

JOSEPH

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Terminal Gravity is leasing the building, and the new brewery will also contain a small-plate restaurant and brew beers specifically for that operation.

The council unanimously approved the application. The new brewery is likely to begin operation sometime in July.

Waste water update

Brad Baird of Anderson Perry Engineering had good news to report to the council that amounted to a \$112,000 savings for the city in its effluent pipeline project. The pipeline pumps treated waste water from the city’s holding ponds to a pivot line irrigation system belonging to a rancher a mile north of Joseph.

The city had planned to increase the old eight-inch steel pipeline to 12 inches because it was believed to be in disrepair.

Low water pressure, according to the rancher, made the pivot line difficult to operate efficiently.

The contractor hired for the project began digging to retrieve the old pipe and unexpectedly found 10-inch PVC pipe even though the city plans and maps indicated it was constructed with 8-inch steel pipe.

After Baird, Joseph public works supervisor Jim Lewis and city administrator Donna Warnock conferred, it was decided to leave the PVC pipe in place and replace the small amount of 8-inch pipe remaining in the pipeline.

Expenses for the project ran to \$57,000 because the city’s hired contractor had already completed some of

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Brad Baird,
Anderson Perry Engineering

the \$170,000 project, and the new pipe had to be returned with a restocking fee. The city decided to keep the rock purchased for the project.

“The disadvantage to this is all the money spent and no pipeline,” Baird said. “The advantage is you saved \$112,000.” Council member Pearl Sturm asked if Baird had attempted to sell the unused pipe locally to avoid the restocking fee. Baird replied that he had. Council member Tyler Evans also questioned Baird closely about why the water pressure was low if the pipeline were the right size.

Baird said that the pump was also in need of a larger impeller, which is a rotating component of a centrifugal pump that drives the fluid from the pump to its destination. He added that gravel stuck in the mains also reduced pumping capacity, and there was at least one known leak in the pipeline.

The council voted unanimously to send a letter to the pipeline replacement contractor that canceled the project with an explanation.

Baird then touched on a study that will examine the city’s entire wastewater system to see what upgrades might be needed now or up to 20 years out. He suggested an upgrade to the city’s lagoons, which are already operating at capacity.

The city discharges its treated wastewater by pumping it to the ranch outside of town June 1 through Oct. 31. Through

the winter and early spring, water is pumped into Prairie Creek.

Baird suggested creating a larger storage place for the water because Department of Environmental Quality’s restrictions on pumping wastewater into streams are growing more stringent. The new storage space would have fewer regulations, and it would give the city more irrigation water, which could be sold to other ranchers.

The engineer suggested a 10-acre 20 million gallon pond would suffice for the purpose, and the storage pond would irrigate around 100 acres. He also said it would be a good idea to keep the DEQ in the loop on the plan from the start to avoid any unexpected project glitches toward its end.

Baird ended the agenda item by saying he would contact the DEQ about the upcoming project, and he suggested a council work session on the matter, which will be Aug. 17 at 6 p.m.

Bike trail coming

Mayor Sands announced that successful negotiations with several Native American tribes paved the way for the proposed bike path from Joseph to the county park at Wallowa Lake. He said construction by the Oregon Department of Transportation could begin as soon as fall of this year with completion slated for sometime next year.

The next Joseph City Council meeting is July 6.

ROWLEY

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Football coaching wasn’t the only thing on Rowley’s plate. With three children, he found himself coaching both Little League baseball and softball while squeezing in multiple levels of basketball. While he enjoyed those coaching experiences, his heart was always in football.

“I love coaching football,” he said. “I love the camaraderie with the kids. I love coaching at the higher level; it’s great to coach fundamentals, but coaching high school these last few years has been great.”

Rowley’s coaching memories are about his athletes.

“Going to work with them,

going to battle with them and life lessons we all learned, coaches included ... it all boils down to the kids.”

Rowley sees a place for both classroom and sports-based learning.

“I think school (classroom) teaches you a lot, but I also think that sports teach you some of those life lessons that you can’t always get elsewhere,” he said. “Like working when you’re hurt or not feeling well or putting yourself aside and working for the team when you’d much rather be getting the glory.”

Rowley said that the biggest challenges he faced as a coach were wide fluctuations in student population.

“You get players with different abilities, and you

have to adjust every year for those abilities and desires,” he said. “It’s almost like parenting, you know, there’s no real handbook for that.”

Rowley said the 2016 season marked a turning of the corner for the football team. In spite of major injury setbacks, the offense executed well allowing the team to put more points on the board than previous years.

“The kids had a good time, and I think they learned about football,” he said. “They were way more of a team this year. They wouldn’t put up with much of the individual hotshots kind of thing. There were individuals that stood out, but they did it for the team, and that went a long way. We were a football family this last year for sure.”

WOLVES

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too heavily on private landowners? People in Northeast Oregon, especially in Wallowa County and especially cattle ranchers, would say of course. Russ Morgan, ODFW wolf program manager, said 74 percent of confirmed wolf depredations occur on private land.

Michael Finley, the ODFW Commission chair, raised the question. He said it’s a dichotomy: Private land with private expectations, and a public resource — wolves — is doing damage and costing owners money.

He wondered whether wolves on private or public property ought to be managed differently. For example, require only two confirmed depredations on private land instead of three, the uniform private-public standard.

It’s complicated because Oregon land is about 50-50 public and private, often butting up against each other. Wolves go where they want and ranchers use both, because grazing is a permitted activity on land managed by the BLM and Forest Service.

Todd Nash, a Wallowa County commissioner who is

wolf committee chair for the Oregon Cattlemen’s Association, agreed property lines are intermixed and sometimes unfenced. But he said cattle are private property, and ranchers wouldn’t allow someone to rustle their cattle, for instance, no matter where they were grazing. Insert eat for rustle and the point is made.

The ODFW Commission wasn’t taking public testimony during the meeting, but Nash, like Capt. Samuels of OSP, was present and the commission asked him a question.

The discussion came as the commission gathers its thoughts on a draft five-year wolf management plan. The commission has held three public hearings and will adopt a plan later this year.

The overriding issue may be local control. Some people who follow the process believe the rules should be loosened in Northeast Oregon, where most wolves live.

Jim Akenson, conservation director for the Oregon Hunters Association, said hunting and ag groups favor “active management” in the northeast corner of the state. Akenson, whose wife, Holly, is an ODFW commissioner, lives in Wallowa County. He said wolves should be managed more like cougars

and bears, with “less caution” on lethal removal, more consideration for the impact of wolves on ag and hunting and management decisions made at the local or district level rather than pushed up the chain to the ODFW director’s office in Salem.

“The whole process is one of normalization,” Akenson said. “That animal is still not normal; it has special game status. They’re not kidding when they say it’s special — it’s up on a pedestal.”

Akenson agreed with Nash and others who say some livestock producers no longer notify ODFW when they find dead cattle.

Jim Bittle, the newest ODFW commissioner, said some angry landowners in northeast Oregon might take matters into their own hands. He said a wolf attacking livestock on private land is similar to living in town and having a pit bull jump the fence and kill your dog.

Another tidbit: Oregon has a moose herd of about 50 animals in northeast Oregon, again in Wallowa County, in the Wenaha Wildlife Management Unit. It isn’t doing well. Biologists haven’t yet seen sign that wolves are wiping them out, but they are keeping watch.



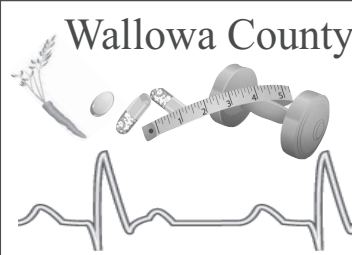
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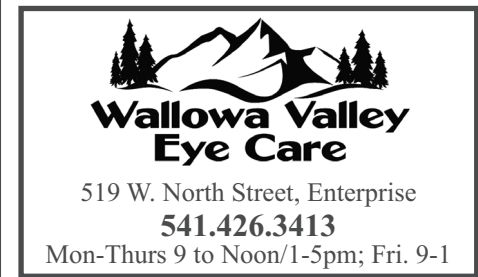
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PacifiCorp’s Project lands are available for public recreational use. Public recreational uses that occur around the Project include camping, hiking, horseback riding, day-use/picnicking and fishing. PacifiCorp provides trail opportunities and manages Pacific Park, a 10-unit campground near the powerhouse tailrace on lands owned by PacifiCorp.

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The recreation opportunities and facilities at the Wallowa Falls Hydroelectric Project are developed and furnished by Pacific Power as a public service. They are open to the public and made available for use and enjoyment to all without regard to race, color, religious creed, national origin, or any other status protected under applicable local, state or federal law. Further information regarding these recreation sites can be obtained from Pacific Power, c/o PacifiCorp – Hydro Resources Department, Recreation Supervisor, 825 NE Multnomah St., Suite 1500, Portland, Oregon 97232.



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