

LIGHTS

Continued from Page A1

A project that began more than two years ago culminated late last week as four large poles loaded with 10 lights each were finally in place Thursday — just in time for Friday’s jamboree with visiting teams Echo and Pine Eagle.

Back in early 2014, the nonprofit Ford Foundation sponsored a leadership class in Wallowa focused, in part, on building stronger communities. As part of the class, participants voted on a project they could pursue and the dream of lights at the football field took root for good.

“We’re one of the last high schools in Eastern Oregon to get (lights),” said Marilyn Hulse, who attended the initial leadership class and participated in the project from the beginning.

In the past, home volleyball and football games often overlapped, making it impossible for the two teams to support one another and splitting the crowd of locals. And attending a Friday afternoon football game could be a challenge for those with 9-5 work schedules.

“We also understood that this might help the local restaurants,” Hulse said Monday. “We figured people could come to town and have dinner before the game. That wasn’t really possible before.”

Once the decision was made to pursue the lights, two groups were formed to make it happen — one group made



Scot Heisel/Chieftain

The Cougars await their turn on the field during Friday’s jamboree.

up primarily of members from the Ford Foundation class that led fundraising efforts and a second group to oversee the work. The work group was led by project manager Kevin Burns and head coach Matt Brockkamp.

“First, we got permission from the school board,” Hulse said. “Then we needed to find an electrician.”

Darryl Nobles of South Fork Electric in Lostine stepped up and got an estimate for lights. That’s when fundraising began in earnest.

“We knew we had to raise in the area of \$40,000,” Hulse said.

Much of the financial support came from the Wildhorse Foundation and the Ford Foundation, as well as enthu-

Come celebrate the football lights

The Cougars host a team from Notus, Idaho at 7 p.m. Friday. The Ford Foundation Leadership class will have a hot dog dinner before the game at the Wallowa Cougar field from 5 p.m. until the start of the game. Get a hot dog, chips and a drink for \$5.

siastic members of the community.

An early online crowdsourcing drive raised more than \$2,000 from the Lostine/Wallowa area.

Additional assistance came from Vemco of Enterprise, which set the lights for free, and contractor Curtis Bloom of Wallowa, which set the poles.

Though the lights are in place, the project isn’t quite finished.

“Many more volunteers

who helped at the field will be recognized with a sign, possibly at the field, thanking donors and workers,” Hulse said.

Wallowa School District Superintendent Bret Uptmor was all smiles on the sidelines Friday night.

“It just gave the event a whole new feeling,” Uptmor said Tuesday. “There’s an excitement and adrenaline that’s driven by an evening game. I don’t know why that is exactly, but it happens. It’s a once-in-a-lifetime event for this



Scot Heisel/Chieftain

The Wallowa football team played under the lights on their home field for the first time Friday.

community.”

Former Cougars Cole Hafer and Koby Frye, who graduated last spring, tossed a football behind the stands Friday.

Frye was asked whether he was disappointed to have missed out on the lights. His emphatic answer came before the question was even completely out.

“Yes!” Frye said. “We were thinking we might suit up and take the field.”

As much as Wallowa fans would have welcomed it, that never happened Friday. But among this year’s Cougars to take the field Friday were a few freshman who now can look forward to an entire career under the home lights in Wallowa.

FOR THE RECORD

Dispatch log:

Monday, Aug.22

11:53 a.m.: Theft reported at Wallowa Lake.
3:28 p.m.: Traffic stop in Enterprise.
6:24 p.m.: Theft complaint in Joseph.
7:50 p.m.: Found male Basset Hound in Joseph with red, purple and blue harness.
8:59 p.m.: Report of possible forest fire in Wallowa; referred to fire dispatch.

Tuesday, Aug. 23

1:45 p.m.: Ambulance request in Joseph.
5:20 p.m.: Civil dispute in Enterprise.
11:41 p.m.: Report of possible prowler in Enterprise.

Wednesday, Aug. 24

11:45 a.m.: Statewide misdemeanor warrant entered for Jacob Dylan Hart, 19, of Enterprise for failure to appear, original charge trespass I.
12:52 p.m.: Possible fire in Alder Slope.
2 p.m.: Ambulance request in Joseph.
7:01 p.m.: Jacob Dylan Hart, 19, of Enterprise and Noah Levon Delury, 18, of Joseph arrested on warrants issued by Wallowa County Community Corrections for probation violation. Original charge for Hart, failure to appear. Original charge for Delury, DUII. Both transported to Umatilla County jail.
8:44 p.m.: Ambulance request in Wallowa.

Thursday, Aug. 25

6:49 a.m.: Found brown and white border collie/Australian shepherd cross with brown leather collar in Enterprise.
2:14 p.m.: Report of stolen bike in Enterprise; returned to owner.
3:35 p.m.: Civil dispute in Wallowa.

8:42 p.m.: Ambulance request at Wallowa Lake State Park.
9:15 p.m.: Report of bonfire in Joseph.

Friday, Aug. 26

6:34 a.m.: Ambulance request in Wallowa.
8:30 a.m.: Traffic stop in rural Joseph.
9:28 a.m.: White border collie running around Wade Gulch area in Lostine; collar and short hair.
11:01 a.m.: Found small, dark blonde and tan dog in Joseph; like a dachshund but taller.
11:09 a.m.: Ambulance request in rural Enterprise.
11:55 a.m.: Reports of a motorcycle injury crash on Highway 82 in Minam.
1:05 p.m.: Traffic stop in Joseph.
1:08 p.m.: Found female dachshund with black nylon collar in rural Enterprise.
2:28 p.m.: Hit and run reported in Enterprise.
3:53 p.m.: Ambulance request in Wallowa.
4:17 p.m.: Theft complaint in Enterprise.
5:27 p.m.: Report of dog killing chickens in Joseph.

Saturday, Aug. 27

12:47 a.m.: Ambulance request in rural Joseph.

10:16 a.m.: Complaint of dogs as public nuisance in Enterprise.
10:35 a.m.: Jacob Michael Ellis, 26, arrested in Enterprise by Yamhill County on Wallowa County Circuit Court order of arrest and detention for probation violation, original charge meth possession.
12:46 p.m.: Civil dispute in Joseph.
1:41 p.m.: Jimmy Joe Weber, 39, of Enterprise arrested for probation violation in Joseph, original charge disorderly conduct. Transported to Umatilla County jail.
2:01 p.m.: 911 report of intoxicated males. Dustin Cole Gladden, 25, of Joseph arrested by OSP for DUII. Subject cited and released.
2:08 p.m.: Fire reported in rural Joseph.
2:32 p.m.: Fire reported in Lick Creek area.
3:41 p.m.: David Wehinger, 26, of Joseph arrested for probation violation, original charge DUII. Transported to Umatilla County jail.
3:41 p.m.: Ambulance request in Troy.
6:52 p.m.: Possible hunting violation reported in Alder Slope.
8:17 p.m.: Ambulance request in Lostine.
8:19 p.m.: Traffic stop in

Enterprise.

Sunday, Aug. 28

8:34 a.m.: Ambulance request in rural Enterprise.
9:06 a.m.: Theft complaint in Enterprise.
12:53 p.m.: 911 call reporting motorcycle crash on Highway 3 in rural Enterprise.
1:46 p.m.: 911 call reporting someone banging on doors in Joseph; subject was at the wrong residence.
2:44 p.m.: Traffic stop in rural Joseph.
3:06 p.m.: Civil dispute in Wallowa.
4:25 p.m.: Civil dispute in Enterprise.
5:45 p.m.: Dispute reported in rural Joseph.
7:09 p.m.: Female chocolate lab/pointer mix with faded blue collar reported missing in Wallowa.

FIRE

Continued from Page A1

Fire managers continue to ask the public to remain clear of the Indian Crossing, Coverdale and Hidden Campgrounds, the 1860 Trail and FS Road 3960, also known as the Upper Imnaha Road for firefighter and public safety.

There is a Red Flag warning in effect for both Baker and Wallowa Counties on Monday indicating high temperatures and increasing wind throughout

the day.

Extreme fire behavior can be expected on any new and existing fires.

The Wallowa-Whitman National Forest remains in Phase B Public Use Restrictions.

For more information and a list of designated recreation areas and campsites where campfires are permitted during Phase B Public Use Restrictions, please contact forest officials at 541-523-6391 or visit www.fs.usda.gov/wallowa-whitman.

The number for the Joseph forest information hotline is 541-426-5552.

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