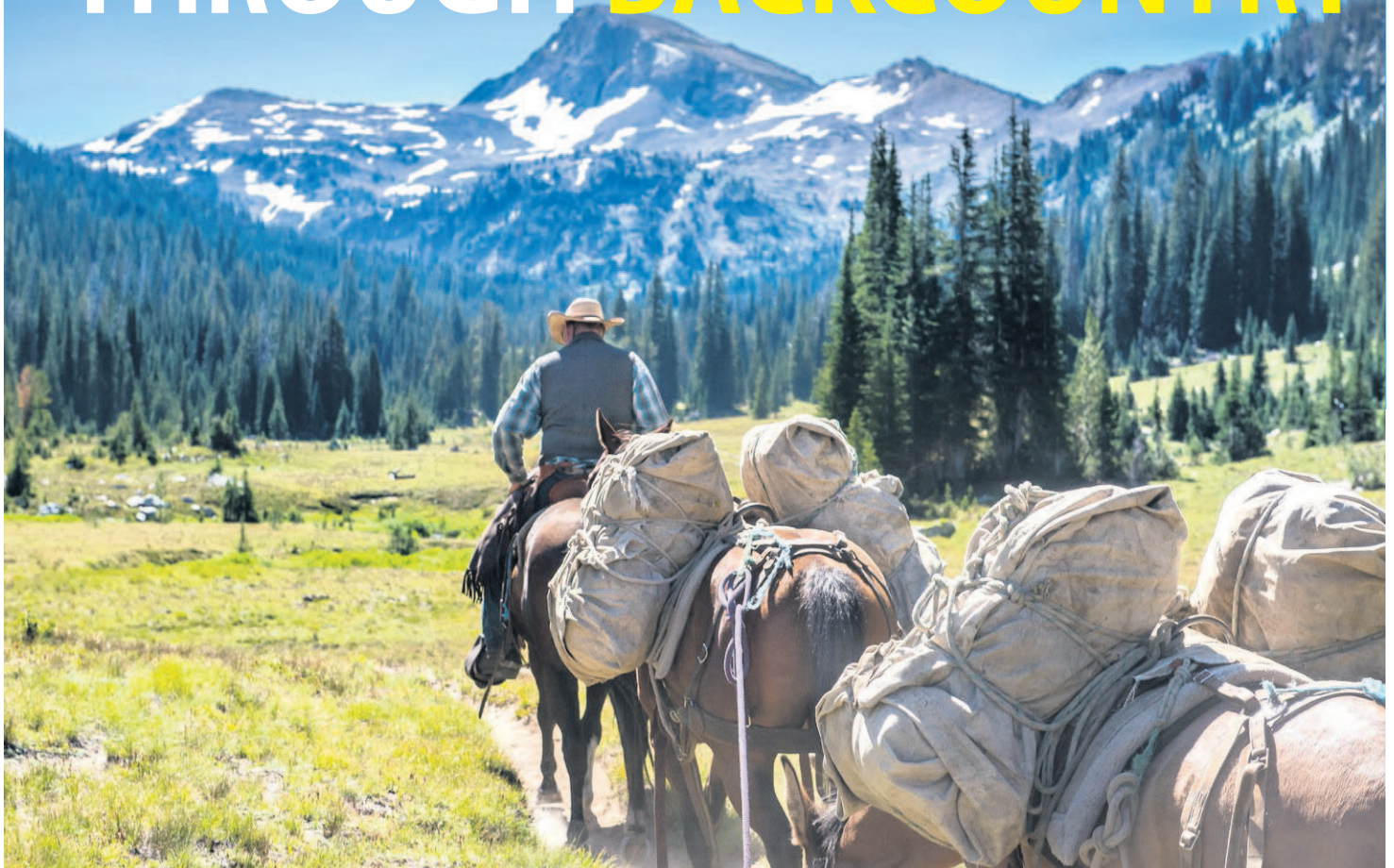


HORSEPACKING

TAKE A QUIET RIDE THROUGH BACKCOUNTRY



Photos by Ellen Morris Bishop

Wes Gorbett leads his pack string up the Lostine River trail toward the Lakes Basin.

By Ellen Morris Bishop
For The Chieftain

Want to get away from it all, but take everything with you?

Tired of hauling a 50-pound backpack into the wilderness — but still want to spend time exploring mountain trails?

The answer is nigh — horsepacking into the backcountry.

There are several varieties of horsepacking. Most Wallowa County commercial pack stations and horse outfitters offer deluxe pack trips to either a camp they have established in wilderness or a destination of your choice. They provide your tent, food and, of course, a horseback ride to the location and back. Then the horses and your packer provide daily, guided rides from camp, or you can just hike if you prefer.



Molly Mule suggests that someone take off her pack at Eagle Cap Wilderness Pack Station, Wallowa Lake. “She’s a mule with personality,” Wes said.